

JORDANS VERSION Identity in my Faith

9/10/23

#1 Week in Series

Guess Who? Collaborated Jordan with Dave Brock

Summary of Main Points

- I must live a Covenantal Faith, My Faith is Active. Believing in what CHRIST has done.
- I must live an Ever-Expanding Faith
- I must live an Eschatological Faith, my faith is in what is TO COME
- Our identity in our faith is that we live out our Faith





// Summary of Conclusion

- Commitment to Christ
- Commitment to growing in my faith


// Introduction Ideas

- Faith is a funny thing. You can have it, but you might question if you do.
- I love how John Bevere describes the faith we're taught about in Ephesians. That we're saved by grace THROUGH faith. It's like a faucet. The water comes and we didn't earn or it contrive it or convince it. We simply have to believe it's there and open teh faucet - that's faith. GRACE is given to us by God for a NEW START.
- Many of you may need a new start in your life today. It takes action tho to open that faucet.
- Do we do this with our faith when it comes to Christ?
- We live a surface level faith, trust God with the small and insignificant QqahqHTQqaQaqqQthings in our lives, but when it comes to the large things we need to be the ones with the hands on the steering wheel.
- Again, faith is a funny thing. God GIVES us faith, according to the book of Hebrews. So even our faith itself, we can't take credit for. YET we are to ACT on our faith, displaying or proving it's existence. If we don't act on our faith, is our faith even real? I don't think so.
- So what does faith look like for us as followers of Christ.
- There's a great theological depth to faith, but let's narrow it down to three concepts:


// I must live a Covenantal Faith, My Faith is Active

- Covenantal Faith: Faith as Covenantal Commitment
- While GOD completes both ends of the covenant in being both the One who offers the covenant and completes His part, He also forgives us and still offers us the blessing withOUT us needing to earn a thing - looking past our sins and transgressions and giving us a chance to repent. In that sense, He completes BOTH ends of the covenant He makes with us - the promise for us to be HIS people and receive HIS blessings. *See Tim Keller talks
- But GOD expects us to walk into that covenant with gratitude and an action step of obedience. There is OUR part to play. We must get rid of our idols if we are to truly worship HIM and HIM alone - like we talked about two weeks ago.
- God made a covenant with his people and continued to make covenants all throughout scripture.
-  **Joshua 24:14 CSB**
 - “Therefore, fear the Lord and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the Lord.
- We first and foremost must come to a place where we worship the Lord. Where we decide to REJECT those things we used to value / worship / prioritize and REPENT of our sin. THEN ENTER into the new life (promised land) that God has for us.
- This verse from Joshua 24:14 is when the Israelites renew their covenant with the Lord when they take possession of the land of Canaan. So what happened? Many of you are somewhat new in your faith and understanding of the Word so I want to tell you where we’re at in the Biblical story of God’s people.
 -  Joseph had saved the people of Egypt AND the world through God-given wisdom on budgeting the rations
 - saving 1/5th of all the grain and you might know that story. Despite being falsely accused, he remained faithful and God honored him and gave him highest seat of authority in the land. In that he is a picture of Christ Jesus by the way - accused flasley, remained faithfu, honored with all authority
 - In everyone coming to Egypt for their food during the famine, if we fast-forward a bit, we see it enslaves them because they didn’t remember WHO was their GOD and MASTER and provider. Side note -  The very blessing God gives you can become the very thing that enslaves you if you forget to worship Jesus and keep HIM at the center of your life.
 -  After DECADES of slavery under the cruel hand of Pharoh, God raises up Moses to be their deliverer.
 - That story is insanely powerful and we’ll save it for another day. Moses through the help of his brother Aaron and the 10 plagues - had brought them OUT of Egypt and IN to the dessert.

- ■ In the desert they wandered, waiting for 40 years to enter the promised land, although seeing God's miraculous hand, they had not yet entered Canaan, the land promised to Abraham, their father of their faith. They KNEW the stories, the prophetic declarations of this land of blessing but had YET to see it with their own eyes and touch it with their hands. ■ Their experience didn't match their promise. Ever been there? THIS is where faith is tested most.
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- This is the land that was promised to the Israelites, and the Israelites knew they had a covenant with the Lord and must worship him! In THIS land, they would be a people separated unto GOD - a people that worshiped and loved GOD and were sovereignly protected by GOD Himself. Not a tool or system God devised but GOD Himself! WOW!
- All throughout scripture we see promises from God to his people:
 - *You will be my people and I will be your God*
 - *I will protect you and your harvests*
 - *Your children will prosper*
 - *You'll be so blessed everyone who knows you will be blessed*
 - *I have a land for you flowing with milk and honey - in other words, what you need and even what you want!*
 - *I will be your great reward" God told Abraham. So it wasn't just the material blessings of home, safety and food and blessings, not just relationship blessings of a healthy family who loves each other BUT GOD HIMSELF will be with us - knowing us - talking to us - friendship with GOD! His NEARNESS presnce and GLORY will be our reward" the thing that gives us the most joy.*
- *BUT... to enter that place is another story. To not wander after Egypt.*
- *I believe most of Israels' story - our story - as I read the entirety of the Bible is that of a people searching for home.*
- *We all are aren't we?*
- *We want to loved, accepted for who we are, no pre-judged, not categorized no achievement or status. JUST LOVED. Just HOME. Did you know THAT is available to you today?*
- These promises are faithful and true.
- But if we are not careful, we can manipulate other things to become "promises of God" and then claim that God didn't do His end so I won't hold up mine!" If we're not careful, we can fall prey to what is now known as the "Prosperity Gospel"
 - Examples:
 - God's going to make me happy
 - God's ultimate plan is to give me what I want here on earth
 - Bartering with God and assuming He's okay with the "deal"
 - *"I'll worship you if you follow through on XYZ"*
 - If you save my puppy then I'll go back to church!

- If you give me this promotion at work, then I know You're real God and worship You!
- That's called testing God!
 -  **Deuteronomy 6:16 CSB**
Do not test the Lord your God as you tested him at Massah.
- Instead live a live holding on to the promises of God and choose to worship and follow Him for all of your days!
- JORDAN include the article from my ordination class on Prosperity Gospel that was so good!

// I must live an ever-expanding Faith

- This means that we must live a faith that seeks to grow in our knowledge of what we believe, who God is, what His word says! God is SO multifaceted and so amazing that He can forever be explored and never be boring! We can continually learn more about Him, His Word, His ways, His nature, His miracles, His insight!
- We don't live a BLIND FAITH, we live a faith that let's us see things as God sees them. Sure we "believe without seeing" and call those things that are not as tho they are. BUT it's more so that we see like GOD sees.
 - New Testament authors like Paul promote a concept of faith that is opposed to the common phrase "blind faith." For example, Paul affirms that Christians live "by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7 NRSV). With this phrase, he refers to Christians' capacity for a kind of spiritual perception that allows them to interpret the world in a godly way. God's people are able to see and perceive His work in the world, while the rest of the world ignores or rejects it (Hays, "Salvation by Trust," 218–223).
 - Gupta, N. K. (2016). [Faith](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.
-  **2 Corinthians 5:7 CSB**
For we walk by faith, not by sight.
- We must also seek to understand the way in which God sees the world!
- If we don't take time to know why we believe what we believe, and even what we believe, then we live in a place of blind faith.
- Have you ever had a pinata at a party?
 - What's the premise?
 - You are blindfolded and have to hit this colorful and elaborate cardboard box with the broomstick your dad pulled out from the back of the garage and HOPE you hit it.
 - But wait, you are spun around first to disorient you.
 - THERE'S a chance you might be facing the wrong direction, and even if you are facing the right direction, you can still miss!

- If you hit where it needs to be hit hard enough, prizes come out (often candy).
- Is that how you want your faith to be?
 - Coming to church, singing a few songs to Jesus, and hearing a message that you may only remember a sentence from in three weeks does not establish the framework of your faith!
 - That's like having a Pinata Faith!
 - *Include an example of having faith built on no foundation in your life, either misusing/misunderstanding scripture, believing on God for something scripture doesn't validate, etc.*
- **2 Timothy 3:16 CSB**
 - All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- We must spend time getting to KNOW God and KNOW about our faith!

// I must live an Eschatological Faith; my faith is ultimately in what is to come, in eternity, not here and now!

- Faith in what is to come: the hope we have in Jesus
- Eschatology is the study of end times.
- Our faith must be in a place that we aren't just focused on the here and now, but the eternal HOPE we have through Jesus.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:12-18 CSB**
 - We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For we say this to you by a word from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord's coming will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.
- We have to remember that our souls are not destined for this world, none of us!
- There is an eternity waiting for us as believers, and there is a hell waiting for those who do not turn to Christ.
- This is twofold my friends:
 - We hold on to the hope we have in Christ
 - We are driven to share this hope with those who do not yet know Him!
- What does this hope look like?
 - Eternity with Christ!
 - Built on the COVENANT from God.

- *Preacher: Expand on what this personally means to you and let the joy you feel from this be evident!*

// Our identity in our faith is that we live out our faith as SONS and DAUGHTERS of FATHER GOD

- Did you know that Jesus referred to HIMSELF most as “Son of Man” He did this to tell the Jewish people that HE WAS the fulfillment of Danie’s prophesies and every prophecy about the Messiah most often called “SON OF MAN” in Daniel 7 8 and 9
- But when Jesus called out to God, He called Him FATHER!
- JESUS knew His identity as a beloved SON and could live from that place - making every decision off the premise of BEING a beloved Son.
- Do you know who YOU ARE?
- 2 Cor 5 says that HE who knew NO sin, became sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God! THAT is the best verse to describe the identity that Jesus Christ won for us by dying on the cross and rising to new life!
- We cannot live in just one of these faiths, or even just two of them, but all of them.
- We can so easily find ourselves trapped in the cycle of Covenantal Faith, which when that’s it for us, looks more like a transactional faith.
 - I’m more worried about doing the right thing, looking like I’m doing the right thing,
 - *“Hey God, I promise to do this if you do that.”*
- Just as easily, we can find ourselves trapped in the Epistamiological Faith cycle where all I do is seek knowledge about my faith but don’t move on it.
 - We go from our morning breakfast Bible study to our lunch Bible study then to our evening Bible study, from revival service to revival service, get our fill of “knowledge” and “experience” but don’t do anything past that!
 - This is where our faith can become so dangerous to ourselves and others because we “know” everything there is to know but don’t “know” how to put it into practice!
- Last, we can be trapped in the Eschetological Faith where we are solely worried and concerned about when Jesus is coming back. Or, we are so excited that Jesus is coming back that we ignore the things he told us to take care of while we are here!
- The identity we have in our faith comes in three parts:
 - Our covenant with God
 - We have an active and living faith!
 - Are we serving?
 - Seeing the world though God’s eyes
 - Do we see the world as Jesus sees it?

- If we are having an active and living faith, then we should be seeing the world as Jesus does, and that should move us to action, which should cycle to move us to see, which moves us to action, and so forth.
- Our hope in what is to come
 - Our faith isn't just for the now, but on the promises of what Jesus said is to come - we have a blessed hope of an eternal future with Him!
- Our faith must be a combination of these three elements.

// Conclusion

- Altar/Response time
 - Feeling trapped in one element of faith, commitment to growing in each of these.