

Message Notes – April 5, 2020

Faith over Fear – The Outlook of Faith (Pastor Jordan Jacobs)

I. Introduction

A. We Believe and Therefore Speak.

1. **2 Corinthians 4:8-18 (NKJV)** *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.
 - a. Because we believe, we will speak the answer rather than dwell on the problem.
 - b. This situation is a "light affliction, which is but for a moment."
 - c. How we see things will determine how we respond to them.
2. **Genesis 50:20 (NLT)** You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.
 - a. The world is being shaken right now and it is time for people of faith to stand strong.
 - b. We should not see this virus as the world does...we should see it through the eyes of faith. That does mean we are to be foolish, but it also does not mean we are to be fearful.
 - b. There are times when the devil tries to put us in situations that he intends to bring us harm. God will take those situations and work them out for our benefit and the benefit of others.

B. What Will You Do?

1. **Hebrews 11:3 (AMP)** By faith [that is, with an inherent trust and enduring confidence in the power, wisdom and goodness of God] we understand that the worlds (universe, ages) were framed and created [formed, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose] by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

- a. Let's say you framed a picture and hung it on the wall in your home. Then, weeks later, you noticed the frame was crooked as was the picture...whose fault is that? Yours! How you "framed" it determined how you saw it.
 - b. It is often said that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it. If our response is not in faith, we cannot expect faith results.
 - c. You might not be able to control everything that happens in your life, but you *can always* control how you respond to it.
 - d. Many times we think our circumstances need to change, but it is actually us who need to change. We control how we see things and how we approach challenges.
2. It is All in How you See Things
- a. 50 people decided to climb a mountain and gather at the peak. When asked what they saw during their climb there were 50 different responses. Was somebody lying? No. They each saw the same thing differently.
 - b. There are seasons in our lives when God may highlight things differently to us. Maybe you have read a Bible verse since you were 25 years old, but now God is showing you something different in that verse at the age of 60. The season of your life can affect how you see things, but you should always see things with the eye of faith.
 - c. I have watched two people go through the same circumstances. One lived in fear and was a victim all their life. The other approached the hardship through faith and walked in victory. How they lived was determined by *how they responded* ...not the circumstance they faced.

II. How Faith Sees Things

A. Paul's Approach to Trials

1. **2 Corinthians 4:8-10 (NKJV)** *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
 - a. Let's take a look at what Paul was experiencing and how we saw it.
 - i. Hard-pressed on every side – Not crushed
 - ii. Perplexed (very puzzled) – Not in despair
 - iii. Persecuted – Not Forsaken
 - iv. Struck down – Not Destroyed
 - b. Notice the purpose for which Paul saw things as he did..."that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."
 - c. Has anyone seen the life of Jesus in me during this pandemic?
2. **2 Corinthians 4:11-18 (NKJV)** For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

- a. Paul called his trials a “light affliction, which is but for a moment.” People get in fear when they feel things will last forever. Things in this world don’t last forever.
- b. During this quarantine, people are complaining that they have to stay at home with their children and watch Netflix all day. When our grandparents were 18 years old they were fighting Nazi Germany in World War 2. Get some perspective!
- c. **2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)** For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!
 - i. While we are to view this virus as “small” in the eyes of faith, it does not mean we see the plight of others at this time as small.
 - ii. While it is light and easy to us, don’t treat what others are experiencing as light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

B. Opportunities for Growth

1. “Count it All Joy”

- a. **James 1:2-4 (NLT)** Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.
 - i. Most people want to get out of a difficult situation as soon as possible, but James said troubling times can help us to develop our faith.
 - ii. To do so you must be willing to choose growth over comfort.
 - iii. Difficult times can be uncomfortable, but we should never just *get through* trying times. We should *grow through* trying times.
- b. **James 1:2-4 (MSG)** Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.
 - i. Faith is like a muscle. The more you use it the more developed it will become.
 - ii. If you want greater muscle development, you have to put more weight on the bar and lift it.
 - iii. See this time as an *opportunity* for spiritual growth, not an *obstacle* you have to overcome.

2. A Quote from Dr. Lester Sumrall

“If you do not quit, you will win. Whatever you start, complete it. If the place is hard, finish it. If people are against you, hold fast. God will deliver you from all your oppressors and all your enemies. No condition in the world will last forever, good or bad. It will always turn out for the good of those who will be faithful to the Most High God.”