

Gospel Culture: FAITH
Text: Matthew 6:25-34

Faith PERCEIVES REALITY: Hebrews 11:1

- 1) **Faith REALIZES LIFE IS MORE than just getting our needs met:** Matthew 6:25e
 - a) **Jesus brings a BETTER LIFE:** John 10:10b
 - b) **Jesus is the only WAY to a BETTER LIFE:** John 14:6
 - c) **GOSPEL CULTURE = Gospel SHAPED and TRANSFORMED attitudes, values, goals, and practices; the WAY we LIVE**
- 2) **Faith LOOKS to our HEAVENLY FATHER in CONFIDENCE for PROVISION:** Matthew 7:11
 - a) **He TREASURES you MORE than the rest of creation:** Matthew 6:26. See also: Matthew 10:29-31; 12:12
 - b) **He's a BETTER PROVIDER:** Matthew 6:28-30
 - c) **He KNOWS your needs BETTER than you do:** Matthew 6:32b
 - d) **He's PROVEN His LOVE FOR YOU:** Romans 8:32
- 3) **Faith REASONS:**
 - a) **Worry CHANGES NOTHING:** Matthew 6:27
 - b) **Each day has SUFFICIENT TROUBLE (and Graces):** Matt. 6:34; Lamentations 3:22-23

Faith PROHIBITS (says NO to / opposes) reality's OPPONENTS:

- 1) **Faith PROHIBITS FEAR, ANXIETY, and WORRY:** Matthew 6:25abcd, 31, 34a. See also: Matthew 10:19; Philippians 4:5-6
- 2) **Fear and worry GROW wherever we refuse to BELIEVE in God's goodness and sovereignty:** Matthew 6:30d
- 3) **Fear often (if not always) LEADS to other SINS of UNBELIEF:**
 - a) **Like FRUSTRATION:** Philippians 2:14-15
 - b) **Like FOOLISHNESS (living outside of God's wisdom):** Psalm 14:1
See also: Luke 12:19-21
 - c) **Like FUTILITY (believing that there is NO POINT to our daily living):** 1 Corinthians 15:32b
 - d) **ANY action that doesn't PROCEED from faith:** Romans 14:23
- 4) **People of FAITH believe GOD is REAL, AT WORK, and IN CONTROL of ALL THINGS for the GOOD of His people:** Psalm 37:3-5

*"The answer is: **faith** in God's **sovereign, future grace** – the sovereign grace of God **to turn the unplanned place and the unplanned pace into the happiest ending imaginable.**" – Dr. John Piper*

Faith PURSUES God's REALITY: Matthew 6:33a

- 1) **Faith REFUSES to allow us to LIVE LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE:** Matthew 6:32b
- 2) **Faith PURSUES God, Holiness and His Kingdom as its TOP PRIORITY:** Matthew 6:33a. See also: Mark 11:22, Acts 20:21
- 3) **Faith KNOWS that WE WILL live UNFRUITFUL LIVES if we pursue our own priorities and needs INSTEAD of or BEFORE God's:** Mark 4:19
- 4) **Faith BELIEVES God will take care of our NEEDS and DESIRES as we pursue God's priorities FIRST:** Matthew 6:33
 - a) **He REWARDS the faith-FILLED:** Hebrews 11:6
 - b) **He is NEAR and wants to HEAR your requests:** Philip. 4:5b-6
See also: Matthew 7:7, John 16:24; James 4:2-3
- 5) **Faith ACTS as if God is PRESENT in and AT WORK in the STORMS OF LIFE:** Matthew 14:24-28

**Use these "Gospel In Life" questions this week
to help you and your friends REFLECT on and APPLY this message!**

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with this week?
- 6) **PREPARE for NEXT WEEK:** Read Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 6:37-42