

THE VILLAGE CHURCH

Intimacy with God

Developing a God-
Centered Life

*“... How to Develop a
Heart after God”*



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Intimacy with God

Developing a God-Centered Life

- An Orientation
 - Image-Bearer
 - Crystalizing the Call
 - “Stilling” Our Heart for Intimacy
- Building the Foundation
- Situational Awareness On the Battlefield
- God’s Discipline
- Our Disciplines
- Identification of Inhibitors
- “Walk This Way”
- In-Class Testimonies



Crystallizing the Call

Outline

- **Our Quest**

- To intentionally yearn to know God and seek Him with all our hearts

- **Our Motive**

- To purposefully live for the pleasure of the King

- **Our Worship**

- To honestly evaluate and deliberately re-orient the passions of our hearts

how to know God



Homework / “Going Deeper”

Scripture (Part 1)

- Read **Hebrews 11:20 - 23**. What do these verses say about these men and what mattered most to them at the end of their days
- What other verses would be jugular as you write out your eulogy, finishing strong, having your spiritual flag flying at full mast and why?
- Determine by writing down the topics you would want spoken to if you had the opportunity in your funeral (i.e. – marriage, children, work, etc.)

Writing Out Your Eulogy (Part 2)

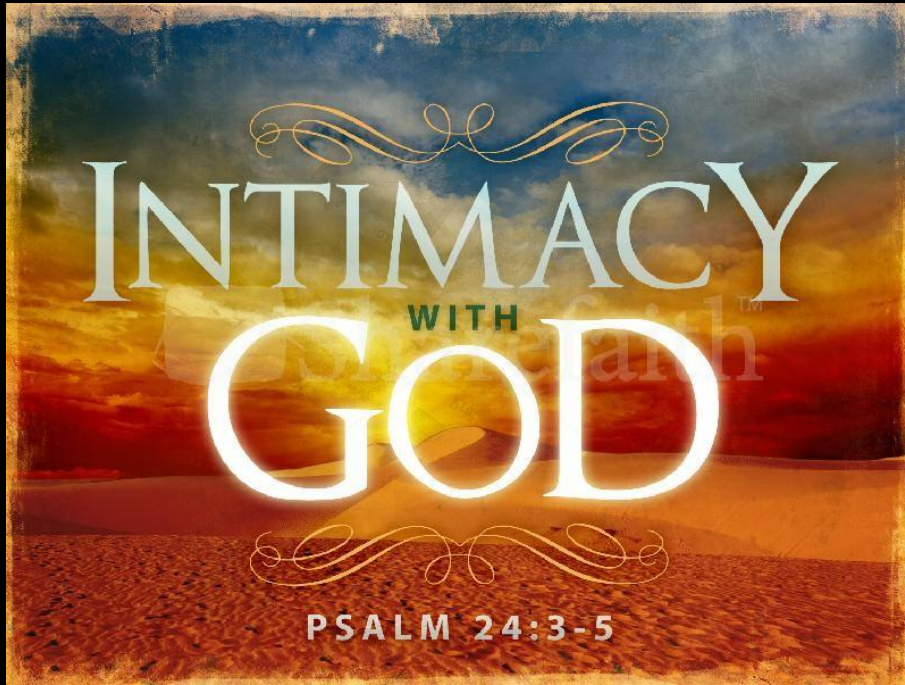
- Write out your eulogy you would want people to read at your funeral and the epitaph you would want people to read standing over your grave-stone; incorporate the theme of Intimacy with God in it; be ready to share it with the class...
- What new life changes is God pressing on your soul that need to be made in your life?

Here is a resource to review in your efforts above... Jeff is a close friend of mine who used to work at Motorola...

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Matthew Henry's commentary note on faith and dying:

"Though the grace of faith is of universal use throughout our whole lives, yet it is especially so when we come to die. Faith has its greatest work to do at last, to help believers to finish well, to die to The Lord, so as to honor Him, by patience, hope, and joy... so as to leave a witness behind them of the truth of God's Word and the excellency of His ways."



An Orientation **Crystallizing the Call**

Intimacy with God **Developing a** **God-Centered** **Life**



Our Motive



Today's Learning Objective:

To understand the nature of faith and the role my decisions can play in pleasing God

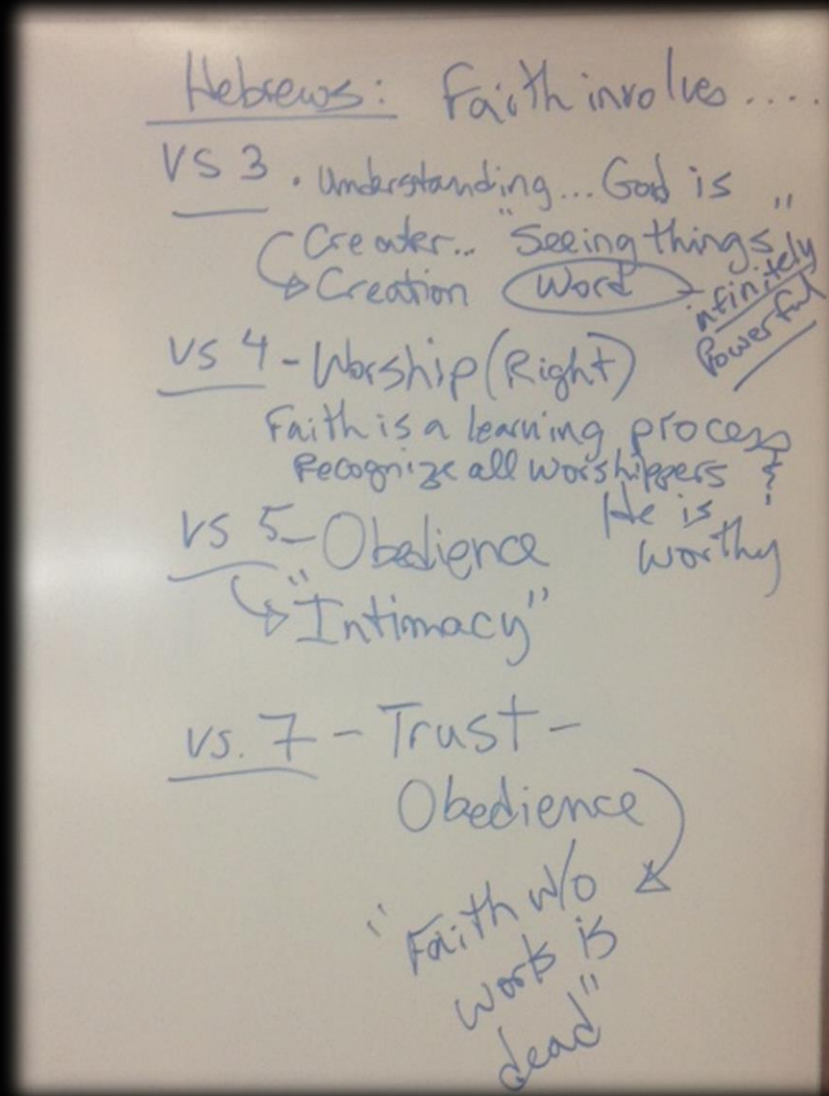
Hebrews 11 – The Hall of Faith: Walking by Faith...

Illustration

Worship

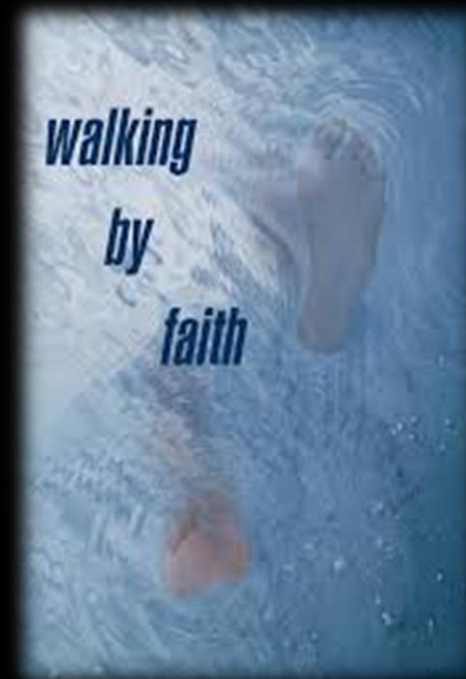
Walk

Work



Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)...

- Involves becoming fully persuaded (11:8)
 - A decision of the heart; diligent seeking
 - To lean fully into God's CHARACTER & His WORD
 - Reckless abandon without safety ropes
 - It is becoming “committed” to versus “trying” to
- Involves completely turning our back on this world and “worldliness” (11:8)
 - 2 Peter 1:3-8 - Stop “tree hugging”
 - Focus on things unseen and not things seen
 - Set ourselves as being apart from this world
- Is born in sacrifice and is costly (11:8)
 - Genesis 12:1 - Leave all we know and follow God's direction - our family, friends, plans, agendas, dreams, desires
 - Galatians 2:20 – “*Christ lives in me... I live by Faith in the Son of God*”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 – Christ's reason for His death



Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)...

- Involves a journey of desire/delight (11:8)
 - This is the sanctification process; it begins with a decision; it must have a WANT TO
 - v24–26 - Moses lost his attraction to Egypt and all it offered, it and nothing else “*could not compare*” to...
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – Love on steroids; Desiring to please God MUST become the highest motivation in our lives; a motivation of the heart to please God no matter what (Psalm 37:4; 145:19)
- Involves a blessing, or a reward or an inheritance, or a promise (11:8)
 - Where we are going and what we are pursuing and longing for is much greater than what we leave behind (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:6-9; 1 Corinthians 2:9)
- Involves taking action (11:8)
 - “*He went out...*”
 - Our choices and explicit decisions will be displayed in our actions



Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)...

- Involves a journey or a pilgrimage and occurs over time (11:8)
 - Faith is built through progressive sanctification
 - It is architected in our hearts and solidified by our actions in life
 - It is a journey of dependence
- Involves uncertainty (11:8)
 - **Hebrews 13: 5-6** (God will never leave me) – the process of knowing the One who is taking us there and not knowing the destination
 - It is getting to know Him with certainty as we embark upon an uncertain place (**James 1:2-12**)
- Involves alienation (11:9, 13-14)
 - *“He lived as an alien in the land of promise”*
 - **1 Peter 2:11-12** – how do we define ourselves?
Are we okay with being aliens in a world that is not our home?
 - Do we “disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed”?
 - Do we really “speak the truth in love”? Where are my real allegiances?



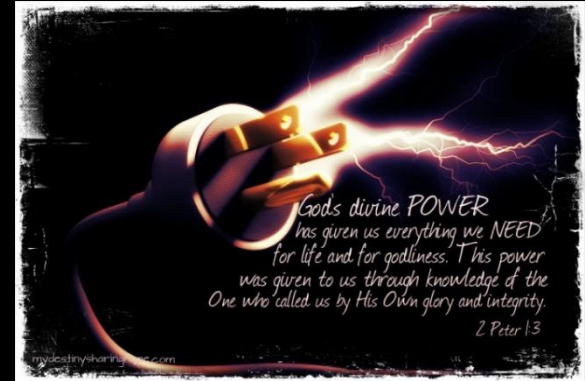
Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)...

- Involves putting down tent pegs versus foundation stones in this world (11:9)
 - “*Dwelling in tents*”
 - We must hold the things of this earth very loosely
 - We must be willing to “pull up our tent pegs” to go where God wants us to go
- Ensures that obstacles will come our way (11:9)
 - “*Dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise*”
 - They lived in tents for over 100 years; obstacles are really opportunities for us to grow in grace, knowledge and faith
 - Either our character will be developed or displayed
 - Our decisions over time create an evolution of solidification or commitment; example – big tree’s rings of growth each year
- Involves keeping an eternal perspective or passion (11:10, 14-16)
 - “*For he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God*”
 - We need to live in the shadow of eternity and see the unseen or eternal
 - This will help us navigate this life and establish the right motivation of the heart to please God (1 Peter 5:10; Colossians 3:1-2)



Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)...

- Must be tied to a personal God (11:10, 16)
 - “... whose architect and builder is God”; “Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them”
 - God is intimately involved in each of our lives
- Involves fully leaning into and experiencing God’s power (11:11-12)
 - “By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life”
 - It is in the middle of the crucible when we rely on His promises and power that He shows up in all His glory and then He also is the One to get the credit or praise; remember that He is in the boat “with” us... just ask...
- Involves setting great expectations of a great God (11:11-12)
 - “... since Sarah considered Him faithful who had promised”
 - It is awfully hard to have great expectations of God if we don’t know Him very well or think much of Him
 - In order to think much of God we must develop a “high view of God”



Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)...

- Involves patience (11:13, 39)
 - “All these died in faith, without receiving the promises”
 - We must learn to “wait on the Lord”
 - What did Abraham wait patiently for? What promises do we have that we have not yet realized?
 - Are we okay with “waiting on the Lord”?
- Is all about stripping idols from our lives (11:17)
 - **Genesis 22:12, 16** – “Now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me”; “because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son”
 - Idols inhibit our obedience and intimacy with God
- Is all about transforming our first responses (11:17)
 - “So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.”
(Genesis 22:3)
 - Our first or initial response is normally a true reflection of our heart



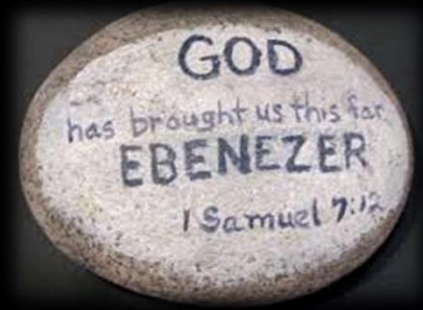
Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)...

- Involves obedience no matter what or how I feel (11:17)
 - *“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac”*
 - “You may never know the impact you may have on people who are watching you in the long term what God discloses to you in the moment and as you demonstrate faith during the test, the situation, or the trial” (Mark Hurlbert)
- Moves us beyond reason when God’s Word doesn’t make sense (11:17)
 - *“He who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son”*
 - God’s Word is almost always 180 degrees different than our natural way of thinking
- Does not involve grumbling (11:17)
 - *“He who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son”*
 - *“Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:14-15)*



Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)...

- Erects monuments to serve as memory joggers or reminders of God's past faithfulness in order to recall it in the future when needed (11:17)
 - “And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.” (Genesis 22:14)
- Involves making decisions today based upon experiential knowledge of God's character that I have learned in the past (11:19)
 - “He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead”
 - God is “able”
 - “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed” (2 Corinthians 9:8)



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