

The Abundant Life Bible Study

Week one

Day 1 Faith

What does it mean to live a life of faith?

We can go through our whole lives and do what “we” want to do. We can choose our jobs, our spouses, how we treat others, or whatever it is what we want to do. Will those paths turn out how they are supposed to? Will they be prosperous? Will they benefit others? Will they benefit us? Some may think that they will. We as humans “think” we know it all, and that we have all the answers to life. But there is only one person who knows what is the perfect plan for our lives . That is God.

God gave us an instruction book to live our lives according to what He has planned and purposed for it. He made every individual on the planet for a specific purpose and plan to carry out His will. Does that mean that God’s will will get carried out even though others do not trust and listen to him? Absolutely! God gives everyone something called free will. Free will is a choice to do what we want with our lives. We can choose to accept God and his plan or we can reject God and his plan. Why does God do that? He could have made a bunch of mindless acting people that just “follow” him with no wavering, but that is not how he wants to create His kingdom. He wants to create a kingdom in heaven for all who will believe on him. So that we can all be together and live in harmony. In heaven, there will be no death, no sickness, no strife, no bad things, everything is pure and holy. It will be a “perfect” life. Just like in the beginning when God created the Garden of Eden. It was perfect. Adam and Eve lived a life of abundance. They had everything that they needed. They fellowshiped with God daily and enjoyed their days. Then they made a choice to not listen to God and do their own thing. To allow themselves to be deceived. The same is true now, we get the decision to follow God or to reject His word and truths. If we choose to reject, we are like Adam and Eve who will be thrown out of the “perfect place”. If we choose to accept, then we will be joined back in fellowship with God in heaven in the new world for eternity. It is our choice. Just as it was Adam and Eve’s choice That choice begins with accepting the Lord Jesus, his son as our Savior.

How do we do that? You may have heard of the ABC prayer. “A”, we accept or admit Jesus as our Lord and Savior. “B”, we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and “C” we confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord.

In Romans 10:10 it says.....For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

We begin our life of faith, when we accept the Lord as Savior over our life. That is our beginning for a life of faith. We are TRUSTING God and His Word in faith to do what it says. We confirm that by speaking it out. We are going to be learning this year a lot about “speaking” it out and what the purpose of that is.

Our memory verse for today is: John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Copy the verse:

Why should we choose to live a life according to what God wants for us?

God has created you, the individual, for a specific plan and purpose in life. He knows your strengths and what you are good at. He knows how he can use you to help bless others and in turn be blessed yourself and in the end, we can all be together in heaven. On earth, we have the chance to either accept God or reject God. This determines eternity and where you spend it. Our life on earth is so short of a time, but our time in heaven or hell is for eternity. We have to make the decision on where we want to spend it....heaven or hell?

You need to decide do you want to accept Jesus as your Savior or deny Jesus as your Savior? The choice is yours and yours alone.

Pray this prayer if you want to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior:

Father God,

I come humbly before your throne and admit that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I accept your son, Jesus as Lord over my life. I will believe in Him and will trust in him all my days. I am committing my life to you today and I ask this all in faith in Jesus name. Amen

It is that simple. Accept, Believe, and Confess. Now we are getting somewhere. Get ready for a life that you never even dreamed possible. In Ephesians 3:20 it says: Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think according to the power at work within us. God is ready to use you in ways that you have never even dreamed of. But it begins with us making a decision to follow after him. Now that it is done...let's continue.

Day 2

Where does faith come from?

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Copy this verse:

How do we “get” faith? The only way to get faith is by reading the word of God. The above verse says by “hearing”. That would imply....hearing by a pastor, by a church, by someone speaking the word. We need to hear the word of God daily. That is going to begin by us taking the steps to ensure that we are in God’s word daily. If you attend church, you can’t expect just to get fed on Sunday and to grow alone by that. Just as if you were to only eat a days’ worth of food each week, the other day’s your body would look to take nutrients from other parts to fill that need. You will get run down and tired physically because you are not constantly filling your body with the correct nutrients that it needs to work properly. The same is true for our spiritual bodies, we need to constantly be filling it up so that it does not run out and look for other ways to fuel it.

Doing things like this study is a way to get in the word and learn truths, but it is important to let your eyes rest on the Word of God. I would challenge you to begin reading a chapter a day, every day, and begin today. The reading does not have to line up with what we are discussing, it is about getting “fed” each day with the Word of God.

Where do you begin? There is no wrong or right way to read the Bible. I will just suggest beginning in the New Testament. Start with the book of Matthew. Read one chapter each day. It should take you 5-10 minutes. You will get through the New Testament in about a year’s time, reading Monday through Friday. You may think that it is forever, but remember it is not about the time it takes you to read the bible, this is about feeding on God’s word each day. We are going to be studying all sorts of different passages this year, but resting your eyes on His word, is going to increase your faith in God. I will be recommending a chapter each day for you to read on your own.

I would recommend you making this a habit. Do it every day, before you get out of bed or before you eat breakfast. Just as you have instilled the habit of brushing your teeth or getting dressed each day, take 5-10 more minutes out of your morning, to do this task. I guarantee it will benefit you more than anything else you ever do in life. Habits take time to stick. Place a sticky note on your bathroom mirror to remind yourself. Make it a point to read before you even check your phone in the morning. If you choose a specific moment or trigger time, you will more than likely remember to do it every day.

Now which version to read? Hmmm this is up for great discussion. I can give you people that will say that the ONLY version to read is the King James Version as it is the original version for us. Some will say stay away from the New International Version because it takes verses out of the bible that should be

there. One thing I have learned is that Gods word is written in ways so that the most uneducated person can benefit from his word. Do you think God is going to condemn a person with hardly any education because they are reading a ESV (English standard version) over a KJV (King James Version) because they can understand the language better? I know that God is not a harsh God and if something is easier to understand, than stick with it. As you grow in your faith and are studying more, you can always look up verses in other versions and see how they compare. The key is to start with something. Get into logistics and correct forms and meanings of words later on as you are more advanced in your studies. (if that is where the Lord will lead you) Focus on starting with something rather than nothing.

Today's reading is Matthew chapter 1 The genealogy of Christ Jesus and the Birth of Jesus from Matthews point of view.

Prayer to increase our faith, pray only if you feel led to increase:

Father God,

We come humbly before you as we venture into this new life of faith. Through your word we are going to learn what it means to live a life of faith. A life that is trusting in you and your plans alone. We ask that you help guide us and give us the strength to follow through. Increase our faith each day. In your name we pray, Amen.

Day 3

What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Copy this verse:

The above verse states that faith equals the assurance of things that we hope for. What sort of things do we “hope” for in life? To some, it may be happiness, others peace in our hearts. Some may want family members to be saved others may want to be successful in life to be able to bless others and be financially secure. As we grow in our faith, our hearts will desire things out of life.

As a new believer, I remember thinking that God was going to make me “give up” all the things that I enjoyed doing and live this life of meekness and having nothing because that is what I grew up believing. That to follow God is to be lowly and poor and submissive. None of this is true. Yes, we are to be submissive and humble but not in the way that we “think.” God puts desires into everyone’s hearts. Some may desire a large family, some may desire after cars, some after sports, everyone has different desires. We all need to desire after God first. Then those “extra desires” we can use to benefit the kingdom of God. God needs ALL avenues of life to be able to reach people. I tell my children that all those desires in their hearts are not something to be ignored. To live for Christ doesn’t mean to give up the things we enjoy. If you are desiring something in your heart and God does not want it then he will start to convict you that it is wrong. God will place things in your heart so that he can grow your heart towards that thing in life. He is molding you to follow after the perfect plan for your life. That is a life where you feel whole, blessed, and ultimately fulfilled because you are following after God. He is not going to make you live a life that is something that is totally against anything he is putting into your heart.

Don’t think that everyone is called to be a missionary in a foreign country, or have a large family, or to be a preacher. God needs people doing all sorts of different things in life. He needs the white collar worker so that he can influence those in that particular line of work. He needs the coaches to influence and encourage children in that avenue. He needs people with a lot of money so that he can financially bless and influence people for his kingdom. Every avenue in life, he needs. He will place it in your heart to do what it is he needs you to do, you just have to ask and seek after it.

The second part of that verses states:the conviction of things not seen.

What that means is that when we live a life of faith, a life that completely trusts in God, we will be convicted of things. Things that we cannot see. Like starting up a business or having a large family. These are all convictions that we cannot see. We see them as something unattainable. For example, to have a large family would require a lot of money, it seems impossible in this day in age. But if the

Lord puts that in your heart and convicts you of it, you do it. No questions asked, and He will provide all that you need. If he wants you to start up a business that to you seems like it would be impossible to do, you do it and you trust that he will bless it. If he is placing a desire or a conviction in your heart, it is your job to have faith and trust that he will make it work. Don't doubt it, have faith that it will happen.

This is for all areas of life.....health, salvation, finances, etc. When he puts it in your heart, trust it, don't doubt it! God has a plan. Even when that plan is to prosper you, which you will find is true, it will be to benefit and build the kingdom of God. Many people think that God doesn't care about money but God needs people to have money so that they can do things on this earth. How can you bless and help others out, if you are struggling financially yourself? One of the biggest stresses of life is not having enough money, imagine if you had the tools and the resources to help others who don't have enough? It would change someone's life if you could help erase some debt for them, or to put a week's worth of groceries in someone's home. But how can you do that, when you are struggling financially yourself? You can't, you need to be financially set in order to be able to bless others without yourself lacking for things.

Living a life of faith is placing your life in God's hands, asking, and believing that you will receive things, plain and simple.

Daily Bible reading

Matthew 2 The visit of the wise men, The flight to Egypt, Herod kills the Children, and The return to Nazareth.

Pray this prayer to live a life of faith:

Father God,

Today I come to you to ask for guidance and direction in my life. I want to live a life of complete, trusting faith. One that can move mountains, one that will triumph over every obstacle in life. I want to be an excellent example of faith. One that can be directed at you alone. I want to show others that by placing my life in your hands, how you will bless it mightily. I am asking for your desires and convictions to be placed in my heart. In your name we pray, Amen

Day 4

Faith mine or Gods?

Matthew 21:22

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith

Copy this verse:

One of the biggest arguments in faith is that, “Well the bible says whatever you ask, you get. So if I ask for a million dollars, I should get it right?” Smile. An argument I have heard over and over many times in my life. The bible does state that whatever you ask in prayer, you shall receive, IF you have faith.

I think that is the most important factor. the word IF. You have to have faith to receive it. You can't ask God something and then after your prayer start speaking words of doubt. You just null and voided what you asked for. Faith begins in your heart. If your heart truly desires after something, you will expect it to happen. The bible says in Luke 6:45.....out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks. If you are speaking words of doubt, then it is not going to happen. Your heart is not “convinced” it will happen. You need to believe in your heart that it is what God wants you to do.

Living a life of faith is seeking after God and following after him to walk a path that will bless you abundantly. Don't think that God wants you poor in life. You can't live in an economic world without money. But money cannot be your forefront. Money is just a tool to be used for things in life. The Bible says that the LOVE Of money is the root of evil. Not that money is evil, just that the LOVE of money is evil. Don't love money, love God. But by being obedient to God, he will give you the resources and tools to complete his purpose and plan for your life and that includes money.

Our hearts need to follow after God. He will bless things that are lining up with his purpose. He will want his purpose to succeed and in this world that will require money. But the first thing that we seek has to be God. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be handed onto you. Matthew 6:33

If we are seeking God, everything else will be lining up. That can include money, resources, jobs, etc. The key is to seek out God first.

Bible reading for today Matthew 3 John the Baptist prepares the way, The baptism of Jesus

Pray this prayer if you want to seek God first and to know his will not ours so that we can be abundantly blessed in all areas of life:

Father God,

We come to you humbly as we are asking for help to first seek you and the kingdom of God so that all these other things can be added onto us. We want our desires to be yours and not ours alone. Put into our hearts the things that you desire for us to do, places for us to go, things for us to pursue, visions for us to fulfill, people for us to influence. Purge from us the desires that do not belong to you, things that we need to take out of our lives. We believe that when we ask, we shall receive. We ask these things so that we can fulfill your perfect will for us on earth. In Jesus name, Amen

Day 5

Why live a life of faith?

Mark 9:23

And Jesus said to him, "If you can All things are possible for those who believes."

copy the above verse:

Why is it so important to live a life of faith? This will be a question you get asked in your lifetime. When you follow after God and the plan that He has for your life, nothing is impossible. When you believe that God can do anything, that is when the miracles start happening.

If you are struggling with a health issue, you will start to dig into God's word and learn what he says about healing. You will see that is God's will that we be healed and free from sickness and disease.

You will see that God wants you to be rich not poor. You will see this by example of people in the Bible. This is to benefit the kingdom of God.

You will see that when faced with an obstacle of something in your life, that God can miraculously move that and set you free from it.

You will start to not accept the things of this world and begin to accept the things of God.

You will be able to look at your situation, no matter what it is, and know that it can be better.

You will know that Satan has come to steal, kill, and destroy things in your life, not God and when you see that, you will be able to start rebuking and living a life free from the enemy.

You will start seeing blessings flow in your life, spiritually, emotionally, and physically and that will encourage you to want to seek more of God each day.

When God moves in your life, it will convince you that you will never want to live life without him.

Christ will be so evident in your life, that it will be contagious and others will want to know what makes you so successful.

You will see that NOTHING in this life is impossible when God is on your side!

Daily reading: Matthew 4 The temptation of Jesus, Jesus begins his ministry, Jesus calls the first disciples, Jesus ministers to great crowds.

Pray this prayer if you are ready to completely commit yourself to the Lord in this area:

Lord Jesus,

I am coming to you because I want to live a life that is fully committed to living a life of faith that can only be found in you. Help me to fully trust in the things that you say, to accept them as truth, and to not waiver from any of your words. Help me to block out the negativity from the world that comes from Satan, and to focus on your truths. I want to grow stronger and stronger in faith to be an example of you to the world. I want to be abundantly blessed by you. I ask this in your name, Amen