

FEARLESS: TRUSTING GOD FOR BREAKTHROUGH

MARCH 15TH, 2020 HOW DO WE EXERCISE OUR TRUST IN GOD?

(discuss one question at a time, not by paragraph; give space for people to reflect re: answers)

Discuss your experience with our first digital service — what are your thoughts? feedback?

Craig Groeschel, <u>The Christian Atheist</u>, "Many Christians, for all intents and purposes, live as practical atheists or agnostics."

- though you believe in God, when are you tempted to live as though He doesn't exist?"

Can you recall the working definition of "Faith" used in this series? can you explain its depth?

Now three weeks into our series, what have you noticed occurring in you/in your faith?

Read James 2:14-26

- what strikes you as you read/listen to this passage?
- what two labels does James place on faith with no accompanying evidence in 2:20 & 2:26?
- how does 2:22 help you understand the relationship between faith and works?

On Sunday, we were taught 5 ways we reveal & exercise deep trust in God.

1. We Think Differently About Life and Eternity

- How so? what aspects of human life do we think differently about? (Gerry mentioned 10)
- does seeing life "from the vantage point of eternity" affect us? In what ways?

2. We Live for Christ and His Kingdom

Galatians 2:20, The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God...

can you illustrate practical applications in your day-to-day life where you trust God?



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Read Matthew 6:24-34

- what does Jesus teach us about worry?
- do you really think Jesus meant what He taught in 6:33? does it evoke fear or faith in you?
- How do we give evidence that the Triune God and His Kingdom is our pre-eminent pursuit?

3. We Obey God's Word, Despite How We Feel

Gerry stated that "every act of obedience is a step of faith", and "Faith is not believing inspire of the evidence, but obeying in spite of the circumstances."

- as you think about the cast of characters in Hebrews 11, what might some of them been feeling in the face of what God asked them to do?
- is there something God has asked you to do that you are not doing, b/c of what you feel when you think about obeying Him? what feelings do you experience at those times?

4. We Persevere Through Difficulty and Suffering

Do you wrestle with the statement, "faith does not depend on being problem free, painless or untouched by suffering"? Why or why not?

Read Hebrews 5:8,9. Have you ever given serious reflection on this aspect of Jesus' life?

- Describe what perseverance looks like. Why does it take faith to persevere?

5. We Initiate Doing the Works of Jesus

Read John 14:12

- Jesus starts the verse with "very truly" (a Greek grammatical emphasis) b/c He knows we will likely dismiss or not believe what He is about to say
- do you struggle to believe Jesus words here? why is that?

To experience Kingdom breakthroughs, we must exhibit deep trust in Jesus' teaching

- how might we practice deep trust in God to fulfill Jesus' "truly truly" words?

Pray for one another, that we may exercise deep trust in God to do Jesus' works thru us.