Sequence of Faith, Session 1

INTRODUCTION

- These lessons in the middle starting with this one have more to do with establishing our faith.
- A blind faith by definition because here's why. They believe in something that can't see it.

1 Is Belief in God Commanded?

- Do we sometimes think of belief as something that just happens to you instead of thinking of it as a command that we better figure out how to obey?
- Figuring out how to believe and hold on to our belief is part of what obeying God is.
- The scriptures are inspired. Those are fundamental things.

2 Two Types of Faith: Belief Faith and Trust Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7

- I'm going to call this trust faith and this belief faith.
- I have a conviction and confidence that the source is trustworthy. I'm going to call that belief faith.
- That leads me to belief in the other conclusions without additional evidence. They're consistent with that evidence-based belief in the source itself. I'm going to call that trust faith.
- Some of our faith, our belief faith needs to be evidence-based. That's how we obey God, it seems to me, is to figure out what is the evidence for what he's asked us to believe.
- We've jumped to the bottom, the below the line stuff without actually establishing the credibility, the trust.

3 Belief Faith and Trust Faith Come in a Sequence

Hebrews 11:1; Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 11:7

- You have to believe that God is. Is there evidence for that in the world? Yes.
- It's really both. And I think they come in a sequence.
- That's why the title of this module is sequence of faith. You don't jump to the end. You start at the beginning and establish confidence.
- I'm saying that's trust faith. And I believe that's what Hebrews 11 is all about is people doing crazy things.

4 Two Ways of Knowing: By Faith and by Sight

- If you really believe something is true, I think we use that word all the time interchangeably with I know.

- There are two ways of knowing. One is by faith and that's based on evidence, right? And there's one by sight which is based on senses, firsthand experience.
- They're both logical. They're both based on the weight of evidence.
- It's helpful for us to be clear about our terminology that faith and sight are really two ways of knowing.

5 The Opposites: Doubt and Forgetting

- And so I think the opposite over here would be doubt. We could also call it unbelief.
- The idea of managing doubt becomes kind of important in areas of faith that are faith and not sight but still based on evidences.
- The opposite of knowing is forgetting. I've established that, but I can forget it. And when I do, it affects the way I respond.
- As long as I'm here, I have one job, and that's to keep reminding you.

6 Bible Examples of Evidence-Based Reasoning for Belief in God

Acts 14; Psalm 8

- The Bible is not actually written to convince an unbeliever that God exists.
- The invisible things of God are clearly seen through the things that are made, even his eternal power and divinity. That's what Paul argues.
- Gentiles are without excuse. Even those people that didn't get the word, they don't have an excuse because it should be so plain to them that there's an eternal God.
- We should be just blown away by the order that exists in the natural laws.

MY NOTES