

I HAVE FAITH FOR THIS!

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The Kingdom Of Faith

(Part 1 of a 8 part series)

Do you have a story or testimony to share? Email us at stories@hillsong.co.za

INTRODUCTION

In a world brimming with uncertainty and challenges, faith becomes our anchor and guide. Throughout this series, we will explore the profound impact of understanding what faith is, why it is important and how we can operate in it. Drawing inspiration from scripture and the powerful biblical stories, personal testimonies, and practical teachings, together, we will delve into what it means to possess unwavering faith, how to cultivate it in the face of adversity, and the extraordinary outcomes that faith can bring.

Join us as we embark on this spiritual journey, deepening our trust in God's promises and discovering the boundless possibilities that arise when we declare, "**I have faith for this.**"

We believe this series will:

- Equip our church to live lives of great faith.
 - Teach our church how faith is the currency of the Kingdom of God.
 - Empower people to activate faith in their lives.
 - Challenge people to live expectant for the blessing, favour and power of Jesus in every area of their lives.
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KEY VERSE

Ephesians 2:19

A Temple for the Lord

"That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone."

DISCOVERY

These verses remind us of our identity and belonging in God's family. As we dive into this study, we will explore what it means to be a part of this kingdom, how faith shapes our lives, and how we can live out this belonging in our daily walk with Christ.

"Wandering exiles" is the former spiritual state of believers before they came to faith in Christ—one of alienation and lack of belonging. Through Christ, they are brought into God's kingdom, given a new identity, and made part of a spiritual community with a shared purpose.

"Kingdom of Faith" is a spiritual reality where God reigns supreme, and believers, living by faith, are transformed to reflect His will and purposes. It is characterized by a deep sense of belonging, trust in God's promises, and active participation in His mission on earth.

DISCUSSION

Starting Question:

Q: Do you remember what it felt like to not have a relationship with Jesus? Discuss with each other.

Exploring Questions:

1a. Ephesians 2:19 (MSG): "You're no longer wandering exiles..."

The term "wandering exiles" refers to people who are spiritually displaced, lacking a sense of belonging or identity within God's family. In this context, Paul is speaking to both Gentile and Jewish Christians, highlighting the unity they now share in Christ.

Before becoming believers, Gentiles were considered outsiders to the covenant community of Israel, often feeling like foreigners or strangers to **God's promises**. They were "wandering" in a spiritual sense, seeking purpose and belonging. Similarly, Jews who had not yet accepted Jesus as the Messiah were also spiritually lost, despite their heritage.

Paul emphasizes that through Jesus Christ, these "wandering exiles" are no longer without a home. They are now fully integrated into God's kingdom, becoming part of His household and sharing in the rights and privileges of being His children. This transformation from being outsiders to being family members underscores the inclusivity of the gospel and the breaking down of barriers between different groups.

Q: What are some of God's promises that are ours now that we are no longer wandering exiles?

1b. Ephesians 2:19 (MSG): "...This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building."

This verse beautifully highlights our transition from being outsiders to becoming integral members of God's household. It invites us to reflect on our identity and place within God's grand design. As we consider the imagery of a kingdom and a home, we can begin to grasp the significance of being included in God's family.

Q: When you hear the phrase "kingdom of faith," what thoughts or images come to mind?

2. 1 Peter 2:9 (MSG): "But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted."

Understanding that we are chosen and set apart by God transforms our self-perception. We move from a place of feeling insignificant or rejected to recognizing that we are valued and purposeful in God's plan. This new identity should influence how we live and interact with others, reflecting our belonging in God's kingdom.

Q: How does knowing that you are part of God's kingdom of faith impact your sense of identity and belonging?

3. James 2:17 (MSG): "Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?"

Faith is not just a belief but is demonstrated through actions. James emphasizes that true faith is evident in how we live and serve others. As members of God's kingdom, our faith should motivate us to engage in acts of love, kindness, and justice, making a tangible difference in the world around us.

Q: What are some practical ways we can live out our faith as members of this kingdom in our daily lives?

Action Question:

1. Matthew 5:16 (MSG): "Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

Jesus calls us to let our light shine before others. This means living generously and openly, so that our actions point others to God. Consider a specific way you can show hospitality, generosity, or kindness this week, and make a plan to follow through. By doing so, you will be a living testament to the kingdom of faith.

Q: What is one specific step you can take this week to embody the values of God's kingdom of faith in your community?

DEVOTION

As we have taken time to understand the kingdom of God, perhaps take a moment in your small group to ask if anyone would like to recommit their lives to the Lord and become a part of this kingdom.

Pray for each other's families and friends, who don't yet know the Lord to know Him.