

## Day 18 - Building Faith

*Faith* is defined as “a complete trust or belief in someone or something.” When it comes to faith in Christ, we want to be people who have placed our complete trust in Him, whether for salvation, embracing our new identity in Christ, discerning His leadership concerning our building project, or everyday decisions to follow Jesus. We want to be a church that lives with the conviction that we trust God in every area of our lives.

What areas of your life might God ask you to trust Him with today?

Our focus scripture for today is Romans 5:1-5.

“<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> We have also obtained access through Him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. <sup>5</sup> This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

The faith Paul describes here is not merely wishful thinking. He is not describing blind hope - hoping God will come through. No, Paul wants the reader to be utterly confident that we can trust God with our salvation and every part of our lives. Even in seasons of affliction, we can trust and have faith that God is at work through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. This truth should be encouraging to believers. It should produce resilience and hope that goes beyond any circumstance we find ourselves in because we have a God who has proven to be trustworthy.

If you are struggling with your faith, return to the one thing we know is true—God's Word. Spending time in His Word to learn who God is, His character and His qualities builds our faith as we see His faithfulness and goodness over and over again.

Pause to consider what you actually believe about God currently. Do you really believe that God is trustworthy enough to yield your life to Him? Can you really trust him with everything? Can you trust Him with the future? Is He good? Why or why not?

As an invitation to a spiritual practice -- way to say “yes, Lord,” we invite you to open your Bible to Romans 5. Read through the chapter and search for a characteristic or a quality of God that seems to stick out to you. Spend the day focusing on that particular quality of God. Remember it throughout the day. Sing worship songs referencing that quality, and let it shape how you pray and treat others today.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, the Lord who loves us says in:

Hebrews 11:1,6: “<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen....  
<sup>6</sup> “Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.”

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.