

BIBLICAL FAITH: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT ISN'T

WHAT FAITH ISN'T

Habakkuk 3.17-19

1. A Jimmy Cricket type faith: "When you wish upon a star...." It is not simply wishful thinking.
2. Some see God as a cosmic bell hop. "You can write your own ticket with God."
3. A decree and declare, or "creative" faith.
4. Positive confession. Say the right words in the right way, with no negativity and you will get what you want.
5. A shallow, humanistic, consumer oriented paradigm with the focus on the self. It begins with me, continues with me and ends with me. The object of this faith is man and sees God's purpose is to exalt man as the highest order of his creation. God's purpose, therefore, is men and women's happiness.

WHAT FAITH IS

1. Biblical faith is Christocentric.
2. Jesus told Peter to "Have faith in God" (**Mark 11.22**)
3. Faith is believing—in what God has said in His Word and then acting accordingly. It is evidential, based on truth. Biblical faith begins with, continues with, and ends with God.
4. Peter told the crowd who thought it was their own power that healed the lame beggar, "by faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong" (**Acts 3.16**).
5. Biblical faith is not you controlling and determining the outcome of your life, but it *does* prevent life from controlling *you*—with all its ups and downs, its injustices, its paradoxes, contradictions and unpredictability.
6. Habakkuk finds his strength in the Sovereign Lord!
7. "I am God and there is no other gods before me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, my counsel shall stand and I will accomplish my purpose" (**Isaiah 46.9-11**).
8. Don't settle for cheap, self-serving faith
9. This is faith, even *our* faith – an understanding, saving, living, growing, justifying, purifying, working, protecting, stable, asking, strong, triumphant faith!



NOTES:

Weekly Fasting and Prayer

Pray for Others Who are Fasting and Praying. Growing in faith in fasting and prayer is not easy. It most often starts off as a duty or a chore, something that "feels" very unspectacular. Pray for those who will aim for new habits and lifestyle, that this time would be fruitful in their spirit, even if they don't see "result outward "results." Prayer is about nearness with God.

Pray for the Community Groups Outreach Opportunities. Last week, many of the CG's were deciding on how they might impact the community through service. Pray for the Lord to prepare and excite them for these opportunities.

CONCERNING FASTING: Fasting does not only have to be food, but can be anything that is hard for you to do without: technology, TV, sugar, etc. It SHOULD be something that you crave throughout the day, because the Lord uses the consistent desire for it as a "trigger" for prayer. It is not "successful" fasting to just "power through it." The point is replacement and learning to depend more on God than "stuff." Fasting is hard, and you won't do perfect, and that's okay. It's about training your mind and heart to crave Jesus more; failure is almost a necessity to even reveal your neediness, so don't be discouraged. If you fail miserably this time, you press in more next time. Don't give up. You may not even "see" or "feel" results, but the Holy Spirit is working under the surface.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We're so glad you joined us today! We'd LOVE for you to **fill out the green Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our **teammates in a Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to **grab some food or coffee** out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a **faithful servant** behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll **build friendships**, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity should never be fueled by obligation or guilt; it should be motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call Life Mission your Home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. **Thank you so much for your love & support!**

KIDS ON MISSION

Our Kids are incredibly important to us! The Kids on Mission ministry has classrooms for **newborns - 6th grade** & is passionately overseen by **Audra Napolitano**. Please Visit lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Junior High students (**7th & 8th graders**) worship with the adults, and then head to their class for the rest of service. We challenge them to **dig deeper into what they learned on Sunday** throughout the week.

Our **High School students** stay in the adult service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at hbarnes5@yahoo.com or **John Hawthorne** at hawthorne-john@hotmail.com

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Now read **Habakkuk 3:17-19**. What verses stuck out to you in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

Read **Mark 11:22**. Who does Jesus tell Peter to have faith in? _____

Read **Isaiah 46:9-11**. Think about your weekly schedule and rhythms. Write them down. Be bold to share how many hours you spend on things throughout your week. Then, ask if you believe that there is nothing that compares to Jesus, and how your faith in Christ is reflected in your calendar. Does your time and energy line up with your faith in Jesus? In your daily life, whether you are a mom or dad that works full time, a stay-at-home mom home schooling your kids, a single working man or woman, all while taking on 47 more things throughout your week, what do you typically put your faith in? _____

In the past months and weeks especially, Jobey has been communicating that as a church, for God to move in and through us and for more lives to change by the Gospel, we need to be a "praying church." One **Community Group** is fasting together for 24 hours before they meet and breaking the fast by eating dinner together! How awesome is that? Please spend time in prayer to start off this week's group, praying that you and your members will see the value in fasting and prayer. In Tim Keller's book on prayer he says, "Jesus Christ taught his disciples to pray, healed people with prayers, denounced the corruption of the temple worship (which, he said, should be a 'house of prayer'), and insisted that some demons could be cast out only through prayer. He prayed often and regularly with fervent cries and tears (**Hebrews 5:7**), and sometimes all night. The Holy Spirit came upon him and anointed him as he was praying (**Luke 3:21-22**), and he was transfigured with the divine glory as he prayed (**Luke 9:29**). When he faced his greatest crisis, he did so with prayer. We hear him praying for his disciples and the church on the night before he died (**John 17:1-26**) and then petitioning God in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Finally, he died praying."

One big reason that fasting is important is that it causes us to lean on the Lord by praying. Take all the time you need, talking as a group and asking one another this simple question, "Have you fasted yet since the sermon on fasting and prayer?" If not, why? Is it because you don't see the value in it, or you forgot? Laziness? Too busy? Sounds scary? Sounds like an old-school religious ritual? Is a hidden sin keeping you from spending time in fasting and prayer? Maybe another reason? Confess and repent and end by resting in His grace, thanking Jesus for who He is and what he has done. Remember and celebrate that although we constantly choose to spend our time on other things, that Jesus' blood covers all of our sin.

Remember **Ephesians 2:8** that proclaims that "by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." If you are In Christ, you are spotless and stand blameless before God because of the perfectly-wrapped gift of His Son He gave you, not because of your prayer life or time you spend with him or not. Remind yourself of the "why" we do things like fast and pray. **Make sure to look at the Weekly Fasting and Prayer in the Sermon Notes and pray for those items, as well.**