Search 185 Podcast

> *Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

For today's podcast, let's talk a bit about faith.

What is it and why do some have it and some don't?

> **Heb 11:1** *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

• Hope is what we want to happen, Faith is believing that it will happen.

• An example of faith is praying for rain and walking around with an open umbrella. Or buying a lottery ticket and quitting your job before the numbers are selected.

• Hebrews chapter 11 shows us that Faith is living and active . . . "by faith . . ."

Faith is "believing in something you can't see, but have a REASON to believe it." Faith without reason is SUPERSTITION. The Christian faith is not superstitious. Faith and Reason are compatible.

• Example of a can of corn at the store.

Why some have it and some don't . . .

First of all, a clarification: "God desires for everyone to be saved." 1 Tim 2:4

• Some are not brought up in any kind of faith, so society, culture teach them their ways.

• Some are given faith but then lose it . . .

• Essentially it is the parable of the Sower : some seeds fall on the PATH, some on ROCKY ground, some among THORNS, some on GOOD SOIL.

• Path = hears the Word of God but does not understand. Their hearts are hard and impenetrable. Rocky ground = receives the Word with joy, but has no roots so when difficulties arise, they falter. Thorns = cares of the world and riches choke the Word of God Good Soil = hears the Word and understands

What are Gods promises to those that seek him? The Lord promises in . . .

> **Dt 4:29** *But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

> **Matthew 7:7-8** *"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*

Is it okay for the fallen away to return to faith and a life of prayer? Absolutely! God desires the salvation of all his children.

> **Jn 3:16** *For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

- We are all searching for that "thing" that will bring happiness to our lives . . . the older we get the more we realize how the earthly things, even earthly relationships can leave us unsatisfied.
- We were not made for THIS world, but for the next. That is why we feel like we don't belong here, where suffering and death are repulsive to us.
- We were made for perfection and eternal life, that is why we seek them.
- Our prayer life is our connection with God. We may not know how to pray, but the desire to pray and ANY attempt at connecting with God is met with favor from Him.

What are the benefits of coming back to the faith?

- You will find PEACE and REST: Mt 11:28-29 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
- You will receive LIFE: Amos 5:4 "Seek me that you may live"
- You will gain STRENGTH in times of difficulty: Psalm 105:3-4 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

- You will find JOY and GLADNESS: Psalm 70:4 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you may those who long for your saving help always say, “The Lord is great!”
- You will find DELIVERANCE: Psalm 34:4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.
- You will receive WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE : Proverbs 2:3-6 if you call out for knowledge and cry aloud for understanding . . . then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- You will find FORGIVENESS : 2 Chron 7:14 “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Is God vengeful to his children when they go astray or is God understanding, forgiving and kind to us? God is vengeful only to those who oppose him directly. He opposes the proud (prideful)

> **1 Pt 5:5** *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (Proverbs 3:34)*

He loves those who repent of their ways and are just and humble.

> **2 Corinthians 7:10** *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death.*

God is merciful and forgiving

> **Psalm 86:15** *But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy and faithfulness.*

> **Sirach 2:11** *For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; he forgives sins and saves in time of affliction, and he is the shield of all who seek him in truth.*