



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

Transforming Faith Series (Fall 2019) | Lesson #1, Thursday, September 5, 2019

Transforming faith is a play on words. Faith is transforming in and of itself, but the adding word “transforming” as an adjective or descriptor gives our faith a dynamic element as mature in Christ. Faith is necessary to be saved from the “penalty of sin”, but it’s amazing how as Believers we can failure to experience salvation from the “power of sin”.

Faith is evidence of God’s work in our lives. Scripture tells that it is *impossible to please God without faith* (Hebrews 11:6). I’ll go a step further - absent faith and an underlying belief in God’s ability to accomplish anything, we will never be able to accomplish all God has called us to do. When we truly get hold of this concept, we will be in a position to move mountains. Now, that is transformational living!

In this series we’ve got four goals:

1. Explore what the Bible has to say about faith and learn from our “Heroes of the Faith”.
2. Try and understand WHY faith is important to us as followers of Jesus. When we get the WHY correct, the HOW and WHAT naturally fall into place.
3. Identify areas in our lives where faith can really transform our Christian living.
4. Have fun! Following Jesus is the greatest experience we can have. We of all people should enjoy life.

Series Bible Verses

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

⁵ *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB)

Series Quote

Faith is acting like it is so, even though it is not so, so that it might be so, simply because God said so!

Dr. Tony Evans

Provided below is the outline for our 6-week series.

1. **September 5th:** Why is faith important to us as followers of Jesus in how we live?
2. **September 12th:** What’s the opposite of faith? Taking shortcuts limits God’s work in our lives
3. **September 19th:** Exercising the muscle of faith – it’s got to be exercised!
4. **September 26th:** Houston, we have a problem. How lack of faith is impacting Christians in America.
5. **October 5th:** Faith’s role in salvation – stepping to *Sanctification* from *Justification*.
6. **October 12th:** The Power to Move Mountains and the peace that surpasses all understanding.



A lot of the Christian life is identifying the individual race God has called us to live. Each of us have different trials and challenges that require varying levels of faith. As we mature in Lord, we are able to withstand greater trials and tribulations because our roots grow deeper.

Tonight's lesson is pretty focused - ***Why is faith important to us as followers of Jesus in how we live?***

During our lecture time we'll hit the following points:

- Our walk with Christ starts with faith (Ephesians 2:8-10)
- We need to look at some Bible heroes and see how God used them and His call for action in their lives. For each hero we must ask three questions: (1) What challenge did they face? (2) What would have happened had they not had faith? And (3) What about their faith causes us to remember them thousands of years after they lived?
 - Noah (Genesis 6)
 - Abraham (Romans 4:1-3)
 - David (1 Samuel 17)
- What does it look like to be a "mature" Christian?

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Do you find having faith in God challenging? What factors have influenced your answer?

2. Tell your small group about a time in your life when you were required to have a very deep faith? Oftentimes life changes, personal losses, and financial challenges require us to "dig deeper" than normal.

3. If you were to visit with a younger man, how would you encourage him to develop a deep trust in God's plan for his life?

4. As we near the end of 2019, what opportunities exist for you to exhibit greater trust in God and His plan for your life?