

“Step Out In Faith”

Sermon Notes

- **Jesus' answer to his disciples communicates 3 reasons why you can confidently step out in faith:**

1. Because God _____ to those who _____
him for help

2. Because God employs even the _____
of faith

3. Because God produces _____ results that

Next Week: Luke 17:7-10 - “We Are Unworthy Servants”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the week of July 29th – August 4th

Deepen a biblical theology of faith

1. In Hebrews 11, we read that "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen...And without faith it is impossible to please him [God], for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him". Faith involves trusting in that which is not presently visible to us. What about that aspect of faith is difficult for you (see also 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Romans 8:24-25)? How does belief in God's existence, in turn, help you seek him out? Name some of the rewards that are observed in Hebrews 11-12 (both past helps to God's people and those promised for the future).

2. In the book of Romans, Paul unpacks this aim: "...we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the *obedience of faith* for the sake of his name among all the nations (Romans 1:5)." He closes the letter with this doxology, "Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ...to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen (Romans 16:25, 26-27)." What has Jesus accomplished in the gospel (Romans 3:21-26)? How ought we respond to the righteousness of God (Romans 3:27-31; examples of Romans chapter 4)? Who empowers the obedience of faith (Romans 8:1-11)? What does the obedience of faith look like (Romans 12)? What does the obedience of faith ultimately result in (Romans 16:27)?

Understand and apply Luke 17:5-6

3. What do we make of the question that the apostles ask - can faith be *increased*? How does Jesus answer help us to think about this? According to Jesus, what characteristic (e.g. quantity, quality, presence, type, object) of faith matters?

4. What type of faith are the apostles and Jesus concerned about (historical; saving/justifying; faith that bears fruit)? Why can disciples of Jesus exercise their faith, putting it into action?

5. When faced with your weakness, or overwhelming circumstances, or a struggle with ongoing patterns of sin in your life, who or what do you tend to turn to for help? What would it look like (think specifics here) for you to grow in turning to God? And then stepping out in faith?

6. When you have stepped out in faith in the past, how has God surprised you with what he has done in response? Give thanks to God for this. How does remembering this help you step out in faith this week? In what area(s) of life is God leading you to step out with faith? Turn to him with prayer.