



FEARLESS: TRUSTING GOD FOR BREAKTHROUGH

APRIL 5TH, 2020
“JESUS’ EXAMPLE & INDWELLING HELPS US”

INTRO: A special segment to start your group this week — “**Christian Theology 101**”

Trinity — The Christian doctrine of the “Trinity” means that “there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”. Stated differently, God is one in Essence and three in Person. These definitions express three crucial truths: (1) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, (2) each Person is fully God, (3) there is only one God.

Incarnation — refers literally to the *in-fleshing* of the eternal Son of God — i.e. “putting on our flesh and blood” and becoming fully human in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. 100% fully God, 100% fully human in the same person. (Read **John 1:1, 14** now). While we cannot *separate* His two natures (divine and human), we can *distinguish* between them (helping us understand how Jesus functioned on earth as a human).

Kenosis — Read **Philippians 2:6-8** — (v. 7, Jesus “emptied Himself” (GR ἐκένωσεν)

- Jesus voluntarily submitted Himself to the confines of humanity, choosing to empty (limit) Himself of His right (prerogative) to initiate free use of His divine attributes (i.e. Jesus did **not** empty His divinity, but of His right to exercise His divine attributes)
- He lived His life (as “the second Adam”) in vital communion with the Father and in the fullness of the Holy Spirit’s power, choosing to not sin (unlike “the first Adam”)
- okay, okay...enough theology...but it sets the stage for our discussion from here...

Read **Hebrews 2:17** — in what different respects did Jesus become like us? why?

Read **Hebrews 12:1,2** — “Therefore” links the “hall of faith” of ch.11 to what in 12:1?
- how are we to “run the race” (live our Kingdom life)?

Jesus is the pioneering leader and perfect example of *faith* (no “our” in original text). Jesus is dwelling within us (thru His Spirit) and desires to live His faith/trust thru us.

- how do these twin realities motivate your desire to trust God?
- why might we need both of these twin realities to trust God more effectively?



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Jesus’ Example & His Indwelling Presence Helps Our Trust in God, Especially to...

- 1) ... _____ **God’s love** [Mark 1:11]
 - why was God’s first public affirmation of His love for Jesus significant to Jesus?
 - have you ever felt that receiving God’s love was based on your performance?
 - in what practical ways is God’s love shown us? do you have a recent example?

- 2) ... _____ **God’s Word** [Matthew 4:1-11]
 - what was Jesus’ *attitude* to God’s Word? do you reflect the same reverence? how?
 - reflecting on Jesus life, how did He *trust, use & apply* God’s Word in His earthly life?
 - how might His indwelling presence benefit your obedience to God’s Word?

- 3) ... _____ **in God’s presence** [Mark 1:35]
 - can you recall any situations in which we read of Jesus praying in God’s presence?
 - why might we not think of Jesus as being a person of *much* prayer?
 - Christ longs to lead us deeper in the practice of prayer, but how do we hinder Him?

- 4) ... _____ **in God’s power** [Luke 4:18,19]
 - how does knowing that Jesus served as a man in the Spirit’s power encourage you?
 - read **John 14:12** — do you believe this applies to you? why or why not? how might it change your perspective and engagement in “serving in mission”?

- 5) ... _____ **to God’s will** [Luke 22:42-44]
 - how do you, at times, struggle with surrendering to the will of God? in what way?
 - read **1 Peter 4:19** — how do you reveal that your faith is active during suffering?

May Jesus pioneering leadership and perfect example of trust in God, lived through us by His indwelling Spirit, enable us to manifest “an affectionate confidence in God”

Q: How has this series influenced your life? your personal trust in God?

Q: What areas of breakthrough can we be praying for each other about this week?