

KNIGHTS FOR CHRIST



The ARMOR *of* GOD

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:11

Bill Johnson

24 VIRTUES OF A TRUE MAN OF GOD



F A I T H

KNOWING YOUR GOD

VIRTUE 2 – THE VIRTUE OF FAITH

- AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD, BECAUSE ANYONE WHO COMES TO HIM MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO EARNESTLY SEEK HIM. — HEBREWS 11: 6

- FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE. THEN YOU WILL CALL UPON ME AND COME AND PRAY TO ME, AND I WILL LISTEN TO YOU. YOU WILL SEEK ME AND FIND ME WHEN YOU SEEK ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART. I WILL BE FOUND BY YOU, DECLARES THE LORD. —JEREMIAH 29:11-14

- FAITH IS WHEN YOU TRUST GOD AND HIS PURPOSE IN YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES MORE THAN THE RESOURCES THAT APPEAR TO BE AVAILABLE TO FIT THEM AS YOU UNDERSTAND THEM. AS HEBREWS 11:1 STATES, “NOW FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE.”

EXAMPLES OF FAITH

- Zerubbabel- was the civic leader of Jerusalem who was charged with the responsibility of finishing the work of rebuilding the temple. The work had already started but then was met with opposition and stalled. Zerubbabel needed encouragement to carry on the work. This simple (single) verse in the Bible explains just how Zerubbabel was to accomplish the work and the process given to him by God: he was to do so by the Spirit of God. The word that was given to him from the Lord was not “buck up” or “saddle up”— it was “rely on the Lord.”

- THE TERM MIGHT MEANS A COLLECTIVE STRENGTH (E.G., THE STRENGTH OF AN ARMY). THE TERM POWER DEALS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL'S STRENGTH. SO GOD WAS SAYING TO ZERUBBABEL: "NOT BY THE RESOURCES OF MANY OR ONE, BUT BY MY SPIRIT. IT WILL NOT BE BY YOUR CLEVERNESS, YOUR ABILITY, OR YOUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH THAT THE TEMPLE WILL BE REBUILT, BUT BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD." ALL THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE THERE ARE PASSAGES THAT ENCOURAGE OUR RELIANCE ON GOD ALONE, AND NOT OUR OWN MIGHT, POWER, OR INGENUITY!

2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-6

PHILIPPIANS 4: 10-13

JOHN 15:4-7

PROVERBS 21:31

GIDEON DEFEATS THE MIDIANITES

- GIDEON WAS A COMMON MAN WITH AN COMMON CALL ON HIS LIFE...GOD IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR COMMON MEN TO DO UNCOMMON THINGS FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD FOUND GIDEON HIDING WHILE THRESHING HIS WHEAT. HE WAS AFRAID OF THE MIDIANITES. GOD CALLED HIM TO LEAD AN ARMY TO DEFEAT THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE TERRORIZING THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. GOD HAD HIM TAKE AN ARMY OF 22,000 AND REDUCE IT TO 10,000 AND THEN TO 300. AFTER THAT HE DEFEATED THE MIDIANITES WITH GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS AND NEVER DREW A SWORD.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

- WE ALL KNOW THE STORY OF HOW THE YOUNG MAN DAVID FOUND THE WHOLE ARMY OF ISRAEL HIDING IN FEAR FROM THE PHILISTINE GOLIATH. DAVID, THE LEAST LIKELY TO DEFEAT ANYONE TOOK 5 STONES AND A SLING SHOT AND KNOCKED OUT, THEN CUT OFF THE HEAD OF THIS BULLY WITH HIS OWN SWORD. HIS FAITH WASN'T IN HIS OWN STRENGTH BUT IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS GOD. THE MIRACULOUS DELIVERANCE FROM THE GIANT IN FRONT OF HIM. KNOWING GOD EQUALS FAITH.

FISHING WITH JESUS

- Luke 5:1-5 IN THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE, WE HAVE THE STORY OF PETER AND OTHER FISHERMEN WHO HAD BEEN FISHING ALL NIGHT AND HAD CAUGHT NOTHING. JESUS CAME ALONG AND TOLD THEM TO WHERE TO CAST THE NETS TO CATCH FISH. IMAGINE YOU HAVE BEEN FISHING FOR YOUR WHOLE LIFE, AND HERE IS A CARPENTER TELLING YOU WHERE TO CAST YOUR NETS. PETER SWALLOWED HIS PRIDE AND BY FAITH DID WHAT JESUS SAID. THE NETS WERE SO FULL THEY BROKE UNDER THE WEIGHT. KEY WORDS IN THIS EVENT ARE WHEN PETER SAID, "AT YOUR WORD...."

- MOST KNIGHTS IN TODAY'S WORLD WILL NOT EXERCISE THEIR FAITH BY DEFEATING THE MIDIANITES, SLINGING ROCKS AT GIANTS, OR GOING FISHING WITH JESUS. BUT OUR DAILY BATTLES ARE JUST AS CRITICAL AND REAL IN GOD'S EYES. GOD PERSONALLY ASKED GIDEON TO REDUCE HIS ARMY AND TRUST MORE IN HIM. GOD FILLED AND USED THE SHELL OF A YOUNG MAN TO DEFEAT A GIANT WARRIOR, BUT DAVID HIMSELF CARRIED OUT THE ACT. JESUS, OUR VERY PERSONAL LORD, ASKED PETER EYE-TO-EYE TO THROW THE NET ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BOAT. GOD PLEADS WITH US TO RELY ON HIM AND TRUST.

WHAT FAITH IS NOT

- FAITH IS NOT MENTAL GYMNASTICS. SOMETIMES PEOPLE GET FOOLED INTO THINKING IF THEY CAN JUST STRETCH THEIR IMAGINATION ENOUGH, THAT IT WILL HAPPEN. THIS IS A TRICK OF THE ENEMY TO DISCOURAGE US AND MAKE US QUESTION FAITH AND GOD'S ABILITY OR QUESTION OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD...ACCUSATION

- FAITH IS NOT MAGIC - ANOTHER MISCONCEPTION IS THAT IF WE JUST SPEAK THE WORD WHAT WE WANT TO HAPPEN WILL HAPPEN. THIS FALSE FAITH IS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO BEING VERY MUCH AKIN TO MAGIC. GOD'S WORD IS NOT TO BE USED LIKE SOME INCANTATION. THIS TYPE OF PRACTICE WILL SURELY FAIL.

- FAITH IS NOT JUST BELIEVING. BELIEVING HAS TO BE INTERTWINED WITH TRUTH TO BECOME FAITH. JUST BELIEVING SOMETHING TO BE GOD'S WILL DOESN'T MAKE IT SO. GOD WILL NOT BE MANIPULATED BY OUR DESIRES BUT INSTEAD WE HAVE TO BEND OUR DESIRE TO HIS WILL.

- FAITH IS NOT FEELING. BELIEVING BASED ON OUR FEELINGS IS NOT A TRUSTWORTHY WAY TO SEE GOD WORK ON OUR BEHALF. TRYING TO LET OUR FEELINGS ESTABLISH FAITH IS LIKE TRYING TO PULL A HORSE WITH YOUR CART...NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. YOUR FEELING CHANGE CONSTANTLY AND SO WILL YOUR BELIEF.

WHAT FAITH REALLY IS

- FAITH HAS A CONCEPTION POINT... FAITH COMES THROUGH HEARING AND HEARING COMES FROM THE WORD OF GOD. GOD'S WORD IS BEGINNING POINT FOR FAITH BECAUSE IT IS THROUGH THE WORD THAT FAITH HAS ITS BIRTH.
- WITHOUT EXPOSURE TO THE WORD OF GOD IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BUILD YOUR FAITH. THROUGH READING, STUDYING, HEARING PREACHING, AND TEACHING ABOUT GOD ALL HELP TO GIVE FAITH A BEGINNING POINT.

- FAITH IS CULTIVATED BY RELATIONSHIP. THE BETTER WE KNOW GOD THROUGH PRAYER, STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP, THE GREATER OUR FAITH IS . THIS IS BECAUSE FAITH IS A MATTER OF TRUST AND THE BETTER WE KNOW GOD THE MORE WE TRUST HIM IN EVERYDAY MATTERS. KNOWING GOD ACTS FOR OUR GOOD AND THAT HE HAS A PERSONAL PLAN FOR US AND THAT EVERY THING THAT COMES OUR WAY CAN BE COUNTED AS WORKING ULTIMATELY FOR THE COMPLETION OF THAT PLAN.