



# Welcome to First Baptist Church Las Colinas

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- ▶ Steven Woodworth on 1 Corinthians @ 10:00 a.m.
- ▶ Worship with Robert Rohlin bringing message from 2 Peter 1 @ 11:00 a.m.

Quick 5-minute break in progress



## Memory passage: Psalm 31:14-15

- ▶ *But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. **My times are in thy hand:** Deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me. (Psalm 31:14–15, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ *My times are in thy hand* = Six very important words. It means that our “terminus point” is in God’s hand. We may take a lot of detours, but God will bring us to our destination.,

# Prayer requests

- ▶ Ashley Dillion – Her fever over 100 broke last night about midnight. Having contractions now and they are low. Pray for safe delivery!
- ▶ Gabriel Denk – job pay ending 4/6
- ▶ Brad Brons (Chris' brother in Fort Worth) – Covid-19
- ▶ Harmony Rohlin – safety in hospital
- ▶ Tim Townsend (rough road to recovery) & family
- ▶ Health and safety of families – particularly those who must be areas where there is higher potential exposure
- ▶ Elaine Adams & her mothers
- ▶ Marci
- ▶ Nancy, and others in isolation without Internet connectivity (ideas?)
- ▶ Robert – weather-related pain

## Announcements

- ▶ Birthday greetings to Tim Townsend, 3501 Swiss Ave, Dallas TX 75204 for Tim Townsend (3/31/2020)
- ▶ <https://www.dallascounty.org/Assets/uploads/docs/judge-jenkins/covid-19/03232020-AmendedOrder.pdf> is the Dallas County Shelter in Place Order.
- ▶ We ARE going to have benevolence needs shortly, so thanks to those of you who are sending donations for that in addition to your regular giving.
- ▶ Sent out link to PDF promises from last week

## 2 Corinthians 7:13-14

*If I shut up heaven that there be **no rain**, or if I command the **locusts** to devour the land, or if I send **pestilence** among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:13–14, KJV 1900)*

- ▶ Recent drought & fire in Australia
- ▶ Recent locust plague in Africa
- ▶ Pestilence nearly everywhere



# Faith – the foundation of spiritual growth

2 PETER 1:5-9; HEBREWS 11:23-29



## 2 Peter 1:5-9 (KJV)

*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. (2 Peter 1:5–9, KJV 1900)*

## 2 Peter 1:5-9 (LEB)

*And for this same reason, and by applying all diligence, supply with your faith excellence of character, and with excellence of character, knowledge, and with knowledge, self-control, and with self-control, patient endurance, and with patient endurance, godliness, and with godliness, brotherly love, and with brotherly love, love. For if these things are yours and are increasing, this does not make you useless or unproductive in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the one for whom these things are not present is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the cleansing of his former sins. (2 Peter 1:5-9, LEB)*

## What is the “therefore” there for?

- ▶ There is pleasure in sin, but the consequences are horrible.
- ▶ Jerry Bridges said that victory over sin is a by-product of obedience.
- ▶ Romans 6:12 tells us that we are not to let sin RULE over us. *Let not sin **therefore** reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.* (Romans 6:12, KJV 1900)
- ▶ 2 Peter 1:3 – is the “therefore” of Romans 6:12. *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:* (2 Peter 1:3, KJV 1900)

## Spiritual growth requires intentional effort

- ▶ The words make every effort translate a participle (*pareisenenkantes*, “applying, bringing to bear alongside of”; used only here in the NT) and *spoudēn pasan* (“all diligence” or “all zeal”; *spoudē* in Rom. 12:11 is rendered “zeal”). So we are to be constantly **BRINGING TO BEAR ALL OUR ZEAL AND DILIGENCE to grow spiritual and to conquer sin.**
- ▶ Overcoming sin and growing stronger in Christ does not happen automatically.

# Order is important

- ▶ Peter lists 7 virtues in an order for a reason
- ▶ Faith is the prerequisite
- ▶ Virtue (godly influence of our lives upon other)
- ▶ Then add knowledge.
  - ▶ Why is knowledge after virtue? “Knowledge puffeth up” – 1 Corinthians 8:1
  - ▶ Without virtue, knowledge would make us arrogant rather than edifying us.

## Add = Make lavish provision

- ▶ **ADD** translates *epichorēgēsate*, from which come the English words “chorus,” “choreograph,” and “choreography.”
  - ▶ In ancient Greece the state established a chorus but the director, the chorēgys, paid the expenses for training the chorus.
  - ▶ The word came to be used of one who provides for or supports others or supplies something for them in abundance.
- ▶ A believer is to “furnish, supply, or support” his life with these virtues in an abundant way. **INVEST in spiritual growth.**



## Faith is the essential foundation

- ▶ Faith in Jesus Christ, a Living Risen Savior and Lord, is what separates Christians from every other group on earth.
- ▶ It is by faith that we receive Christ and become part of the family of God.
- ▶ Therefore it is the foundation for every other virtue in life. It does no good to try to gain knowledge if you do not have faith – or your knowledge will not be based on the *Logos* who is the reason for everything!



A life study in  
faith



MOSES, HIS PARENTS, AND  
HIS PEOPLE



## Hebrews 11:23-29

- ▶ ***By faith** Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*
- ▶ ***By faith** Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*

## Hebrews 11:23-29 (2)

- ▶ *By faith* he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.
- ▶ *Through faith* he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.
- ▶ *By faith* they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. (Hebrews 11:23–29, KJV 1900)

# 1. Faith defends life

- ▶ By faith, Aniram and Jochebed (both of the tribe of Levi – Exodus 2:1) hid Moses for 3 months after his birth in defiance of Pharaoh's order to kill all male children by feeding them to the crocodiles.
  - ▶ *And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born **ye shall cast into the river**, and every daughter ye shall save alive. (Exodus 1:22, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ *So the woman conceived and bore a son. **And when she saw that he was a beautiful child**, she hid him three months. (Exodus 2:2, NKJV)*

## Josephus on the birth of Moses

- ▶ According to the Jewish historian Josephus, Amram had a vision telling him that God would have a son who would deliver his people. *“These things revealed to him in vision, Amram on awaking disclosed to Jochabel(e), his wife; and their fears were only the more intensified by the prediction in the dream. For it was not merely for a child that they were anxious, but for that high felicity for which he was destined.”*
- ▶ Remember that Josephus’ account is not inspired revelation but some commentators believe something like this may have contributed to Amram’s and Jochebed’s decision to defy the government order.

## 2. Faith sees potential in life

- ▶ Why would Scripture comment here that Moses was a beautiful child. Isn't that what most of us think about our babies? My children were beautiful. My grandkids are fantastic.
- ▶ *It seems contrary to the nature of faith that he says that they were induced to do this by the beauty of his form. We know that Jesse was rebuked when he brought his sons to Samuel in the order of their physical excellence, and certainly God does not hold us to external appearances. I reply that the parents of Moses were not induced by his beauty to be touched with pity and save him as men are commonly affected, but there was some sort of mark of excellence to come, engraved on the boy which gave promise of something out of the ordinary for him. – John Calvin*

### 3. Faith seeks creative solutions from God

- ▶ When it became impossible to conceal Moses any longer, Aniram and Jochebed came up with a creative plan that floated him right into Pharaoh's palace!
  - ▶ Jochebed took a papyrus basket, coated it with pitch, put her beautiful baby in it, placed it in the reeds where Pharaoh's daughter bathed, and set big sister Miriam there to watch.
  - ▶ This obeyed Pharaoh's command to put male children into the river!
- ▶ Baby Moses, of course, melted the heart of Pharaoh's daughter. And as she cooed over him, up popped big sister with the brilliant suggestion of a surrogate nurse. Result: Jochebed got paid to nurse her own baby and to raise him during his early years!

## 4. Faith reproduces by teaching others

- ▶ Moses was preserved by his parents' heroic faith. Their faith, their prayers, their bravery, and their creativity saved him.
- ▶ He was also nurtured by their faith. There in the slave hut of his parents Moses was surrounded by the pure atmosphere of faith. There he became aware of his own origins. There he was taught to fear God. And there he was made conscious of his call to deliver his people.
- ▶ Stephen informs us in his great sermon (Acts 7:25) that when Moses made his first attempt to defend his people, "Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them."
- ▶ Moses' experience was exactly that of the preacher who gave his mother the tribute, "**My mother practices what I preach!**" Moses preached and practiced the faith he saw at home as a child.

## The world is impressed with men's titles

- ▶ Prince Charles' full style and title is: *His Royal Highness Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB, OM, AK, QSO, CC, PC, ADC, Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland.*





## 5. Faith chooses God's approval over men's titles

- ▶ BY FAITH, Moses refused to be called the “son of Pharaoh's daughter.”
  - ▶ Faith makes negative choices as well as positive choices. Your faith is marked by what you refuse as well as by what you do.
  - ▶ That title in Egypt's 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty would have meant immense prestige and wealth for Moses.
- ▶ Moses courageously refused that title – committing a grievous and dangerous insult to Pharaoh.
- ▶ *True faith will announce its discord whenever God and conscience call for it. Believers can love their culture, and there is much to love in most cultures, but they will refuse to be identified with the godless zeitgeist or spirit of the age. – Kent Hughes*

## 6. Faith chooses eternal truth over temporary pleasure

- ▶ “He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time” (v. 25).
  - ▶ Moses’ sin, had he remained part of the Egyptian system, would have been apostasy—for he would have had to abandon the truth. There is no doubt that the pleasures of sin in Egypt were substantial. But like all physical pleasures, they were only pleasurable for a moment.
  - ▶ Comedian Bob Hope jumped from a plane a number of years ago in his first parachute dive. He said later that the experience was so frightening that he saw all of his sins flash before his eyes, and he enjoyed that so much that he went back up and jumped again. **But sin costs more than we want to pay and keeps us longer than we want to stay.**

## 7. Faith chooses involvement in God's plan

- ▶ Moses believed Israel has a unique relationship with God and had a unique role to play in world history.
- ▶ Moses chose the most exciting path for his life that was possible. He was in the middle of God's will and saw his power firsthand!
- ▶ Today, the body of Christ is the only thing that will outlive this world.
- ▶ Kent Hughes -- *“The elements will melt with a fervent heat, and everything will become ashes—but the Church will go on and on. When the 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars of the universe are only burned-down, flickering candles, it will still be springtime for the Church!”*

## 8. Faith is certain of what we cannot see

- ▶ *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (Hebrews 11:1, KJV 1900)
- ▶ *...considering reproach **endured for the sake of Christ** greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for **he was looking to the reward.*** (Hebrews 11:26, LEB)
  - ▶ When Moses identified with Israel, he aligned himself with the people with whom Jesus Christ was to be identified.
  - ▶ *In all their distress, there was no distress, and the messenger of His presence saved them, in His love and compassion He Himself redeemed them, and He lifted them up, and He supported them all the days of old.* (Isaiah 63:9, LEB) – Christ identified with His people, so Moses is really identifying with Christ.

## Faith is certain of what we cannot see (2)

- ▶ *For **I reckon** that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ *And **we know** that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (Romans 8:28–30, KJV 1900)*

## Faith is certain of what we cannot see (3)

- ▶ *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16–18, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ Faith knows the unseen eternal reality is even more real than the seen temporal stuff around us.

## Faith is certain of what we cannot see (4)

- ▶ *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.* (Hebrews 11:27, KJV 1900)
  - ▶ This does not mean that Moses had a vision of God.
  - ▶ It means that with faith's eye he saw what the physical eye was incapable of seeing – that God is real.
  - ▶ However, because of this faith, God did later grant Moses a physical vision of just a portion of His glory (Exodus 33:18-23) and later spoke with Moses as though it were “face to face” (with the Shekinah glory – Exodus 33:9-11; Numbers 12:7,8).
- ▶ Seeing by faith the unseen is the **normal** Christian experience.

If you are quarantine stir crazy...

- ▶ *And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. (2 Kings 6:17, KJV 1900)*





# How do we get sure and certain faith?

- ▶ Kent Hughes (in *Hebrews: An Anchor for the Soul*. Vol. 2)
  - ▶ *I know what would produce such faith in each one of us. Sixty seconds in Heaven. Fifteen seconds to view the face of Christ (though it would be impossible to move our gaze after such a short time). Fifteen seconds to survey the angelic host. Fifteen seconds to glimpse Heaven's architecture. And fifteen seconds to behold the face of a loved one now glorified. That is all it would take. But God is not going to do that for any of us. I could pray until I was blue in the face, and I wouldn't get a second in Heaven until eternity.*
  - ▶ ***I know what else would do it, and that is simply what Moses did: believing God's word. And we can all do that now. If we are having trouble believing, we ought to read these passages carefully, then ask God for the capability to believe, and then believe!***

## 9. Faith is “all ear”

- ▶ A missionary was trying to translate the word obey into a native tongue that had no word that directly corresponded to it. One day as he was sitting outside his hut, he heard one of the natives whistle for his dog. The dog came running at full speed. The missionary commented to the man about how quickly the dog responded to the man's whistle. The man said, "**Yes, he is all ear.**" That became the phrase the missionary chose to translate the word obey.
- ▶ Faith hears the word of God and responds by obeying the word of God.

## Faith is “all ear” (2)

- ▶ *Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. (Hebrews 11:28, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ Nothing like the death of the firstborn had ever occurred previously in history. And certainly, it was remarkable that such a death could be avoided by painting the blood of a lamb on the door posts of a house. It might have seemed a bizarre command, but Moses' faith and his leadership of the nation of Israel obeyed God even to the small details of the command.

## 10. Faith requires a Word from God

- ▶ *By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. (Hebrews 11:29, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ It is impossible to have faith in God without a word from God. They Egyptians drowned because they didn't have a word from God.
  - ▶ Do you ever have days where you feel like you were drowning in life's problems? If so, you might want to ask yourself whether for that day you did not have a word from God.
  - ▶ We would all be wise to spend time in God's word at the start of every day so that life doesn't overwhelm us. The word of God gives us hope and confidence. A lack of God's word leads us to despair.

## Moses' life shouts to us

- ▶ **By faith**—the faith of Amram and Jochebed—Moses was preserved and nurtured.
- ▶ **By faith** Moses identified with his oppressed people as he turned his back on Egypt and took on the stigmata of Israel.
- ▶ **By faith** Moses separated from Egypt for forty years so God could prepare him to be a deliverer.
- ▶ **By faith** Moses obtained the salvation of his people by instituting the Passover.
- ▶ **By faith** Moses effected the deliverance of Israel through the Red Sea.

# Summary

1. Faith defends life
2. Faith sees the potential in life
3. Faith seeks creative solutions from God
4. Faith reproduces by teaching others
5. Faith chooses God's approval over men's titles
6. Faith chooses eternal truth over temporary pleasure
7. Faith chooses involvement in God's plan
8. Faith is certain of what we cannot see
9. Faith is "all ear"
10. Faith requires a Word from God

## Time to share

- ▶ What is something God did for you that either:
  - ▶ Was the result of your obeying God in faith when you couldn't SEE the solution with your physical eyes?
  - ▶ Was the result of seeing someone else trust God for you?
  - ▶ Was the result of God prompting you in your spirit and your response to that prompting?

## About offerings

- ▶ I am working to set up online giving which will enable you to schedule regular offerings automatically.
- ▶ However, right now, please send your offerings to this address:  
First Baptist Church Las Colinas  
96 Misty Mesa Trl.  
Mansfield, TX 76063-4854