

A TRUE LIFE OF FAITH TRUSTING IN YOUR GOD

Romans 1:17 CLV **SLIDE**

*The justified person will live the rest of their lives **from Faith**.*

We've been hearing about **Faith** these last few weeks ...

That our Christian-Walk is a **Faith-Race** ...

In fact, in Scripture our walk is often simply called, '**The Faith**' because our lives on earth are ALL ABOUT **FAITH**

- **Faith** is how we get to be Christ-believers in the first place.
- And it is **IN Faith** that we are instructed to live the Christian Life.

We have learnt, as Hebrews 11:1 tells us, that **Faith is a substance** that God gifted to us at salvation ... and it **ABIDES WITH US ALL THROUGH OUR LIVES** ...

Nowhere in Scripture does it say that Faith leaves us or that we have to work to get more Faith.

IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.

And what God gives, He never takes back.

Ephesians 2:8 BSB

*For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; **it is the gift of God** ...*

Today I want to look at
THE GREATEST ASPECT OF FAITH –

**SLIDE FAITH KEEPS US IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIP
WITH OUR LORD JESUS ... AND THE FATHER ABOVE**

AS WE WALK THROUGH THIS LIFE.

Romans 1:17 CLV **SLIDE**

*The justified person will **live the rest of their lives from Faith**.*

- **IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** ...

SLIDE WE CANNOT DO THIS ON OUR OWN ...

As Galatians tells us –

Galatians 2:20 NIV **SLIDE**

*... **The life I now live in the body, I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, who loved me and gave Himself for me.***

Now does this mean I have Faith in Jesus as the Miracle Worker?
Or Jesus as the Mountain Mover?
Is my Faith in Him only so He'll do things for me?
What is this Faith referring to?

This verse say ... *'I live by Faith in the Son of God, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.'*

My Faith in Jesus is as **the One who gave Himself for me**, that I might know **Him** ... THAT I MIGHT LIVE LIFE TOGETHER WITH **Him** ... constantly trusting in Him.
This is the Faith we have in Him ...

This Faith knows that He is Faithful ... that He is trustworthy ... that He is reliable ...

We can rest in Faith in Jesus ...

Faith brings us close to Him ... Faith keeps us close to Him ...

And our Faith is never ashamed ...

In some areas, I've had good experience of Living in Faith ...

You heard a couple of weeks ago about the Trial I went through in America, that God brought me through.

In big dramatic events, something in me rises to the occasion and I know my only recourse is to Fix my Faith Fully in God.

It's plain and apparent to me then.

But when it comes to everyday living, I haven't been so great at living by Faith.

I get so distracted with life ... and even 'working for God' can be a distraction – One can think of the people and the tasks, rather than Jesus Himself.

I'm still quite unfamiliar with Faith for everyday living ...

I guess I'm not so quick to see my great need of Him in daily life ...

But in His Grace, God helps and teaches us in our weakness ...

SLIDE

GOD USES TRIALS & TESTING TO TEACH US 2 THINGS–

1. WHAT TRUE FAITH IN HIM IS –

Because the test brings out the **True-Faith** in our hearts.

In Times of Hardship we see our own attempts at Faith are of little value, and we recognize **Real Faith in Him**.

THE OTHER THINGS TRIALS & TESTING TEACH US ... IS –

2. HOW TO LIVE FROM **TRUE FAITH IN HIM**

Because the trial brings us to the end of our own ways ... the end of our self-reliance ... trusting in our own efforts and works

And we come to know how much we need **True Faith** and to Live in Close Relationship with **Him**.

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH TRIAL AND TESTING

We really know God will get us through hard times ... that He is faithful.

God placed **Faith** in our hearts when we came to know Him as our Saviour ... and that **Faith** knows He is always there for us ...

But it is a lot harder to remember this when unexpectedly, something knocks your legs out from under you.

It's hard to find our **Faith** and choose to believe ... when the unthinkable happens –

So much fear and anxiety and uncertainty wreak havoc in our minds ... And ours emotion takes over ... And we forget who we really are.

Often we try to get through the problem ourselves... set about trying to making it all right ... to change the circumstances in our own strength and striving and with our own thinking.

Or we try to conjure up Great Faith ... try to be strong in Faith ... because that's what we've been taught should happen.

But this isn't True Faith. This is only self-effort and willpower that doesn't stand up against testing. And we know from experience ... if we're being honest ... that it doesn't change much ...

My Walk Through the Valley of Death

My husband Frank told me that the pain he'd been suffering with for weeks ... was cancer.

As I drove home from the hospital, I was in shock ... trying to grasp the reality of what I'd heard.

I remember saying to God, 'Surely You're not taking him from me.'
But I had to learn to live with this Cloud Of Cancer hanging over us.

*We tried to have Faith ... or was it just denial?
Frank went on juice diets and other remedies to cure the cancer ...*

*Because it was cancer of the pancreas, the medical world
had nothing to offer except to delay the cancer's progress, but only
through much pain and distress.*

*And so Frank opted to say 'no' to the chemo ... and I respected
that.*

*But it didn't take long to see that denial and our own efforts were
not working.*

*God, in His great love for us, took us through this experience, to
draw us closer to Himself ... And I know Frank walked closer to
God through it than he'd ever done before.*

*I tried to put on a brave face and concentrate on doing all I could
for my husband. But I couldn't deny it was a horrible time ...
looking into the maw of death ... staring into the unknown.*

*After 2 months I had to face the fact that Frank wasn't going to
make it ... and this was the hardest thing I've ever had to do, trying
to stave off the thought of how on earth I'd get through life without
him ... our happy life together dissolving before my eyes.*

**It's at times like this that we Fully Face our Fears and Feebleness,
and our own Fleshly Efforts are all Forgotten, totally gone in
Feelings of helplessness, and the despair that would swallow us.**

**In the depths of a serious trial like this –
YOU REALLY KNOW ... YOU CAN'T CHANGE IT ...
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ...**

*And in this place ... I just cried out to God ... for His strength to
get through.*

**Some of you are going through sufferings and sorrow now ...
facing heartaches ... pain ... disappointments ... disillusionment,
battling with doubts ... fears ... anxiety ... and uncertainty ...**

Proverbs 13:12 BSB

Hope deferred makes the heart sick ...

What you are going through is True and Real ...

You may be suffering through lonely nights ... be familiar with bouts of desperate crying ... have a heart that feels like it will burst.

Psalm 30:5

'Weeping may endure for a night ...'

SLIDE BUT **JESUS** IS RIGHT THERE WITH YOU ... EVERY STEP OF THE WAY ... TO COMFORT YOU WITH HIS DEEP COMPASSION.

HE KNOWS HOW YOU FEEL ...

HE EXPERIENCED GRIEF WHILE HE WAS ON EARTH.

You remember His GARDEN OF GETHSEME experience ... WHERE HIS WEeping AND PAIN IN PRAYING WAS MORE THAN ANY OTHER MAN HAS KNOWN ...

And don't you think He spent hours in weeping for the dreadful state of mankind ... so desiring that they would come to the Father and know salvation?

Another example of Jesus weeping we know well is at Lazarus' tomb. Scripture says simply, '**Jesus wept.**' (John 11:35)

But there's a profound depth of emotion conveyed in those two words.

Jesus' heart cried out for lost and wilful mankind ... that they would allow **Him** to draw them to **the Father**.

Jesus is familiar with heartache ...

He's called the Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief. (Isaiah 53:3)

He understands all your suffering ...

He is right there with you through your hardship ...

BUT CAN YOU SEE HIM?

So often **Jesus** is standing right there beside us ... and we look right past **Him** ... we don't even see Him ...

SLIDE IT TAKES THE EYES OF **FAITH** ... TO SEE **JESUS** ...
IT TAKES OUR CHOICE TO LIVE IN **OUR FAITH**

- GOD HAS PLACED **FAITH** IN YOUR HEART
- THIS **FAITH** SEES **JESUS** IN THE DARKNESS
- IT SEES **HIS LOVE FOR YOU** ... WAITING THERE TO HELP YOU
- THIS **FAITH** KNOWS THE WAY TO FIND **JESUS** IN THE DARK

- THIS **FAITH** BRINGS YOU TO **HIM** TO SUSTAIN YOU THROUGH YOUR GRIEFS AND PAIN ... day after long day ...
- **HE** WANTS TO WALK **CLOSELY BESIDE YOU** THROUGH IT ALL, TO GUIDE AND HELP YOU OVER EACH PROBLEM AS IT COMES AT YOU

Isaiah 46.4 NIV **SLIDE**

*Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he,
I am he who will sustain you.
I have made you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you ... and I will rescue you.*

YOUR HEARTACHE MAY SEEM ALL-ENCOMPASSING ...

- BUT THE **FAITH** IN YOUR HEART **IS STRONGER** THAN ALL THE EMOTIONS THAT PUMMEL YOU ... OR ANYTHING THAT MAY COME AGAINST YOU
- YOUR FAITH KNOWS **JESUS** IS THE ANSWER
- AND YOUR **FAITH** WILL LEAD YOU TO **HIM** AND **HE WILL BRING YOU THROUGH**

Trials can become overwhelming ... as we well know.

BUT FAITH CAN & MUST SURPASS OUR BROKEN EMOTIONS

FAITH is stronger than your disappointment ...

FAITH is stronger than your sorrow ...

FAITH is stronger than your pain ...

YOUR FAITH IN GOD CAN & MUST TRIUMPH OVER ALL THESE THINGS.

FAITH WILL LEAD YOU THROUGH YOUR HARDSHIP.

IT WILL LEAD YOU TO **YOUR SHEPHERD** TO KNOW HIM IN A WAY YOU NEVER KNEW **HIM** BEFORE ... TO KNOW **HIS LOVE** AND CLOSENESS ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE DARK VALLEY.

When you Face Seemingly Insurmountable Odds and you feel Hopeless and Helpless ... when you come to the end of yourself ... as I did ... in caring for Frank ... THEN you come to know **True Faith in God.**

*Mike Simms, a pastor I once had ... used to say ... 'When our Faith comes to an end ... that's when **Real Faith** begins.'*

When we finally give up on all our own efforts and our own Faith and look to **God** in our helplessness and despair ...
Then we come to Complete Reliance on Him and look to **Jesus** for what **He Alone** can do.

SLIDE THIS IS THE FAITH THAT GOD SEES
THE FAITH OF TOTAL RELIANCE ON HIM

AND GOD IN HIS GRACE HONOURS OUR MUSTARD SEED OF FAITH. AND HE BRINGS US THROUGH ... OUT OF THAT VALLEY ... AND WE KNOW IT WASN'T ANYTHING WE DID ... IT WAS RELYING ENTIRELY ON OUR SAVIOUR.

IT'S **OUR FAITH IN JESUS** ... THAT BRINGS US THROUGH OUR HARDSHIP ...
**KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON HIM ... DRAW CLOSER TO HIM.
HE IS ALL WE NEED.**

As Hebrews tells us-

Hebrews 12:1-2 BSB **SLIDE**

... Let us run with endurance the race set out for us.

²*Let us **fix our eyes on Jesus**, the Author and Perfector of our faith*

...

*Look unto Jesus
Keep your eyes on Jesus
Fix your attention on Jesus
Lock your eyes on Him*

THE FIGHT OF FAITH

THE TIMES OF HARDSHIP THAT WE FACE ARE '**A FIGHT OF FAITH**'. NOT A FIGHT TO GET MORE **FAITH** ... NOT A FIGHT TO GROW YOUR FAITH ... OR TO PURIFY YOUR FAITH SO YOU QUALIFY FOR ETERNAL LIFE.

NO ... GOD HAS ALREADY DECLARED US RIGHTEOUS or JUSTIFIED (Romans 5:1)

THIS FIGHT OF FAITH IS NOT TO GAIN FAITH
BUT TO **REMAIN IN FAITH IN HIM.**

WE SO EASILY WALK OUT ON THE FAITH WE'VE BEEN GIVEN,

- GET DISTRACTED BY LIFE ... AND WANDER AWAY
- OR THINK WE CAN DO IT OURSELVES ...

**BUT THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE THE LIFE OF FAITH
IS TO REMAIN IN THE FAITH GOD PLACED IN OUR HEARTS.**

**THIS 'FIGHT OF FAITH'... IS TO LEARN ABOUT FAITH IN HIM,
TO EXPERIENCE TRUE FAITH IN HIM ... AND HOW TO STAY IN
OUR FAITH ...TO WALK IN OUR FAITH ... CLOSE TO HIM.
TO LEARN YOU CAN TRUST THE FAITH GOD GAVE YOU ...
THAT INNER KNOWING ... THAT GOD IS GOOD ... THAT HE IS
RELIABLE ... THAT YOU CAN TRUST IN HIM**

Hebrews 11:6 International Standard Version **SLIDE**

*Now without **faith** it is impossible to please **God**,
for whoever comes to **him** must believe that **he exists**
and that **he rewards** those who diligently search for **him**.*

**THIS IS THE FIGHT OF FAITH YOU'RE IN ... SO YOU WILL STAND
STRONG IN YOUR FAITH ... KNOWING HE IS TRUSTWORTHY.
YOU CAN RELY ON HIM.**

SO LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE LIFE OF OUR SAVIOUR ...
AS HE LIVED ON THIS EARTH ...

JESUS' FAITH

**Jesus' Life on earth gives us clues about walking in Faith.
We can look to Jesus as an example of Faith...**

What was Jesus' key to success ... that He could live a perfect life
in this world?

**JESUS HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER ...
HE KNEW HE COULD TRUST HIS FATHER IN EVERYTHING ...
JESUS HAD PERFECT FAITH ... THAT TRUSTED IN HIS FATHER
PERFECTLY.
AND HE LIVED HIS LIFE FROM THIS FAITH ... IN CLOSE
FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD ... COMMUNION CONSTANTLY WITH HIS
FATHER ... DAY BY DAY.**

Even when Jesus' very life was threatened ... **His Faith in God**
never wavered.

Remember the words spoken between Pilate and Jesus in the
Judgement Hall –

John 19:10-11 NLT

"WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO ME?" Pilate demanded. "DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT I HAVE THE POWER TO RELEASE YOU OR CRUCIFY YOU?"

¹¹Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all ... unless it were given to you from above."

JESUS HAD ABSOLUTE FAITH IN **HIS FATHER'S LOVE AND CARE** FOR HIM. HE KNEW FROM CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER THAT HE COULD TRUST HIM IN EVERYTHING ... THAT **GOD** WAS WORKING OUT EVERYTHING FOR THE VERY BEST.

Now though we will never be perfect in this Life as Jesus was, Jesus' **Faith Relationship with the Father** shows us the **Faith Relationship we can have with our Saviour.**

And what a beautiful thing it is to walk in **Faith** ... closely to **our Lord** ... and to grow to know **Him** more and more ...

Galatians 2:20 NIV **SLIDE**

*... The life I now live in the body, **I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD**, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

JESUS LOVED US SO MUCH ... HE DIED IN OUR PLACE ... FOR THE JOY OF SEEING OUR SALVATION ... IN LOVE SO DEEP WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT.

WE CAN TRUST HIS LOVE FOR US ...

FAITH brings us close to **Jesus** ... to walk close beside **Him**.

And **FAITH KEEPS US IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIP HIM**.

Our life's journey can be lived in Relationship with **Jesus** – a Beautiful Life of living in **Faith** in **Him** ... walking with **Him** ... and **Him** working in and through us ...

We can walk through life **with Jesus** ... just like Enoch did...

We'll look at Enoch shortly ...

SEEING JESUS

But what about times when Jesus feels a million miles away?

This can happen in trials or just with the busyness and distractions of life.

It's not that He's gone ... it's just that I can't find Him ...

Sometimes I get in this space after a full day.

My flesh has attitude ... guilt is trying to take over ...

and when I look for Jesus ... I can't see Him.

*It's not that He's gone ... it's just that I can't find Him ...
But I'm learning that like the verse says,*

Jeremiah 29:13 NIV SLIDE

*You will seek me and **find me** when you seek me with all your heart.*

***Jesus** is still there ... with **His hands stretched out to me** ... waiting for me to settle down from my rushing about ... to rest back in my Faith ... and see with eyes of Faith again ...*

*From experience ... I've learned if I keep looking to **Jesus** ... that soon I will see **Him** again.*

*I choose to live from my **Faith** – choose to believe **He's got me** ... and is looking after things ... no matter what my brain thinks ... or how I feel ... or how wrong things may seem.*

*And as I keep looking to **Him** that way ... pretty soon I find a **Quiet Assurance** seeping into me ... the awareness that **He's there** returns ... though I can't **see Him** yet.*

*So I keep on ... choosing to trust ... until finally I'm right back resting in **Jesus' arms** ... doing life together with **Him** again ... as I want to be. ...*

FAITH IS SEEING THE UNSEEN

Hebrews says

Hebrews 11:1 NKJV SLIDE

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, **THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN.***

Hebrews 11 is the Great Hall of Fame of the Great Men and Women of **Faith**.

And Moses is one of those.

MOSES SAW THE UNSEEN

You know the story of Moses – how he was taken as a baby to the Palace ... to be the son of the king's daughter.

I've heard it said that he was actually the heir of the Pharaoh.

But when he was grown ... he full-well knew he was an Israelite ...

And couldn't stand seeing his people cruelly suppressed by the Egyptians.

And so he left Egypt.

Hebrews tells us Moses is commended because HE **SAW**.

What did He **see**?

Hebrews 11:27 BSB **SLIDE**

*By faith Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered [in Faith] because **HE SAW HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE.***

Moses clearly **saw GOD** ... with the eyes of **Faith** ...

Moses had **FAITH IN GOD** ... **THOUGH HE WAS NOT VISIBLE TO OTHERS**

Moses' **FAITH** led him **TO GOD**

Moses' **FAITH** led him to Follow **GOD**

It was because Moses **saw HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE**, that He was able to leave Egypt ... to leave everything he'd ever known – **SUCH WEALTH AND AN AMAZING POSITION** ... to become a lowly shepherd for 40 years ...

Because ... **HE SAW THE INVISIBLE GOD**

Hebrews 11:24-26 BSB

By faith Moses ... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

*²⁵He chose to suffer oppression with God's people, rather than to experience the fleeting enjoyment of sin. ²⁶He valued **DISGRACE FOR CHRIST** ... above the treasures of Egypt ...*

Because ... **HE SAW THE INVISIBLE GOD.**

AND THIS GOD –

WOULD GUIDE HIM ...

AND PROVIDE FOR HIM ... AND COME

ALONG-SIDE HIM

This man Moses was **GUIDED** by **God** – to take an estimated 3 million people through the wilderness ... all by **his Faith in the Invisible God.**

You remember the stories – how when there was no water to be had ... **God PROVIDED** Water from the Rock for all the people ... And Bread from Heaven ... when there was no food ... as Moses relied on **God** ...

This God in whom he believed ... **STOOD BY HIM** ...

and worked on his behalf ... when there were Uprisings Against Him within the camp ...

MOSES IS ONE OF THE GREAT HEROES OF FAITH ... because
**THROUGH FAITH ... HE SAW ... AND BELIEVED IN... THE
INVISIBLE GOD.**

FRIENDS ... AS WE **WALK IN FAITH WITH OUR GOD ... HE IS OUR
GUIDE** and **OUR PROVISION & THE ONE WHO ALWAYS STANDS
WITH US** ...

FAITH IS SEEING THE UNSEEN

And the other Great Man of Faith I want us to look at ... is Enoch

ENOCH SAW THE UNSEEN

Faith is a Spiritual Substance that opens our hearts to the Eternal
Realm ... (CL)

Doesn't this just describe Enoch?

Enoch saw into the Spiritual Realm in this life ... like probably no
one else has ...

Maybe it was like this –

*When everyone else went out in the evenings ... to get their
exercise after a busy day at the office, they took the dog for a walk,
and chatted to their neighbours and friends along the way.
They enjoyed the sunshine and fresh air of a beautiful world,
and commented on how well the crops were growing ...*

*But Enoch didn't see this world when he went out walking.
He always went before his day started ... and he talked to God ...
and walked with God.*

*And **ENOCH SAW INTO THE ETERNAL REALM ...***

He loved the things of God ... more than anything else ...

He loved being with God more than anything else.

And God loved Enoch ... He loved being with Enoch.

They loved spending time together ...

And one day ... God said to Enoch –

'Heh ...why don't you come home with me?'

And Enoch just walked off with God ... into that Eternal Place.

I think Enoch gives us the best illustration of Seeing The Unseen ...
of viewing the Eternal Realm ... the Realm of Faith.

This Realm of Faith was so Real to Enoch ... in his Faith ... that he just crossed over ...

Hebrews 11:5 BSB **SLIDE**

*By faith **Enoch was taken up so that he did not see death**: "He could not be found, because **GOD HAD TAKEN HIM AWAY**." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who **pleased God**.*

In his Faith ...

I think we could say Enoch had **the closest relationship with God** that anyone ever has.

CONCLUSION

And so we come to the end of our discourse ...

And we've talked about

- Living in True Faith in our God...
- about Living in Close Relationship with Him.
- about growing **Strong in our Faith in Him** through Hardships.
- about how Faithful ... and how Reliable He is ... that we can **ALWAYS TRUST IN HIM** for everything in life

God challenged me last week through the song 'Oceans' –

Spirit lead me where my Faith is without borders ...

Let me walk upon the waters ... wherever You would lead me ...

I want to LIVE MY LIFE IN CONFIDENT FAITH IN MY LORD JESUS
So that I trust Him wherever He leads.

After all ... isn't the whole of This Life designed so that we will
come to **know our God** ... and walk in close relationship **with Him**.

GOD IS CALLING US TO LIVE IN FAITH IN HIM.

THAT HE MAY BE GLORIED IN THIS WORLD ...

AND PEOPLE CHANGED ... THROUGH FAITH IN HIM.

THIS IS THE LIFE OF TRUE FAITH ... LIVING IN TRUST IN HIM.