

April 25-26, 2020

“Look to the Future:
Welcome to a New World”

“A Future by Faith” Core 28

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:15

A. Faith is...

“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.” Hebrews 11:1-3 NLT

“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. By faith, we see the world called into existence by God’s word, what we see created by what we don’t see.” Hebrews 11:1-3 The Message

1. Faith is more than belief!

“You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.” James 2:19

2. Faith is more than feeling!

“So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.” James 2:17

3. Faith is personal!

“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

4. Faith is active!

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?” James 2:14

B. Faith is fidelity or loyalty...*

1. Jesus calls us to a long-term commitment that shifts our allegiance to a new master.

“Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:24-26

2. Jesus calls us to offer our abilities and passions to Him for His service.

“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.” Mark 8:35

3. Jesus calls us to make a pledge of allegiance to Him.

“Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.” Romans 6:16

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C. Faith is evidenced in different areas of our lives...

“And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

1. We are saved by faith.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-9

2. We live by faith.

“And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.” 1 John 5:5

3. We walk obediently by faith.

“Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey Him, bringing glory to His name.” Romans 1:5

4. We believe by faith.

“Then Jesus told him, ‘You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.’” John 20:29

5. We trust by faith even when we don’t understand.

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,’ says the LORD. ‘And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.’” Isaiah 55:8-9

6. And there are rewards of faith!

“You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him now, you trust Him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting Him will be the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:8-9

D. Faith is the key...

1. God is the one who draws us to Himself.

“For no one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them to Me, and at the last day I will raise them up.” John 6:44

2. God is the one who gives us the desire and power to do His will.

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.” Philippians 2:13

3. God is the one who gives us grace when we come to Him.

“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) For He raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of His grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all He has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:1-10

4. God will help us develop greater faith!

“‘What do you mean, ‘If I can’?’ Jesus asked. ‘Anything is possible if a person believes.’ The father instantly cried out, ‘I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!’” Mark 9:23-24

A New Series:

May 2-3: **Greatness: Just Live It!**

Greatness through Rest Core 29: