

Life Group Notes
Sunday 18 March 2018

Speaker: Clayton Chettiar
Title: Living Life in the Faith Lane

Over the past weeks we have been going through the life of Abraham and his adventures with God by clearly demonstrating living in the faith lane. We as a church are the pinnacle of experiencing life in the faith lane, we are currently purchasing a building which appears to be a major challenge, but we have seen God position us right now where even the most optimists among us would waver. Sean has mentioned a few times that I come across as a man of simple faith, not sure if it is an African thing, and my hope is that you will be stirred to a point of priming your faith to live life in the faith lane.

There are a number of promises that have impacted both Vanessa and my life for as long as I can remember. Both Vanessa and I have claimed these promises from the Word of God and have stood on them knowing that God is always present no matter what our situation. These promises have grown our faith in Jesus and our trust in the Lord. There are few of them that I want to read with you this afternoon.

The first is Matt.11:28 -30 , Jeremiah 29:11 Isaiah 40:31 English Standard (ESV) and Proverbs 18:10

All these verses have a Golden thread that runs through it and I believe that these verses will lead us to understanding our faith and us living in the faith lane.

There are other extraordinary examples of faith in the Bible. Some of them were driven by pure desperation, like the woman who touched Jesus' garment. Peter's walking on water, Jarius believing that Jesus would raise his daughter from the dead., God's timing is perfect.

We learnt from this experience to live life in the faith lane and trust and claim the promise of God will make a way where there seems to be no way. Often we want to live in the fast lane, get and do things as quickly as possible by our own strength instead of trusting God and claiming His promise and rely on Him

We need to live in the faith lane and know that we can walk on water, like Peter did, or like Abraham fully trust God as Jehovah Jireh our Provider, Jehovah Rapha our healer, Jehovah Shalom our peace, El Shaddai the most high God. I know it is difficult in our humanness to fully trust God; we are often tempted to look for our own solutions to situations. **Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)**

If we want to live in the faith lane we need to trust Him wholeheartedly. We can't pick and choose what best suits our humanness. We must stand on his word and claim the promises from a Father who loves us.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in **Ephesians 3 20. Is it not amazing that we serve a God who has promised and is able to do exceedingly and abundantly?** Can you imagine the power of those words. Above all that we ask or think. **The "more" that God wants for your life is beyond comprehension , It is not ,limited to space and time , not able to be measured with earthly devices or human minds.** I have learnt to be careful of what you ask God for, because you know what? He listens and rewards your faith. He has the best in store for his children. **We need our Heavenly Father to begin expanding our capacity to grasp and follow along with His awesome amazing plans.**

Remember, Isaiah 43.2. I stood on this promise time and time again. God is in control no matter what the outcome. **Please don't think because he has not come through for you as yet, that you are not living in the faith. Know that God knows the plan for each one of us. And his timing is perfect and he is sovereign and will see you through. Keep standing on his promises**

All the Lord wants us to do is prime our faith, there is an old story about a prospector traveling through the desert and in great need of water, and he comes across this old water pump, but at the foot of the pump is a short note, that says under the rock is a jar of cool water,

You've got to prime the pump, you must have faith and believe, You've got to give of yourself 'fore you're worthy to receive Drink all the water you can hold, wash your face, cool your feet Leave the bottle full for others, thank you kindly, desert Pete... The prospector resists the temptation to drink and uses the water as the note instructs. In reward for his obedience, he receives an abundance of cold, satisfying water. Had he not acted in faith, he would have had only a jar of unsatisfying, warm water to drink. If you were a lonely traveller shuffling down that parched desert trail with your canteen bone dry, would you trust this guy, Desert Pete? For all you know he is a lunatic. What if it is a mad hoax? There are no guarantees to what he claims is true. And what would motivate you to prime the pump with the water

in the bottle, perhaps the only water available? But you understand the fact that old wells have to be primed. It's a gamble, a risk, an adventure. What do you do?

Waiting is the hardest part of trusting. We live by the adage: Don't just stand there, do something. While God often says to us: Don't just do something, stand there.

Waiting is God's way of seeing if we will trust him before we move forward. Waiting reminds me that I am not in charge.

God wants to do some fantastic things tomorrow but before he does—we have to trust today. We are required to demonstrate faith. Like an automatic-opening door, it will only open as we move toward it.

Faith is risky business. "Without risk, there is no faith." For faith to be faith, we venture out beyond our abilities and resources. We take the step before God acts.

We all desire to live a full life, an abundant life, a life overflowing with purpose and passion. Whether you are in church leadership, business leadership, or—like most of us—involved in family and friendships that require our time and attention, these biblical truths remain consistent across circumstance, challenge, geography, time, or even belief.

He sent his Son to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life, and not so we could sleepwalk through life as we wait for heaven. The Word of God shows us how to navigate the inevitable twists and turns, and bumps and bruises we may encounter. God has a unique purpose and plan for you—your life, your journey was crafted in heaven long before the foundations of the earth. Jer:29:11, Eph 2:10

Honestly, Sometimes I think the less we know about God's plans for our lives the better. When we start questioning the how, when and why, we're just going to complicate our lives, limiting our abilities, reducing our participation in His plan until an appointed time...

When God reveals His plans for me, to me, just smile, nod and say thank you God for using me... Enough said!

I pray that God will open the door of your heart and help you begin to let your faith be in control of your mind so you can take back your thoughts. If you are ready to be rescued, God is ready to pull you out of the muck of negativity and discouragement.

Challenge each other to do the following;

This spiritual reality plays out in my life in the following manners:

- *When I take the risk of giving generously, I discover that I really can trust God to take care of me.*
- *When I take the risk of asking forgiveness of another person, I discover that God really will honour my confession.*
- *When I risk using my spiritual gift, I can know the joy of being used by God.*
- *When I risk making a phone call or visit to encourage or show concern, I can know the satisfaction of touching another human being at their point of need.*