

Fearing God and the Eyes of Faith

Hebrews 11:23-31

2-21-15

- 1) We were asked to write down a few things in our life that we might currently be fearful of. From the time of writing them till now, reflect on how your fears might have remained or changed since the message on Sunday.

- 2) Read through Hebrews 11:23-31 and discuss the stories we see in these verses. Talk about the kinds of fears that the individuals involved would have experienced. You can dive deeper into Moses's story in Exodus 1:6-21, 2:11-15, and chapter 3. For more about Abraham's story look at Genesis 22:1-15. Are the fears and emotions in these stories similar to one's you have experienced?

- 3) Discuss how the object of the Israelites' fear changed from when they were up against the Red Sea with the Egyptians close behind them to after they crossed over the sea on dry land (Exodus 14). What can we learn from their experience about ourselves and about God? What does this reveal to us about God's character (Exodus 34:6)?

- 4) Reflect and discuss a situation in which you had to choose between what people wanted you to do and what the Lord wanted you to do: A situation that might have been against the culture or illogical in the eyes of others. What decisions did you make and what were the outcomes? Was it debilitating or were you able to clearly move ahead?

- 5) Because God is gracious and compassionate, how did you see God in the situation discussed above? Did He teach you anything about Himself or about you? How did God use it to develop your eyes of faith?

- 6) Pastor Jim encourages moving forward in faith by the fear the Lord and not people. He gave us three ways to grow in this area. First, we are to remember that what God thinks about our actions is more important than what the world thinks (Gal 6:7-10). Second, God will never leave us and will fight for us (Ex 14: 13-14) and finally, God is all-powerful and He ultimately calls the shots in this world (Ps 33: 17-19). Is God calling you to remember one or more of these principles? If so, we encourage you to write down the corresponding verses and meditate on them this week.