

When you Absolutely, Positively Must Have Faith

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- I. Introduction
 - a. Federal Express had a longrunning series of commercial advertisement with the slogan, “When it absolutely, positively has to be there overnight.”
 - b. It tapped into the realization that some things are so urgent and important that
 - i. It cannot wait
 - ii. And you have to have total confidence that it is taken care of
 - iii. You are willing to pay an extremely high price to get something shipped because that urgency and certainty is priceless
 1. Drop it off Monday
 2. Arrives in CA Tuesday
 - a. by 3 PM - \$35
 - b. by 8:30 AM - \$73
 - c. Faith: Accepting the testimony of one whom you believe to be trustworthy
- II. Key thought: There are times in our lives that we absolutely, positively MUST have faith. At those times, faith is utterly priceless. We will look at three of those times.
- III. When you are facing life’s biggest decisions
 - a. Moses – choosing Heb. 11:24-26
 - b. Life’s big decisions
 - i. Marriage partner
 - ii. Where to live
 - iii. What job to pursue
 - iv. How does our faith influence these decisions?
 1. Some
 2. A lot
 3. None at all
 - c. But
 - i. We often don’t realize which decisions are the most important
 1. Thought it would be when he stopped the Egyptian – Ex 2:11-15
 2. Instead it was after 40 years of shepherd work and the burning bush – Ex. 3:6-11
 - a. And then he wasn’t sure he was interested
 3. Part of suffering with the people of God was having to wait for God’s time for deliverance, just as they did!
 4. Deciding to wait for God is sometimes one of the most important decisions we can make
 - ii.
 - d. Therefore, we need faith now
- IV. When you are facing life’s biggest challenges

- a. David & Goliath – 1 Sam. 17:42-47
- b. But –
 - i. preparation is necessary
 - ii. Bear and the wolf – 1 Sam. 17:33-37
 - 1. He who is faithful in a little will be faithful also in much – Luke 16:10
 - 2. He who is faithful when no one is watching will be faithful when the whole world is watching
- c. Therefore, we need faith now
 - i. In our small battles
 - ii. In our private battles
 - iii. In our big and public challenges

V. When you are facing death

- a. Moses - Told to die b/c of his sins – Dt. 32:48-52
 - i. If there is one command that you might be tempted to disobey!
 - ii. How can I know I will be alright when I am dying b/c of my sins
 - iii. There is only one way to know – FAITH
 - iv. Moses had it
 - 1. He was able to enjoy the blessing of seeing a vision of what God had in store for the people he left behind
 - 2. Instead of fearing the wrath of God upon His unrighteousness
- b. Rachel's grandmother and grandfather
 - i. She faced a time when she was troubled with her future
 - ii. Her husband of 50 years told her the truth
 - 1. She was a child of God
 - 2. Jesus had died for her sins
 - 3. She was forgiven
 - 4. She had a heavenly home waiting for her
 - 5. "Do Not Be Afraid"
 - a. Danger
 - b. Temptation
 - c. Death

From angry waves His words of life have set me free
A heaven'ly hope a peaceful calm has made
O'er depths of death his arm will safely carry me
One final storm – I will not be afraid!
- c. Us, one day
 - i. Satan will remind us of all the reasons God should turn us away
 - ii. Fear, doubt, shame, guilt, regret, sorrow, discouragement
 - iii. Satan can not take God's grace and mercy away from us
 - iv. Get behind me, Satan - When Peter was acting as though the fear of death was a more significant reality than the reality of God's grace.
 - v. We need to do the same

- d. But
 - i. Death could be at any time – James 4:14
 - ii. You ARE Facing Death RIGHT NOW
 - e. Therefore, you need faith now, RIGHT NOW
- VI. CONCLUSION
- a. Review
 - i. Making big decisions? All the time
 - ii. Facing big challenges? All the time
 - iii. Facing death? All the time
 - iv. Need faith? All the time
 - b. We don't just need faith, we need strong faith – How do we grow faith?
 - i. Hear his word – Rom 10:17
 - ii. Spend time with those of strong faith
 - iii. Act on your faith –
 - 1. Just as acting loving to the one you love causes your love to grow
 - 2. Acting faithfully to the one you have faith in will cause your faith to grow
 - c. Invitation