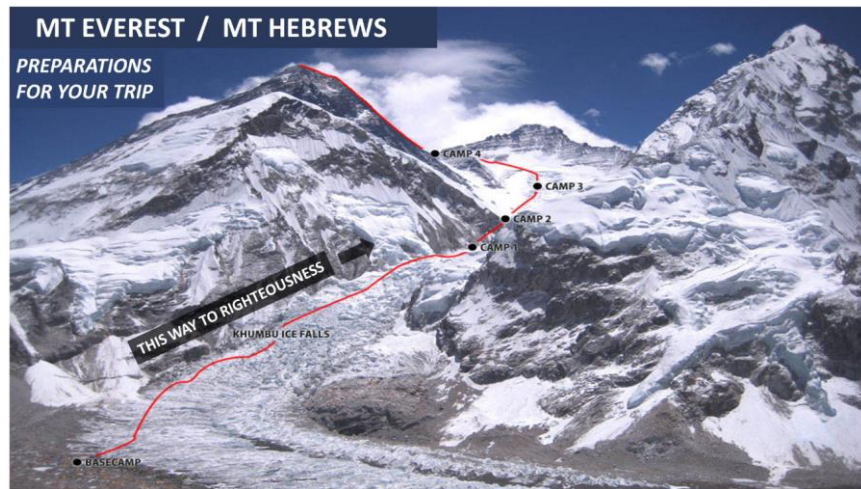


LESSON 4B – Saving Faith and Perfect Faith



Sometimes Running Forward is Staying Put

- When climbing to the top of Mt Everest you must stop at various altitudes to acclimate to the altitude or you won't make it to the top.
- Based on God's providence and Jeff's encouragement, we have an opportunity to hang out at base camp "faith" for another lesson...or two.
- We will go on after we have acclimated to seeing faith the way God intends.

- This we will do ...if God permits!



Remember our Training

- Faith is
 - Believing that God is.
 - Believing that God will do what he says he will do.
 - Believing that God is good and a rewarder of those who seek Him.
 - Trusting and Taking Joy in Jesus Christ alone
- Justifying faith
 - There is a minimum amount of faith required to be justified.
 - Requires
 - Repentance from Sin towards Obedience to Christ
 - Joyful trust in the work of Christ on the Cross...crucifixion, death, resurrection

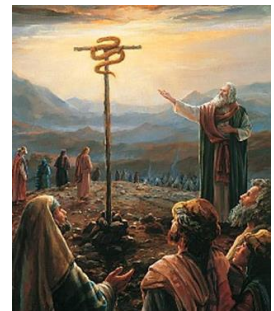
- Maturing faith (faith being perfected)
 - True faith never stays small because God prunes it...perfects it. John 15:1-11
 - Requires
 - Obedience
 - Expanding knowledge of Christ and doctrine through a renewing of the mind
 - Suffering
 - Walking with the Lord

Justifying Faith - Cure for the desert death!

What causes one to hear the word and be saved and another “die in the desert never seeing the promised land”? Faith. They didn’t unite the word with faith. Hebrews 3:15-4:7

What did Jesus say the remedy was for the desert curse?

- Jesus lifted up on cross like Moses lifted up the serpent John 3:14-15
- It was faith not magic. Bronze serpent became an idol and had to be destroyed 2 Kings 18:1-4



What must we do in response to this lesson?

- **Desert Metaphor**
 - **So long as we are walking in the desert towards the promised rest...**
 - **...Then we must look to the bronze serpent and combine it with faith in God.**
- **Current Metaphor for Today**
 - **So long as it is today...**
 - **...Then we must look to the work of Jesus on the cross and combine it with Biblical Faith!**

Maturing Faith – Author and Perfecter of Faith

- Look at Hebrews 12:1-3
- 1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, **the author and perfecter of faith**, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
- What does it mean that Jesus is the author and perfecter of faith?

Author and Perfecter of Faith

- Author
 - He created all things...even faith.

- The faith of the OT saints were written on the hearts of real people by Jesus Christ
- Perfecter
 - He did it perfectly. Heb 4:15; Dt 32:4
 - He calls us and trains us to do it more perfectly. Phil 3:12; Mt 5:48; Eph 4:13-15; Col 2:6-7
- If Jesus going to the cross is perfect faith what does imperfect faith look like?

Two More Meals at Base Camp Called “By Faith”

Gideon



Ephesians 6:10-17

Samson

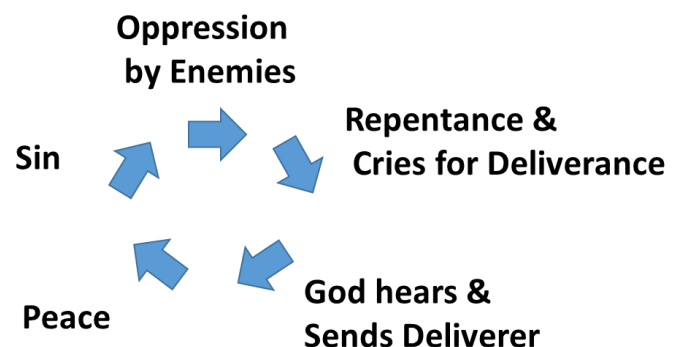


Lesson 4B

Lesson 4C

Judges ... or also “Deliverers”

- God commanded the Israelites to take over the land but they failed to be obedient per Judges 1:27-37.
- Not necessarily examples to follow exactly...but certainly to learn from.
 - ...”And everyone did what they thought best in their own eyes.”
 - ...”And Israel did great evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- Vicious cycle downward thru the book.
- Repeated cycle looks like the following:

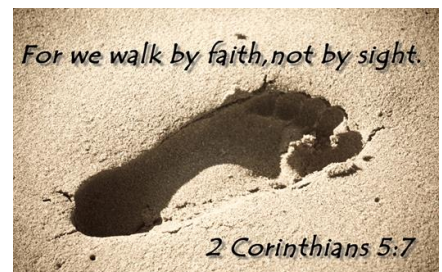


Judges 6-7 ...Big Picture

- Read Judges 6-7
- What do we see as far as the context and take aways in the first few verses?
 - God will use other nations and even sinful people to punish sins of the people
 - When we cry out, God will hear if we are his people.
 - His answer starts when we have a repentant attitude.
 - His answer starts with the word of the Lord and utilizes his people.
- Who is the Angel of the Lord?
 - Jesus Christ Pre-incarnate.
 - How do we know this?
 - Righteous Angels never accept worship. Only God does. Rev 22:8-9; Luke 4:7-8
 - Bible teaches no one has ever seen God the Father except the Son
 - See John 1:18; 1 John 4:12.

Gideon's Faith

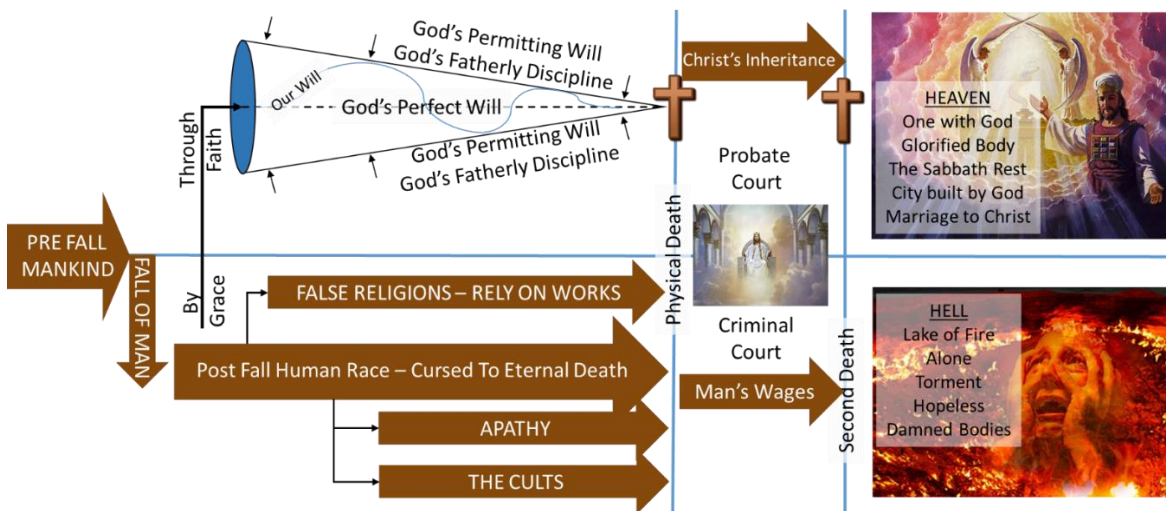
- What do we observe about Gideon's faith?
 - He was a coward to begin with.
 - His faith was so little he required visible proof
 - ...not exactly walking by faith vs sight!
 - Tested God 4 times.
 - Then finally we see worship...ahhh faith is starting to show up
- What does God do in his interaction with Gideon?
 - Reminds Him of God's command to take the land.
 - See Gideon for what he will be and not for what he is.
 - Encourages him to go with a servant...two by two.
 - Takes measure to ensure God gets the glory
- What happens to Gideon's faith after he begins to obey?
 - He is emboldened to trust more and pursues the enemy.
 - He deals with elders of a sinning city with incredible resolve...no longer afraid of his father or even elders of another city.
 - He begins to lead others to obey and to trust.
 - He gives God the glory and points people to their true King.
- Does he become perfect?
 - No. His faith grew as did his obedience but he still wasn't perfect.
 - He sows seeds of sin which hurt the next generation as well as his own.
 - Took many wives...made an ephod which was worshipped.



Application

- God has called us to expand his kingdom.
- Are we scared to obey and press forward in building up the unseen church?
- Has Jesus Christ revealed Himself to you in His word?
- Is putting out a fleece a Godly thing to do?
- Have we gotten over confident and inadvertently sown idols into our lives which will hurt the next generation?

HEBREWS VIEW OF SALVATION / SANCTIFICATION / DISCIPLESHIP



Lay Aside Sin / Fix Eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-3

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also **lay aside every encumbrance** and the sin which so easily entangles us, and **let us run** with **endurance** the race that is set before us, 2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for **the joy** set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will **not grow weary and lose heart**.

LAY ASIDE EVERY **ENCUMBRANCE** & SIN

- Lay aside your Hallmark movie channel addiction.
- Lay aside your excessive NFL addiction...Cubs are ok☺.
- Lay aside your cabin up north every weekend.
- Stop hunting for every animal in every season.

....neutral music, funny but not immoral comedy shows, antique collection...on and on....

...IF THEY ARE PREVENTING YOUR SPIRITUAL RUNNING!

NOTE: This doesn't mean abstain from everything!

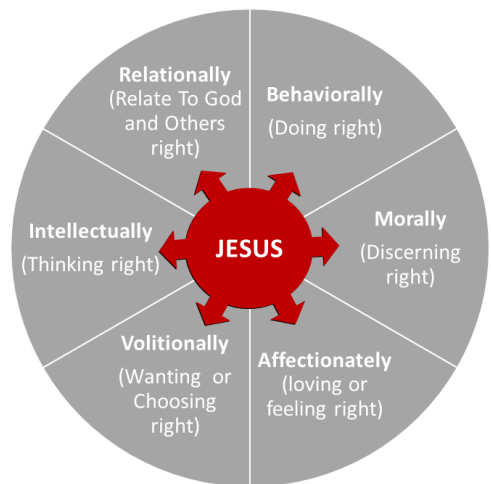
FIX YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

- Consider how you can help a struggling marriage or counsel at the pregnancy care center.
- Consider how you can get emotionally involved in a ministry at church.
- Consider how you can get away to be with the Lord.
- Consider how you can become a fisherperson of people.

YOUR RUNNING AFTER JESUS MUST BE **VIGOROUS, WITH ENDURANCE AND WITH JOY!**

Time To Go To The Spiritual Gym

- **Assignment = Consider ways you need to practice discerning good and evil.**
 - Write down 1 **Encumbrance** to lay aside and 1 corresponding way to fix your eyes on Jesus.
 - Add them to your 1 Sin and 1 fix your eye item from last week.
 - Find a trustworthy believing friend...small group, family, personal friend...or come see me!
 - Share your 4 items and invite them to hold you accountable...to pray...and to encourage you.
 - Close on this as a Christmas present to yourself.
 - NOTE: Choose wisely...don't let this become legalism or just a momentary fad.
- Remember we are corrupted as follows...
 - Intellectually (thinking right)
 - Volitionally (wanting and choosing right)
 - Affectionately (feeling or loving right)
 - Morally (discerning right)
 - Behaviorally (doing right)
 - Relationally (relate to God and others right)
- **Sins of omission (didn't do when you should have)**
- **Sins of commission (did do when you should not have)**
- **3 Types of Temptations**
 - Lust of the flesh ...Physical body...gluttony, sexual, etc.
 - Lust of eyes ...Mind...pornography, gossip, vanity, coveting, etc.
 - Pride of life...Desires...power, greatness, fame, etc.



Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.