

- 1. To understand that the surest way to gain faith is by assuring myself through the undeniable Word of God.
- 2. To understand that I am blessed if I believe in the Word of God.

Open Your Heart



In a circus, there is a stunt in which a person jumps from a swing, rotates in the air, and is caught by a partner. In this case, the person who catches their partner is much more important than the person who rotates in the air. A person who is rotating in the air simply needs to have faith that their partner will catch them. If they just stretch out their arms and stay still, then the person who is supposed to catch them will take care of the rest. If the person in the air loses faith in their partner and tries to do everything themselves, then that person will immediately fall to the ground. Ultimately, the most important thing in this stunt is "faith".

Understanding

Today's Lesson

When Jesus was resurrected and appeared to His disciples Thomas was not there. As a result, Thomas was not able to meet the resurrected Jesus and could not hear the words of peace, joy, and amazing grace from the Lord. The disciples, with one voice, vigorously testified to Thomas that they "[had] seen the Lord." However, even after hearing the sure testimony of the other disciples, Thomas doubted and did not believe. Thomas said, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Although Thomas had so much doubt, the Lord still loved him greatly. So, eight days later, when Thomas and the other disciples gathered, Jesus appeared before them. Then, He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." The Lord knew better than anyone about the blessings that believers would receive, and the punishment that unbelievers would receive. Therefore, Jesus wanted Thomas to believe as well, even if it meant allowing Thomas to touch His wounds. Thomas, finally realizing that he had met Jesus, confessed his faith by saying, "My Lord and my God!"

Even today, there are many people who are doubtful like Thomas. The way to resolve our doubts is to dwell with those who are saved and, with an upright heart, continue to confirm the truth by meeting the Lord in the midst of studying the Word. Though we cannot directly see the Lord, through the Word of truth, we can certainly believe in the Lord who died and was resurrected for us. The Lord ended the story of Thomas by saying, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Notes:

Memorizing

Bible Verses



whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

(1 Peter 1:8-9)



These Verses

1. After you have meditated on the following verses, give a title of the verse or write a short summary of the verse. Also, write down things you have felt about the verse, or other verses that it has reminded you of.

(Romans 4:18-22)

(2 Kings 7:16-20)

(James 1:6-8)



Directions

Read Deuteronomy 7:17 - 24 and answer the following questions.

- 1. God promised the Israelites that if they destroyed the strong Canaanite tribes, He would give them the land of Canaan. Read verse 17 and write down why the people of Israel, despite the promises of God, doubted and said, "How can [we] dispossess them?"
- 2. Read verses 18-19 and fill the blanks provided with the solution that God gave to the Israelites when doubts arise.
- "You shall not be () of them, but you shall () well what the Lord your God has done for you."
- 3. Even though God said that He would provide help, the Israelites feared the enemies who would be hidden from them. Read verse 20 and write down what God promised to do to solve this problem.
- 4. Why did God allow Israel to only win little by little at a time? What is the reason why God did not allow the Israelites to have great victory against the Canaanites all at once? Read verse 22 and answer the question.
- 5. God repeatedly promised in verses 23-24 that He would eventually destroy the Canaanites. If God has promised me this much, can I trust in His Word and boldly go to the battlefield?



For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (James 2:26)

1. Please write	down how	you wil	apply	what you	learned	today	throughout	this
week.								

1.)

2.)

3.)

2. Look back and reflect on how successful you were at applying last week's lesson.



Praving

To Live According to the Word

Let us thank the loving Lord for not rebuking our weak faith and continually giving us assurance through the Word and fellowship. And let us desire to throw away our own knowledge, experience, and emotions, and pray that we can always boldly live our lives by trusting in the Word of God.



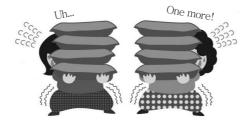
Our Story

The Most Valuable Free Gift



Here! It's free! Take as much as you'd like!





Look~

When people hear that something is free, they are willing to carry even the heaviest bag of rice that causes their backs to break. Free!

The precious things that God has given us for free...

The air, day, and night, four seasons, various natural phenomena... However, the best gift that God has given us is also free! That very gift is "salvation"!

However, why do you show no interest in this precious salvation, which cannot be even compared to a bag of rice?

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Parable

When You Need to Make a Decision Through Faith

Suppose that you are on the 7th floor of a building but that building is on fire. The elevator and stairs have all collapsed, and the only way to escape is by jumping out the window. Luckily, a firefighter outside has spotted you and has placed a safety mattress on the first floor. He signals that it is okay for you to jump. However, in your eyes, the mattress doesn't look too safe. Moreover, the firefighter doesn't look too confident and seems like he can't be believed. At this moment, are you going to say to yourself, "I'm not going to jump. There isn't even a 10% chance that these people will catch me safely. Even if I die in this fire, I am not going to do something as foolish as jumping out a window"?

Of course not. You are in a burning building. And your time is quickly fleeting away. But if you continue to doubt and hesitate, then you will eventually be burned to death. What you need in this very moment is faith.



Wednesday Sermon Date. Title: Speaker: Main Passage:

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