

Unexpected Pressure - Unprepared Character

Live by Faith in the One Who Has Saved You

Scripture(s): Revelation 3:14-22; 2 Corinthians 4, 6; Luke 9:23-26; Romans 12; Galatians 2:20; Romans 1:16-17

I. The first reason that we sit at rest rather than step out in faith is we have misdefined the _____ of faith. When we turn faith into mental agreement, we reinforce the _____ that constantly pulls at our souls.

2 Corinthians 4:7-18 ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; ⁸ we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death works in us, but life in you. ¹³ But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you...

II. The second reason that we sit at rest rather than step out in faith is we misdiagnose our present _____. When we believe that our current understanding of faith is the _____ rather than the beginning, we will no longer _____ for God.

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 ¹ And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— ² for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"— ³ giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, ⁴ but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, ⁵ in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, ⁶ in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, ⁷ in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, ⁸ by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; ⁹ as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, ¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

III. The third reason that we sit at rest rather than step out in faith is we struggle to embrace _____. It is past time for God's people to stop living for themselves and truly live a life that is _____.

Luke 9:23-26 ...²⁵ For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

One final verse...Romans 1:16-17

Remember this - Living by faith creates the courage to _____ and the certainty of _____ we are acting.

Our challenge: To face the unexpected call of God _____, we must step out in faith today.

1. Where does your faith lead you to act rather than merely _____?
2. Let Jesus help you to dream _____ dreams and live a life that is real. Don't settle for the lies and false _____ of this world.
3. What needs to die in you so that Christ may put His _____ there instead?

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"Be Strong in the Lord" 476

"God with Us"

"Create In Me A Clean Heart"

* Pastoral Prayer & Time in the Word *

"More Love to Thee, O Christ" 473