

National Staff Orientation Devotional November 2018

Exceptional Faith for Unprecedented Times

Introduction:

- a) A description of unprecedented times
- b) Types of faith in scripture-
 - a. Weak faith
 - b. Wavering faith
 - c. Weird faith

Along with love and hope – faith is absolutely essential

- c) What does exceptional faith look like?
 - a. Measure of faith
 - b. Mustard seed faith
 - c. Magnified (great) faith

Faith must be developed if we are to move from moving molehills to moving mountains

- 1) Faith with a focus on God's ETERNAL PLAN
 - a) Abraham
 - i) Looked illogical (Sacrificed Isaac)
 - ii) Dependent on divine provision to follow through (lamb)
 - iii) The basis of His faith directly related to the power of the Sovereign God Creator of the Universe (the Stars in heaven and the sand below)

Illustrations:

- b) Contractor in California
 - c) An architect
 - d) A nanotechnologist ... stint
- 2) Faith with a focus on EXALTATION OF THE TRUE GOD

- a) Elijah
 - i) An ordinary person (like previous)/Jezebel
 - ii) Totally dependent on God for his personal needs
 - iii) He had Faith to risk highlighting the True God

Illustration: International Student from Malaysia

- iv) We have 3 students who have received asylum
- 3) Faith with a focus on EVANGELISM
- a) The Disciples after the Resurrection
 - i) Challenges they faced – fear, uncertainty and sense of abandonment, etc (Illustration: ISM Leaders)
 - ii) Jesus reveals Himself
 - (1) Prophetically (walk to Emmaus)
 - (2) Practically (cast nets on to the other side)
 - (3) Personally (Thomas)

Illustration: Sheba in India – University of Mumbai

And what are the promises for those who are involved in Evangelism directly from the Lord Jesus Christ

- (1) Power – All power is given to me (faith)
Matthew 28:18 (NLT) “Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.”
- (2) Presence – I am with you always (follow)
Matthew 28:20 (NLT) “Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- (3) Process - Disciple (future)
Matthew 28:19 (NLT) “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Provision seems to be missing from this list? Why?

Such promises as these are our source for inspiration /innovation and implementation

Conclusion

- 1) Matthew 5:3 (NLT)

God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

2) 1 Peter 5:6 (NLT)

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor.

3) Matthew 7:7-11 (NLT)

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him.”

4) Psalm 103:1-5 (NLT)

Let all that I am praise the LORD;

with my whole heart, I will praise His holy name.

Let all that I am praise the LORD;

may I never forget the good things He does for me.

He forgives all my sins

and heals all my diseases.

He redeems me from death

and crowns me with love and tender mercies.

He fills my life with good things.

My youth is renewed like the eagle's!