

**BENNY PEREZ JUNE 25, 2017 Walking By Faith**

**Key Verses:** Hebrews 11:3, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Joshua 1:5

**GROUP LEADERS NOTES:** From last week's next steps challenge: How did you bless or affirm someone else, or how were you blessed or affirmed by another over the past week?

**This Weeks Ice Breaker:** What were your expectations for today's message, and were they met?

**Encouragement:** Pastor Benny reminded us that as Christians we are called to live by faith. Your presence at the service is demonstration of that faith. How else was faith demonstrated at the service today? **We had faith that there would be worship, an opportunity to hear God's word, faith that God would answer prayer, that He would bless ourselves and others.**

We heard and believe that God is not only with us but that He is also for us. What is the difference between these two ideas? **God being with us is to say that we can not be outside of His reach. We can no more hide from God than can He leave or forsake us. While God being for us is to say that He is our number one concern. He has, is, and continues to provide us with everything necessary for us to succeed in His will and plans for us.**

**Scripture:** Faith is defined in the bible in Hebrews 11:1. Have someone read all of chapter 11 and have someone else count how many times is the word faith is used. **24 times in most translations.**

What did the faith of all of the "ancients" of Hebrews 11 cause them to do? **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Samson, Gideon, Barak, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the people of Israel not only believed in what God had promised. They all acted on their belief.**

Where does God say He is for us? **Romans 8:31 "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"**

God states that He will always be with us in Joshua 1:5. Do you believe that this promise to Joshua applies to all Christians, why or why not? **"No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." God calls us to live courageously, without fear, knowing that God is with us at all times. What God commanded Joshua 1:5 is also seen in the Great Commission: "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Also, we have the promise of Hebrews 13:5: "God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"**

**Prayer:** What are your top three most urgent prayers? Why do you think they are unmet? How many of them are on your prayer list? How many of them are on someone else's prayer list? How many of them may have had no for an answer? How many of them may have had not yet or not in that way as answer? How many days in a row have you prayed for them? How many tears have been shed over them? How

many personal sacrifices have been made for them? How many of them have you stepped out in faith into?

**Next Steps:** As a group brainstorm a list of ways that faith can be increased.

Write down those top three prayers of each of the other people in your group and commit to praying over them daily until next weeks group. Expect answered prayers in faith. Write down any of your own answered prayers wether in part or in full to share with next weeks group.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjCjBIWS1c4>

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

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**Additional Questions and Topical Information:**

Jesus has a plan for your life, not the universe, not nature, not creation, not mysticism, not chance, God has and is ordering our steps. Our complete destination. We believe this in faith.

Where we should step into, and what we should step away from. IE: Abraham & Sarah

What is God's direction for you?

What or who keeps you from stepping out in obedience?

You didn't plant the avacado tree, what has God planted for you?

How do you, how are you thanking God for His provision?

Do you trust God in your giving? How?

When was the last time your offering to God cost you something of great value?

Faith requires that:

1. You must believe that God is with you. "as I was with Moses, so I will be with you"

Do we trust in the staff of Moses or the One who weilded the staff in Moses's hand?

Who is with you is more important than what your facing.

2. You must believe that God is for you.

Who is on your side is more important than who is against you.

How much more drama can you deal with when God is present?

How much more drama can you deal with when God is moving on your behalf?

God is with you and for you even in your failures.

**What steps can we take to build "Hebrews" faith?**

The challenge facing each of us as Christians is, how do we build real faith? Even in the first century as Christ was beginning His church, "...the apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith'" (Luke 17:5). They knew they needed more faith and they asked for guidance. Peter later writes that we must give diligent effort to increase and add to our faith (2 Peter 11:5–11).

What can we do? Consider the following steps.

(1) Ask God for more faith. Jesus instructed His disciples to ask, seek and to knock (Matthew 7:7–12). James offers the same advice (James 1:5). This is why the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. We can do the same. Pray earnestly about this.

(2) Study what the Bible reveals about faith. Read and meditate on the examples of faith described in Hebrews 11. Learn and grow. Doubts will disappear as our faith grows (2 Timothy 1:6–7).

(3) Stir up God's Spirit. Faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit. God gives His Spirit to those who repent and obey Him. Study, meditate and fast regularly.

(4) Live by faith. Put into practice what you read in the Scriptures. Trust God and His Word. If the Bible says to do it, then do it—don't argue with the Scriptures.

(5) Endure trials that will arise as you strive to live by every word of God. Enduring and overcoming the trials will help us build both faith and patience (James 1:2–4). God has promised to get us through the trials (1 Corinthians 10:13) and the trials He allows are for our ultimate good (Romans 8:28).

(6) Don't compromise or deny the true faith. The Bible warns repeatedly about false teachers who will undermine and overthrow the faith of others by promoting misleading doctrines and ideas.

(7) Don't quit. Faith is important to God. Faithfulness is as important in our physical life as it is for our eternal life. As the apostle Paul saw the end of his life approaching he concluded, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7–8). He knew—he had faith and total confidence—his reward awaited him.

By Douglas S. Winnail