



LIVE BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

I feel confident in saying that all of us have likely been through some stuff. I'm not talking about good stuff either. We have lost loved ones, been through a divorce, maybe more, declared bankruptcy, lost a job, been diagnosed with something we fear, you get the point. Life has been easier for some than others. What got you through it? What is getting you through it? You may not be getting through it. When it comes to trust and faith in God, this is where the rubber meets the road.

Why have you decided that you should put your confidence in God?

TALK ABOUT IT

[Read 2 Cor. 5:1-10.](#)

Last week we talked about, in this life, what is seen is temporary and what is unseen is eternal. Paul compares our earthly bodies to temporary tents and our resurrected bodies to permanent homes.

How should knowing that our present reality is not our permanent reality change the way we approach life?

If you are willing, talk about your trust issues and why you struggle with trust?

Russ talked about feeling safer driving than flying, even though flying is statistically safer.

Why do we often feel more secure when we're in control?

How does that same desire for control affect your relationship with God?

Sometimes we approach faith believing that if we do the right things, God will protect us from suffering and give us the life we want.

What's the difference between trusting God and trying to control outcomes through obedience?

Russ talked about Billy Crystal's struggle to trust God after experiencing painful losses.

How can we remain honest with God about our doubts, disappointment, and suffering without allowing those experiences to destroy our faith?

APPLY IT

We all know that life in our earthly bodies involves suffering and hardship.

How have difficult experiences challenged your faith or changed your understanding of God's promises?

[Read 2 Cor. 5:9-10.](#)

Paul says that because of our confidence in God's promises, we make it our goal to please Him.

How does living to please God differ from living to control our circumstances?

Pretend as if you were given the opportunity to counsel or encourage someone who is going through a deep valley and showing signs of giving up.

How could you remind them that “Our current reality is not our permanent reality?”

PRAY LIKE THE PSALMS

Read these Psalm of Lament and let them serve as your closing prayer.

Psalm 13:1-2

“How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?”

Psalm 13:5-6

“But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.”

Psalm 88:1

“Lord, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you.”

Psalm 42:11

“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”