

## CRAZY FAITH: Sunday January 1, 2023

Intro: Years ago, the captain of a large ship sailed with his family from Liverpool. His destination was New York. One night when everyone was asleep, a sudden storm came out of nowhere. The wind came sweeping over the water, struck the ship and almost capsized it. Everything movable was sent tumbling and crashing, and the passengers became aware that they were in imminent danger. Everyone was alarmed, and many sprang from their beds and began to dress. The captain's little daughter, just 8 years old, was awakened and cried with fright, "What's the matter?" When they told her about the storm she asked, "**Is Father on deck?**" Assured that he was, the little one dropped back onto her pillow without a fear. In spite of the howling winds and crashing waves, she was soon fast asleep.

What kind of faith is this? Childlike faith

**MATTHEW 18** About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" <sup>2</sup> Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. <sup>3</sup> Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven.

OK I understand the "turn from your sins part but what's up with the become like little children part?"

KEY TO THE KINGDOM: BE MORE KIDDY. Kids believe anything before they doubt everything. That's why the Bible calls us "Children of God"

Kids Trust -Kids Believe-Kids Obey-Kids Imagine

YOU MUST FOCUS ON THE FACE OF THE FATHER NOT ON THE FEAR.

There is something in everyone today that believes the impossible, that knows greater is inevitable, that a preferred destiny is unavoidable and everyone one is or should be intrigued by the possibility of a miracle eyewitnessed by yourself!

Can 2023 be the year where you make history rather than reading about it?

Crazy things only happened by those who step out in faith! Way too many people have faith in faith but fail to practice a life of faith.

Michael Todd “Life is more about progression than perfection”

**MORE FOR FREE IN 23!** Our vocabulary must align with the biblical standards of a faith filled life. We must live it out. Put up or shut up

Can we believe God that more people test Gods provision by tithing?

Hebrews 11 Starts off with “NOW FAITH IS” NOW is not too LATE! FAITH IS NOW, NOT LATER.

Can we begin by tearing down the walls of doubt, removing the lies of pessimism, and removing the framework of fear so that God can pour a new foundation of faith?

Impact Church must be a faith filled culture.

Crazy faith is only crazy until something happens!!!!

Hebrews 11: 6 “Without faith It is impossible to please God.”

Faith is stepping out on nothing, believing you are going to land on something!

When is the last time you took that kind of step of faith?

Every inductee in the Hebrews Hall of Faith was not reserved, quiet and unassuming. They lived, breathed and died by faith.

## Faith forces you Forward

**We need to give our faith something to look forward to in 23!**

This is the year that you will begin to see with your spirit what you can't see with your senses. Many of our battles would have been won if we responded to what God was saying on the inside rather than reacting to what the devil was saying, accusing you of, on the outside.

Burj Khalifa is the world's tallest free-standing structure. More than 2,700 feet high. 2 1/2x as tall as the Eiffel Tower and almost twice as tall as the Empire state building.

It cost an estimated 1.5 billion and 6 years to build. More than 110,000 tons of concrete were used to construct the foundation, which is buried 164 ft

below ground level. That is 12 stories underground to keep the 500,000-ton tower standing.

WHAT IS CRAZY FAITH?

“It is the trust in something that you cannot explicitly prove.” Sometimes facts erode our foundation of faith because faith is foolishness to people who function on facts.

Webster defines crazy as “not mentally sound; marked by thought or action that lacks reason.

Some synonyms for crazy are insane, impractical, erratic, out of the ordinary, and unusual.

Crazy Faith is having thoughts and actions that lack reason but trusting full in what you cannot explicitly prove.”

Remember me saying, “Live you your life in such a way that it demands an explanation.” If your friends can’t say, “How did they do that?” IT was not done in faith.

What seems as crazy in one season will be counted as faith in another.

Write this down: “You have to crawl before you walk” What you deem as crazy faith for someone else may be a normal life of faith for them. They started....somewhere.

You grow into your faith!

Crazy faith is not where you start: it is where you find yourself after you’re diligent and dedicated to your decision.

Genesis 1:27 God created man in his own image.

Faith begins with your imagination. Sit back, close your eyes and ask yourself what would you do if the word “impossible” was not in the sentence?

The root for imagination is “image”, we were created in the image of God with the power to imagine what is not yet tangible.

Do not allow anything or anyone (including me) steal, kill or destroy your imagination! Some of the greatest inventions came from an idea which came from your imagination.

Genesis 1:27 God created man in his own image. God created, fashioned, formed man and woman from his imagination.

You and I are the result of God's imagination. Most of us have shut down our imagination and replaced it with indigestion! Feeding on the wrong foods of faith!

Your imagination is not child's play, it is the beginning of what has not yet been formed in the natural.

I want you to imagine again. Dream again, believe again, step out again, run again, leap again, Do the very thing that someone said you could not.

Ask God for an anointed imagination: It is the ability to create new ideas or pictures, not present to the senses that God approves and empowers us to live out for His glory.

I need to believe for the ridiculous again. I need to quit being an adult and be a kid again.

We need to identify where our imagination died?

**2 Corinthians 10:5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

IMAGINATION IS PURIFIED IN INTERCESSION  
 INTERCESSION CHANGES THE FOCUS WHICH THEN CHANGES  
 YOUR FEELINGS  
 WHICH IN TURN CHANGES YOUR FUTURE SO YOU ARE MORE FAITH  
 FOCUSED

What faith is not:

**A. Faith Is Not A Blind Leap** - faith is much more than just walking around blind waiting for providence to bump into you. Faith is your response to the promises of God for your life. God says, "I will lead you." Faith responds, "I will follow." God says, "I will feed you." Faith says, "I will eat." God says, "I will meet your need." Faith says. "It is done." Faith is never a leap into the dark, it is always based upon the firmest of foundations, The Word of God.

The person who really walks in faith never walks through life blind. He always knows what is ahead

**B. Faith Is Not A Bad Choice** - There are those who would say that it is foolish to walk in total and utter dependence upon the Lord. These people argue that God is an unknown, unseen force with which man cannot interact and have fellowship. They call the Christian who lives by faith a fool! However, the Christian who determines to truly live his life by total faith in his Heavenly Father will never be disappointed with God, nor will he struggle through life blindly. There will be a deep settled assurance that God is in absolute control of all situations and the His will shall always be accomplished in the life of the believer.

## I. THE FACTS SURROUNDING FAITH

What exactly what is it?

- A. Faith is defined and described by verse 1. Notice that faith makes "things that are hoped for" as real as the things that are, and it provides the unshakable "evidence" of those things that are ours as a result of our relationship to Jesus Christ.

In other words, it brings the future within the present and makes the invisible seen.

B. Thankfully, the author of Hebrews did not leave us in the dark concerning what all this "sureness and certainty" were to be based upon. In verse 2, the writer speaks of the elders and says that by their faith, they earned a good report from God. Then, he goes on the speak of their faith and in every instance, either stated, or implied is the promise of God.

Notice:

1. V. 3 The Creation account is reliable because it is based upon the Word of God.
2. V. 4 Abel offered a more pleasing sacrifice because of faith in a promise.
3. V. 5-6 Enoch received the first plain air ride because he had faith in the promises of God.
4. V. 7 Noah built the Ark and survived the flood because his faith floated on the promise of the Lord.
5. V. 8-19 Abraham left home and country, sojourned in a foreign land, offered his son as a sacrifice to God and looked or an eternal city. His faith was based on the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God.

6. V. 20-22 Isaac, Jacob and Joseph all died in faith looking for the fulfillment of the promises of the Lord.
7. V. 23-29 Moses forsook Egypt, led Israel, did the will of the Lord, all in response to the promises of God.
8. V. 30 Israel conquered Jericho because of faith in a promise from God.
9. V. 31 Rahab was saved because of her faith in the Lord's promises.
10. V. 32-40 Thousands down through the ages have responded to God's promises with faith and they have seen Him do great wonders.

C. With these facts in mind, **what is faith?** Faith is the assurance that God will do exactly what He has promised to do! Anything based on guesswork, peace of heart, wishful thinking ETC., will end in failure. God is a God who responds to a people's faith in Himself and His promises.

When I pray that my need will be met, I can believe that it will be met because God has promised to meet it - Phil. 4:19.

When God says it will be a certain way in His Word, then you can count on it being just as He has said. Therefore, anything that is promised in the Book can serve as the basis for genuine faith.

D. So, what is faith? **Faith is simply the deep settled assurance that God will do exactly what He has promised to do.**

Faith is birthed in the womb of your expectancy. It is developed in the quiet times and matured through time. God is doing a deep work, so deep that no one can see it and sometimes you don't either until it is PUSH TIME!

### III. THE FUNCTION OF FAITH

What exactly will faith do for you? After we are saved, there are certain functions which faith performs in our lives. As I look at these things, I cannot help but be encouraged.

A. **Faith Calms Our Fears** - I am not sheltered from bad things, but in the midst of them I have His promise - Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 4:17. (Ill. Phil. 4:6-7)

B. **Faith Cushions Our Falls** - I am not immune from sin and temptations, but when and if I fall, I have His promise! It is possible for the Child of God to fall down, but we can never fall out - John 10:28. If we do fall, we have His Word that we will be forgiven when we turn to Him in repentance,

1John 1:9. This is not an excuse to fall, but it is an encouragement to those who have and those who will!

**C. Faith Confirms Our Future** - I do not know what I will face tomorrow, but I know that when all my tomorrows are finished, I have a future secured in the Lord Jesus Christ, John 14:1-3.

**D. Faith Claims God's Finest** - Faith doesn't gorge itself on the slop of the world. It sets its sights higher. Faith believes that God will be true to His Word and there, faith responds to that Word, acts upon that Word and receives the fulfillment of that Word, Rom. 4:21; Heb. 6:18. (Ill. There are many who never learn what God can do because they are never willing to believe that God can do!)

**E. Faith Challenges Our Failures** - What I mean by that is that faith believes Phil. 4:13. Faith says that we can be all that God wants us to be. Faith accepts the notion that we do not have to settle for second best. Faith says that we can have everything that God has for us and that we can have it right now. Faith says that we do not have to live to the lower standard of the world. Faith just takes God at His Word and serves Him.

Faith in the Father helps you forget your failures

Philippians 3:13, the apostle Paul says, "...One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead," (AMP).

I think many people don't experience what God has for them today because they are still focused on yesterday.

**Do Not Allow the Fear of Others to Rub Off on You!**

**F. Faith Calls Our Friends** - Faith says to those around us that what God has done here, He can do in your life too. Faith reaches out to those in sin because it knows that everyone who turns to Jesus for salvation will be saved. Faith believes God's promises concerning salvation by faith.

God's will is that we live by faith! Not the blind leap of the foolish, not the blank check of misinformed, but the deep settled assurance that what God has said He would do, He is more than able and willing to do. Does that describe your life?

I challenge you to trust more in 2023, to leap more, expect more, MORE FREE IN 23, I expect this house to be blessed beyond measure, I expect to meet budgets, no cut backs, TO pave the way, embark, to journey, to lead and not watch.

"God has a great plan for my future, and I believe something good is going to happen to me today!" (See Jer. 29:11).

"My future is bright, and I have nothing to worry about—God is taking care of me. The Lord's goodness and mercy follow me every single day of my life!" (See Phil. 4:6; Ps. 23:6).

"I don't have to fear, because God is always with me," (See Josh. 1:9).

God's Word is powerful, and when you choose to say what His Word says, it has the power to change your life. You are cooperating with Him to bring about His good plans for your future! (See Prov. 18:2).

The book of Jude is probably not the place where most of us would go when it comes to considering good New Year's aspirations or resolutions.

*"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh."* Jude:20-23

As you can see, there are quite a few action verbs in this few verses. Jude exhorts us to:

- **Build** up our most holy faith
- **Pray** in the Holy Spirit
- **Keep** ourselves in the love of God
- **Await** for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ
- **Have** mercy on those who doubt
- **Save** others out of the fire
- **Show** mercy with fear to others

According to Jude, these actions need to be our priorities. For him, our holy faith, our prayer life and dependency on the Holy Spirit, is being rooted in the love of God, living with our expectations set on Jesus.

Keep yourself in the love of God, have mercy on those who doubt, save others by snatching them out of the fire, and show mercy with fear to those who are defiled by their own flesh or way of living.

Jude ends his letter offering us the basis for our confidence:



*“24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*

CRAZY FAITH IN THE FATHER

**Note: Portions of this message were taken from the book “Crazy Faith” by Michael Todd**