

September 26, 2020

Transform the World: Real Faith

3<sup>rd</sup> in a Series on the Mission and Vision of RTBC

RTBC Church      Real People      Real Faith      Real Community      Transform For Christ

~Church is an Army...with a mission of finding and leading people to Jesus

~Church is made up of Real People: With issues, struggles, problems, limitations: God uses us!

~Church has REAL FAITH: We are people of Faith...not Fear...even when everything says NO!

Now, FAITH is one of those "Church Words" we use all the time...but if we were asked to DEFINE it....

So, as we talk about being people with Real Faith...let's begin with a definition...

**1. Real Faith Defined:**

Heb 11:1

- Faith: *"the moral conviction of the truthfulness of God"* (Bumper sticker)
- Sure/ (Substance) *"what stands under"* compound word (building, promise, contract)
- Certain/(Evidence) *"the proof or evidence of; internal conviction"*

Illus: God says: "I love you: I am at work to bring you good...but it doesn't FEEL; Cant SEE it  
Faith says, I cannot see it, I don't understand it, it doesn't Feel that way ...but it is true!

**Video:**

When we talk about faith, what we are saying is that ALL WE NEED IS a word from God...a promise from God, and that is enough. We don't have to SEE it to BELIEVE IT. We believe Him...that is enough  
OR...IS IT?

Because, if you are like me...and I know that you are, sometimes you hear God, know His promises, you understand what He wants, what He promises...what He says He will do...But you struggle to Believe.

- Lk 17:5 Disciples on Forgiveness: *"Lord, increase our! (Add, Give, come beside help)*
- Mk 9:24 Father/Son: *"Lord I believe...Help my unbelief!" (Come beside, help, Encourage)*

**2. Real Faith Strengthened:**

Rom 10:17

*"...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ...."*

The good news is that we aren't LIMITED by the faith that we currently have. It CAN be strengthened  
It can be increased. There are some very specific things YOU can do to strengthen your faith.

• **KEY: Stay in God's Word:**

- ~Reading: (Daily Devotions) Bible reading plan office@
- ~Studying: Small Group (Zoom or in Person Starting on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct) groups@
- ~Memorizing Group that does just that along with what I'm preaching groups@
- ~Hearing: Worship: In person...or On Zoom: Prioritize: Provisionally

The more of God's word you put in your heart and mind...the stronger spiritually you become

**Applic:** Graph This one...or This one?

If you are struggling with your faith...if you are finding it hard to believe...

God SAYS it...but you can't seem to believe it...**Immerse yourself in His word**

It will strengthen your spirit and increase your faith. Feeding your spiritual life

I will go so far as to say, if you are struggling with your faith...weak, powerless, uncertain, Not in Word

### 3. Real Faith Lived Out: Heb 10:19-26

So what does Real Faith look like in it's most practical day to day application?

What do we do to live out our Faith...increasing it, exercising it, living as people of faith in a world that more and more every day stresses us out, causes us to doubt and creates uncertainty and fear in our heart

#### 3 Different "Let Us" Phrases that will help Us live As People of REAL FAITH

Translators added more for clarity...but in reality only 3 Injunctions/Commands/Directives

- VS 22: Draw Near: Lit = *To come close to; to approach; to come to or to go near*

~Near: Close

~Assurance: Confident

~Sprinkled: Clean

This is the exact OPPOSITE of the inclination of the heart.

Adam wanted to run away and God found him hiding in the bushes!

When things aren't going the way we want, expect or desire...we run to...away from God

We are often afraid to go TO Him...but that is exactly what we need to do!

- Vs 23: Hold Fast: Lit = *to hold something down, to retain; to seize; to take hold of not let go*

~Don't Lean

~Don't be swayed

~Don't lose your footing

~Don't let go!

When those tough times come, we have to hold on to the truth of the word of God, not be shaken

Illus: Walking on water: We can't be like Peter, that in the storm, took eyes off Jesus, sank!

In the middle of the storm, with everything going on around you...Hold on to Him!

Listen to me now: We are in the middle of the storm...And that's ok...Jesus is right there with us

We aren't going to sink, boat isn't going to go under, you aren't going to be forsaken.

Keep your eyes on Jesus...Hold fast to Him...Hold fast to His promises...

Heb 11:11: By faith Abraham became a father...

**BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED HIM FAITHFUL WHO HAD MADE THE PROMISE!**

- Vs 24: Consider How: Lit = *look at, pay attention to, consider the things that you see*

Here the author is telling us: think about HOW you can live out your faith, help others do same

~Spur others to love and good deeds: Lit = *encourage or incite or direct to do the right thing*

~Commit to regularly being with others: Lit = *don't give up on corporate worship! (Zoom/Here)*

Zoom, In Person In a Group In a ministry Call

~Encourage on another: Lit = *to speak words of strength courage and hope.*

Q: Who do I need to encourage today

Q: How do I need to change the patterns of my worship and my study

Q: Who around me is going down for the count and I KNOW I can help, lift them up, support and walk

You see, all too often when we are in those tough times, we lose sight of everyone else... LEARN

When I strengthen you...Encourage you...Help you...Builds me up as well...We are a body!

So when we say we are Real People...With Real Faith...Not just MY faith..Our faith!

I have the responsibility to make sure you are doing well...That's what it means to be church!

#### CONCL:

How Strong is YOUR faith today? On a scale of 1 to 10...where do you fit? Remember the old meter?

Everything from 98lb weakling to Superman!

If you look at your faith today...and it needs to increase (READ, STUDY, MEMORIZE, HEAR Word)

Are you living your faith out? If not: Struggling: Draw Near; Hold Fast, Consider How