



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** By Faith

**SPEAKER** Elder Goh Hock Chye

**THEME** Hebrews

**DATE** 28 and 29 October 2023

# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

In this sermon, Christians are called to embrace the superior principle, which is to live by faith and obedience motivated by Christ's death on the cross for us as the superior sacrifice. The sermon focuses on the handles by which we can walk out our faith in this Christian life.

## Three Types of Faith

What is faith? Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen. God revealed to Abraham that He would be the Father of nations, and Abraham believed God (even though he was childless) and it was counted to him as righteousness. It means putting your confidence and trust in God even though natural circumstances look bad.

### 1. Saving Faith (3 Ephesians 2:8-9)

Christians are saved through faith, and this is a gift of God, not of works, so that no one can boast about it. We are reminded of the moment when Jesus was hung on the cross, and one of the two thieves asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus comes into His kingdom. This thief believed Jesus was a real king with the ability to take him to the heavenly kingdom. Jesus responded with an answer of hope that today, the thief would be with Jesus in paradise. For us, it means that we believe that Jesus is the son of God and his death on the cross has taken away our sins.

### 2. Gift of Faith (1 Cor 12:7-9)

There are nine spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12, and one of it is the gift of Faith. Christians who possess this gift have the extraordinary ability to trust God in a big way with confidence especially during challenging times. In the face of catastrophic circumstances, these people have an extraordinary calm confidence in the Lord and are undeterred by the obstacles, choosing in fact to believe God and do more.

### 3. Living by Faith (Galatians 2:20)

Living by faith means exercising faith on a regular basis to walk in the trust of God and in the confidence of who God is. It involves a deep trust in a great God. The value of Christ is not found in the one believing (us) but in the one belief that Christ is the son of God. The value of our faith is not found in the person who is trusting, but in the one who is trusted; Christ alone.

God holds the universe in his palm and measures the heavens with his hands (Isaiah 40). We are also assured that though a mother may forget her child, but God will never forget us as he has engraved us on the palm of his hands. In view of this, our confidence is in God who is powerful and divinely compassionate. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right. Regardless of life's

challenges, we are all commanded and encouraged to live by faith.

Living by faith also involves seeing what is unseen. The emphasis on “sight” is very prevalent in chapter 11, and the comparison is often between physical sight and spiritual sight. The encouragement is for us to focus on the unseen things which are eternal, and not to dwell on the transient things which are physical and seen. We are exhorted to heighten our spiritual senses through development and training, so that we can better hear his voice and discern spiritual matters. Our physical senses will eventually become dull, but our spiritual senses will not be limited to our physical deterioration.

Lastly living by Faith is more than a feeling, it requires action. The examples of faith like Noah and Abraham were all remembered by their action of building or going respectively. Faith is acting as much as we can, and trusting God in the process. In this chapter, the author presents in chronological order the characters of faith who acted out their faith, and God honoured their actions of faith. These heroes of faith may be presented as a special breed of people set apart by faith, yet they were also sinners. This is a reminder to us that ordinary people like you and me have the potential to be examples of faith if we act by faith and trust God over our circumstances.

### Conclusion

Our God is a great and loving God who has made the divine provision in Jesus Christ to be the perfect sacrifice for the atonement of our sins. So, we are exalted to go beyond just saving faith, but to deepen our trust in God through living by faith. This means a deeper trust in God above our challenging circumstances, which have the potential to derail us. We are thus exhorted to be like biblical examples of faith who are mortal men and women. They were vulnerable to the everyday pressures and temptations, but chose to respond by faith believing in God’s word rather than the prevailing pressures of society and men.

# QUESTIONS

1. Share your salvation story of how you came to know and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour.

2. Do you know of someone who has the gift of Faith? How has this spiritual gift enabled them to respond differently in times of crisis? You may also share from your personal experience.

3. How is your faith being stretched in any of these spheres - work, family, ministry and personal? How are you developing your spiritual senses to see what is unseen and not what is seen?