

I HAVE FAITH FOR THIS!

I HAVE FAITH FOR THIS

Faith, Not Fear

(Part 4 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.
-

KEY VERSE

Hebrews 10:39:

39 "But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."

DISCOVERY

Hebrews 10:39 is part of a broader discussion in the book of Hebrews about the perseverance of faith. The author of Hebrews encourages believers to remain steadfast despite challenges and persecution.

This verse contrasts two paths: one of faith leading to salvation and one of fear and retreat leading to destruction. The context emphasizes the importance of enduring faith in Christ and not being swayed by fear or doubt.

"But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed"

- "Shrink back" refers to retreating in fear or abandoning one's faith. This phrase paints a picture of someone who gives up their commitment to Christ, especially in the face of persecution or hardship.
- "Are destroyed" indicates the consequence of shrinking back. Destruction here likely refers to spiritual ruin or eternal separation from God, rather than physical death alone.

"But to those who have faith and are saved"

- "Have faith" contrasts with shrinking back. It involves trust, perseverance, and steadfastness in God, regardless of circumstances.
- "Are saved" points to the ultimate reward of maintaining faith: salvation. This is not just future salvation but also a present reality, indicating a life lived in the light of God's saving grace.

In this study, we will explore what it means to have faith that leads to salvation versus the fear that leads to retreat. We will look into how faith can be a source of strength and courage, and how to overcome fear and doubt in our spiritual journey.

DISCUSSION

Starting Question:

Can you recall a time when you faced a significant challenge or fear in your life? How did it impact your faith? In what areas of your life are you currently experiencing fear or doubt? How is it affecting your faith and actions?

Exploring Questions:

Hebrews 10:39 (NIV), "But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."

This passage contrasts two groups: those who retreat in fear and those who continue in faith. The contrasting outcomes are profound. Those who retreat in fear face destruction, which implies spiritual ruin or loss. In contrast, those who persist in faith experience salvation, suggesting deliverance and eternal life. This highlights the critical role of faith in the life of believers. Faith leads to perseverance, while fear causes retreat and ultimately leads to spiritual failure.

James 2:19 (NIV): "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder."

James points out that faith must be more than belief; it must be transformative and evidenced by actions. Fear here is the demons' response, not a saving faith.

1 John 4:18 (NIV): "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

John shows that perfect love, which is rooted in God's nature, drives out fear. This love provides believers with assurance and security, contrasting with the fear of judgment.

What are the contrasting outcomes of faith and fear presented in these passages, and what are their implications for individuals and the community?

Actions Questions:

Hebrews 10:39 challenges us to view faith as an active, enduring trust in God that persists despite difficulties and fears. It calls us to a faith that not only believes but also acts, remaining steadfast in the face of trials.

How can we actively choose faith over fear in your life? Are there specific practices or mindsets that help strengthen your faith?

How does Hebrews 10:39 challenge your current understanding of faith? In what ways can you embody the faith described in this verse in your personal and communal life?

DEVOTION

Consider how this verse speaks to your own experiences with fear and faith. Write down any fears or doubts you are currently struggling with. Bring these to God in prayer, asking for His strength to overcome them with faith.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for courage and strength to face challenges with faith rather than fear.
- Ask God to help you recognize and overcome moments of doubt and to reinforce your trust in Him.
- Pray for the ability to support and encourage others in their faith journeys, providing them with the strength to choose faith over fear.

Identify one specific area where you can practice faith over fear this week. Set a goal and create a plan to address it with a faith-driven approach.