

Life Group Discussion Questions

July 15, 2012

Series: The Fruitful Life

Sermon Topic: Staying Faithful – Hebrews 11 Dr. Matt Cassidy

Introduction: Today in our 6th week of the fruit of the Spirit study we learned about FAITHFULNESS; how it is defined and what it looks like.

Sermon Questions:

Prayerfully read and reflect on Hebrews 11 and discuss the following questions with your group.

- A. In Hebrews 11, we see the great "hall of faith", people who had remained faithful to God because of their faith in Him. Yet most of those people also showed significant lack of faith, which led to acts of unfaithfulness to God. Review the list and think of those failures. Did those failures disqualify them from service to God? Were they able to overcome their initial failures?
- B. Share a previous test of your faith where you questioned God's goodness and/or His values, e.g., that man is much more than matter, that dying to yourself is really living, or that those who are first shall be last and vice versa. How did you eventually come to the realization that your perspective (compared to His) was really like the cat playing chess?
- C. Any definition of Faith typically includes two concepts:
 - 1) Belief, hope, conviction or firm persuasion in something, and
 - 2) The absence of any present stimulus that this thing is authentic, either by sight, smell, taste, touch or hearing.Share with the group a hard thing that your faith is currently being tested by. Do you feel like Grace Kelly's maid who discovered the alligator? What part of your contract with God do you feel might be off-base or contributing to the pain or confusion you're currently struggling with?
- D. In today's sermon we learned the key to faithfulness...that we must base our faith on who God is, not on what He does in our desired timing. What has God provided to help us remember that He is the creator (and therefore gets to define all things)...that He is good? What are some of His good and powerful attributes?
- E. In the 7/10/2011 sermon (almost exactly one year ago), the differences between belief (faith), doubt, and cynicism were discussed..
http://grace360.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/audio/sermon_audio/2011/2011.07.10.cd.mp3

Can a person be struggling with doubts and still be considered faithful? If so, what

does this tell you about the strength of someone's faith or faithfulness? How can knowing this distinction (between doubt and disbelief) help us do God's will when our faith is being tested?

- F. As you pray tonight (the ultimate expression of faith), remember well who God is and let that awareness impel you to lift up the challenge or crisis you're currently experiencing.