

FOCUS – FAITH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Ask yourself this: *What in your life can you truly control?*
- The antidote to fear is faith, and *the soundtrack of faith is worship.*
- We must hear Jesus and we must see Jesus. We must keep the focus of our hearts on Him. That's because hearing Jesus and seeing Jesus and focusing on Jesus builds up our faith, and faith is the antidote to fear.

It's all
about



FOCUS

Developing Faith:

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ESV
- I. **Focus** - We have around us many people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back. 2 Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect. He suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame as if it were nothing because of the joy that God put before him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne. NCV
- Hebrews 11 – Examples for us to follow who inherited the promises by faith!

2. **Word** - Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. ESV

- Matthew 4 – Jesus dealing with the devil – “it is written”
- BIOY Day 187 How to Cope with the Challenges of Life
 - Lord, thank you that you are my strength and joy as I face challenges and problems in life. Lord, I call on you today to rescue me from...
- BIOY 191 Invisible but Invaluable
 - Acts 28:1-16 Intercede for healing.... Lord, help us to have the courage to take every opportunity to lay hands upon those who are sick and to pray for their healing. Thank you that you are a God who heals today.

3. **Prayer** - Jude 20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;

- Romans 8:26-28 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. NLT

- I think we share some common desires. I don't know about you but I find myself wishing sometimes even longing
 - to be closer to God
 - To be more loving
 - To have more faith
 - To handle temptation with greater strength
- FOCUS
 - I want you to think about when you first came to Christ - Focus
 - You were baptized - Focus
 - You heard about and or will filled with the Holy Spirit - Focus
 - Had a significant encounter with Jesus - Focus
- All of these were things, or events that helped keep us FOCUSED or having a sense of being close or closer to Jesus! **But what about our day to day walk with Jesus?**

What makes us feel close?

It doesn't just happen.

Have you ever asked your spouse, children or friends what helps them to feel close to you?

Do you know that Jesus wanted us to feel close to Him?

John 14:15-27 "If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you. 16 I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another **Friend so that you will always have someone with you.** 17 This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can't take him in because it doesn't have eyes to see him, doesn't know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you! 18 "I will not leave you orphaned. I'm coming back. 19 In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you're going to see me because I am alive and you're about to come alive. 20 At that moment you will know absolutely that I'm in my Father, and you're in me, and I'm in you.

- 21 "The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that's who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and make myself plain to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said, "Master, why is it that you are about to make yourself plain to us but not to the world?" 23 "Because a loveless world," said Jesus, "is a sightless world. If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him — we'll move right into the neighbourhood! 24 Not loving me means not keeping my words. The message you are hearing isn't mine. It's the message of the Father who sent me.
- 25 "I'm telling you these things while I'm still living with you. 26 **The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you.** 27 I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. **Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left — feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught.** MSG
- What about this friend? The Holy Spirit!

You know the bible metaphors a dove, a flame, a wind, oil and these are helpful metaphors. Remember a dove can so easily be chased away, a flame can be easily be quenched or put out, a wind can be resisted or sheltered from, oil can be ignored and not used, and you and I both know the Holy Spirit is sensitive we can lie to him, we can grieve Him, we can quench Him and we can resist him.

The Holy Spirit wants live within us and touch us?

Invite him, ask him to come, open up your heart and however He comes to you thank him, welcome Him, you and I can trust him.

- When the Spirit is mentioned, when He is involved, its often accompanied by action or activity! The other significant thing is He nearly always stirs up words.
 - The very 1st mention of the Spirit and the very first recorded words of God in scripture – anyone remember them? Pause – Let there be light. (Genesis 1:3)
 - Numbers 11 the Spirit rests upon the elders and they prophesied. Scripture doesn't tell us what they said but the spirit on them produced words! Unusual outside of the normal.
 - 1 Sam 10:6 Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man. NASB
 - 1 Sam 10:6-7 Before you know it, the Spirit of God will come on you and you'll be prophesying right along with them. And you'll be transformed. You'll be a new person! 7 "When these confirming signs are accomplished, you'll know that you're ready: Whatever job you're given to do, do it. God is with you! THE MESSAGE
 - enables us to do what is totally beyond our capacity to do
 - to be beyond our capacity to be
 - to say beyond our capacity to say
- To do. to be and to say what is totally beyond the reach of our ability.
- Abnormal, not normal.

- When the Spirit of God came upon the authors of scripture they invariably spoke out, sang out, and of course wrote down words.
- When the spirit of God came on Mary and Elizabeth they were full of words. Mary sings out with a heart full of wonder and passion. My soul does magnify the lord (Luke 1:39-56)
- Then we come to Jesus and His baptism. Interesting too isn't it that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and he was born of the Spirit. He was born of the Spirit sinless yet he still needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit before he could become and do all that the father wanted him to become and do. And as the Spirit of God rests on Him at baptism there are words, this time words from heaven "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." Matthew 3:17, Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22.
- Think about the entire book of Acts

- Back to our beginning.
 - We must hear Jesus and we must see Jesus. We must keep the focus of our hearts on Him. That's because hearing Jesus and seeing Jesus and focusing on Jesus builds up our faith, and faith is the antidote to fear.
 - We want to be closer to God, To be more loving, To have more faith, To handle temptation with greater strength
 - Most Christians when pressed usually want more of the Holy Spirit or the presence of God
 - Most Christians want to see more of the supernatural
 - Most Christians are desperate to see more people coming to salvation – coming to Christ
 - We want more!!

- Imagine, wondering, waiting, trying to be obedient, waiting and wondering; On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Act 2:1-4
- A few minutes later with tongues fresh in his mind and quite possibly with a flame still burning on his head, Peter quotes the famous passage;
 - *Joel 2:28-32 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. ESV*

- I think there in that moment a simple and practical truth was unlocked by apostle Peter; The promise is the spirit poured out on all flesh and the here's the reality. If we want to be close to Him, if we want to be more focused it must happen His way not ours! Have you ever asked Jesus about being close to Him?
- "If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you. 16 I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another **Friend so that you will always have someone with you.** 17 This Friend is the Spirit of Truth.
- 25 "I'm telling you these things while I'm still living with you. 26 **The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you.** 27 I'm leaving you well and whole. **That's my parting gift to you. Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left — feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught.** MSG

