



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

Transforming Faith Series (Fall 2019) | Lesson #6, Thursday, October 10, 2019

Transforming faith is a play on words. Faith is transforming in and of itself, but the adding word “transforming” as an adjective or descriptor gives our faith a dynamic element as mature in Christ. Faith is necessary to be saved from the “penalty of sin”, but it’s amazing how as Believers we can failure to experience salvation from the “power of sin”.

Faith is evidence of God’s work in our lives. Scripture tells that it is *impossible to please God without faith* (Hebrews 11:6). I’ll go a step further - absent faith and an underlying belief in God’s ability to accomplish anything, we will never be able to accomplish all God has called us to do. When we truly get hold of this concept, we will be in a position to move mountains. Now, that is transformational living!

In this series we’ve got four goals:

1. Explore what the Bible has to say about faith and learn from our “Heroes of the Faith”.
2. Try and understand WHY faith is important to us. The WHY drives the HOW and WHAT.
3. Identify areas in our lives where faith can really transform our Christian living.
4. Have fun! Following Jesus is the greatest experience we can have. We of all people should enjoy life.

Series Bible Verses

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

⁵ *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB)

Series Quote

Faith is acting like it is so, even though it is not so, so that it might be so, simply because God said so!

Dr. Tony Evans

Provided below is the outline for our 6-week series.

1. **September 5th:** Why is faith important to us as followers of Jesus in how we live?
2. **September 12th:** What’s the opposite of faith? Taking shortcuts limits God’s work in our lives
3. **September 19th:** Exercising the muscle of faith – it’s got to be exercised!
4. **September 26th:** Houston, we have a problem. How lack of faith is impacting Christians in America.
5. **October 3rd:** Faith’s role in salvation – stepping to *Sanctification* from *Justification*.
6. **October 10th:** **The Power to Move Mountains and the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

Tonight’s lesson is the last in our series on faith. I’ve certainly enjoyed the opportunity to talk about faith’s critically important role in our lives as followers of Jesus. Our goal tonight is simple – *bringing it all together*. For most Christians, faith is something that happens at conversion when we put our trust in Christ. From that point forward it’s easy to “coast through life” by avoiding risks and playing it safe. In church terms we talked about *being a backrow Baptist*. Unfortunately, this was never God’s intention. As Peter said in 1 Peter 2:9 - *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*. As chosen people that means we have a specific purpose in being on this planet. The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you figure out why. Tonight’s lesson is about challenging ourselves to explore the why and put it down on paper.



One of my favorite business books is *Good to Great* by Jim Collins. In this book Jim talks about **Big Harry Audacious Goals**, or BHAGs. A BHAG is a “huge and daunting goal – like a big mountain to climb” (p. 202). As Believers, BHAGs occur at the intersection of three areas:

- What are we good at (i.e., how has the Lord gifted us in terms of skills, talents, and Spiritual Gifts)?
- What are we passionate about?
- Where can we have the greatest impact for God’s Kingdom?

When these three areas collide, dynamic things happen! In the table below fill out for each category how you think God has “wired” you and how you believe God might be calling you to step out in faith. Ultimately, the letter we’re going to write ourselves this evening is going to be based on the information contained in this table.

Category	How can God use me? (What requires BHAG faith?)
Spiritual Gifts	
Passions (What do you love to do?)	
Skills and Talents (What are you good at doing?)	
Resources (What personal resources can use?)	

In tonight’s lesson we’re studying the *Parable of the Talents* (Matthew 25:14-30). There are multiple applications of this story, but the main one in relation to what we’re discussing tonight is God expects us to use what He gives us to build His Kingdom. It’s not enough to just live, we must live with purpose.

In many regards our usefulness in God’s Kingdom is based on how He has bestowed to us talents, skills, resources, and Spiritual Gifts. However, here’s the hard part – *God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called.* From what I have observed, God typically provides resources based on needs. In my life I have seen God do the greatest when my needs are greatest. In my desperation I have seen God move the most. It might be that as men we limit God’s work in our lives because we are limiting our dependence and reliance on Him.

This evening you’re being given a piece of paper on which to write a letter to yourself. From the first evening of this series we’ve talked about challenging ourselves to live by faith (and being intentional about it). The motto for this series might very well be summed up as “God’s desire is that we be involved in pursuits that are destined to fail without His involvement.” ***May the Lord give you the wisdom and faith to do all He has called you to do!***

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. If you are comfortable doing so, share with your group responses in the “BHAG table” above.
2. In the Christian life, why are we complacent? Do you think men have a greater tendency to be complacent than women?
3. What are keys to avoiding complacency? Think practically (e.g., developing good habits and disciplines to ensure I have structure in certain areas of my life).
4. How has this series helped you focus on faith’s role in your life as a follower of Jesus?