

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Week 6

Putting Things In Perspective

Faith

*2 Peter 1:1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement **your faith** with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with Godliness, 7 and Godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

- ❖ _____ is a given!
- ❖ We can't even approach Jesus without _____.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. 5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

- ❖ We believe by _____ because we weren't there when He created everything.
- ❖ Able offered the sacrifice by _____ through obedience.
- ❖ Enoch exhibited _____ by pleasing God.

Luke 18:1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

- ❖ This parable is called the _____ widow, but at the end He commends the faith.
- ❖ Why does He ask, "when the Son of Man comes, will He find _____ on earth?"
- ❖ He tells this parable in response to questions the Pharisees ask in chapter 17.

Luke 17: 20 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is **not coming in ways that can be observed**, 21 nor will they say, '**Look, here it is!**' or '**There!**' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

22 And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when **you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man**, and you will not see it. 23 And they will say to you, '**Look, there!**' or '**Look, here!**' Do not go out or follow them. 24 For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day.

34 I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. 35 There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left." 37 **And they said to him, "Where, Lord?"** He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather."

- ❖ The _____ man must see before he believes, the _____ man believes before he needs to see.
- ❖ Faith is being _____ of what is not seen.
- ❖ You are so _____ that you actually make the decision and begin to operate in that decision before seeing any physical evidence that the decision is correct.
- ❖ _____!

1 Corinthians 2: 9 *But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" — 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*

- ❖ You can only act that way because you _____ the person you are placing your faith in.

Matthew 25: 24 *He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.*

- ❖ In what areas are we _____ to live by faith?
- ❖ What did Jesus say about those who were not living by faith?

Matthew 6:30 *But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?*

- ❖ Daily _____

Matthew 8:26 *And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.*

- ❖ _____

Matthew 14:31 *Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

- ❖ _____
- ❖ In the midst of a _____ that is out of our control.

Matthew 16:8 But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?"

- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____ God's plan and will

Matthew 17:20 He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and **nothing will be impossible for you.**"

- ❖ Expecting a _____

Romans 1: 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "**The righteous shall live by faith.**"

Galatians 2: 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 3: 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "**The righteous shall live by faith.**" 12 But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."

Hebrews 10: 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but **my righteous one shall live by faith**, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, **but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.**