

Everyday Faith

Frequently Asked Questions



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1. *What is Everyday Faith?*

[O]f first importance [is the gospel:] that Christ died for our sins...that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

- The start point for thinking about Everyday Faith are three vitally important concepts in Scripture: the Great Commandments, the Great Commission, and the Gospel.
- The Great Commandments instruct us to love God and others. The Great Commission is the command to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, which, according to Scripture is of "first importance".
- Everyday Faith is about living out our faith authentically, including these three crucial dynamics of our faith, every day of our lives, whether at home, work or in the community.

2. *How is this different from what we normally do in church?*

You are...a royal priesthood...that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

- It is said that many churches are often far too preoccupied with "bodies, budgets and buildings" in which people are told by ministry leaders what to do from Sunday to Sunday. This is a top-down approach to church.
- By contrast, Everyday Faith asks people what God has called them to in their everyday mission field – the people they already rub shoulders with every day from Monday to Saturday. This is a bottom up approach, and it's very different.
- Everyday Faith is not about being entertained each Sunday on the church campus, it's about equipping God's people to live out the reality of being a priesthood of all believers every day out there in the real world.

3. *Is this Everyday Faith idea Biblical?*

"Go...and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Acts 28:19-20)

- The church that was birthed by the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts was an expansive people movement that ultimately turned the Roman Empire upside down and went on to change the world.
- The people of God took the gospel with them wherever they lived and worked and went about their daily business. They were actively following Christ every day, even through times of great persecution – they didn't sit around being comfortably entertained on Sundays!
- Everyday Faith is about intentionally following the lead the Holy Spirit gives us in the book of Acts.

4. *What is the Everyday Faith Seminar Series?*

By grace you have been saved through faith...the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesian 2:8-9). Faith without works, is dead. (James 2:17)

- *Everyday Faith* is a series of seminars designed to equip people live out their faith in authentic, practical ways outside the church building.
- It helps people connect their Sunday faith with Monday work.
- Each seminar is led by a Christian leader who shares fresh ideas and speaks from solid, practical experience of living out their faith, outside the church building, in everyday life.

5. *Why is Everyday Faith important?*

Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. (John 4:35)

- God expects us to be a light to the nations, reach others with the Good News, and not shrink back, like Jonah, from the mission.
- *Everyday Faith* helps us clearly see the mission field all around us – we rub shoulders daily with people from all walks of life in the marketplace and community – people who may never come into a church building. We as the church are called to incarnate the gospel and go to them.
- In addition, there are around a million first and second generation immigrants who have moved into the Twin Cities from around the world – most don't know Christ. They are also our mission field, right here on our doorstep. How do we serve and build bridges? *Everyday Faith* helps answer that question in practical ways for a diverse, changing culture.

6. *Who should take Everyday Faith? Who is this course designed for?*

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! (Romans 10:15)

- *Everyday Faith* is designed for all followers of Jesus who wish to incarnate the gospel and be more intentional about living out their faith in daily life, at work, home and community, with Christ's love, for the common good.
- It's designed to serve people at any stage in their life cycle, whether young or old. It assists parents in their responsibilities to disciple their children. It helps us think more deeply about how we *are* the church. It helps us rethink retirement.

- *Everyday Faith* helps us more authentically *obey* Christ's commands instead of just knowing about them. It takes spiritual knowledge from the head, and translates it to heart to hands and feet. Said a previous seminar participant: "*It helped me put my gospel shoes on!*"

7. Our church already has a full program – why take another course?

The gospel is of *first importance* (1 Corinthians 3-4).

- *Everyday Faith* helps people live out the gospel in everyday life. Many church-goers do not know how to proclaim, explain or defend the gospel, with empathy and love, to people who have never heard it. *Everyday Faith* provides the tools to know the gospel and live out the gospel at work, home and in the community.
- *Everyday Faith* addresses a major gap in the life of many churches. Research shows that less than 30% of church attendees live out their faith outside the church building, or outside their Bible study groups.
- People want to be equipped for obedience and for application. *Everyday Faith* helps close the gap by giving people very easy, appropriate and winsome ways to live out their faith.

8. How does Everyday Faith fit in with everything else our church is doing?

- The mission of the church is the Great Commission. *Everyday Faith* helps people carry out the Great Commission in very concrete, practical ways in daily life.
- *Everyday Faith* is very practical. It focuses on providing fresh ideas and practical ways to engage with and serve our neighbors and community for the common good.
- *Everyday Faith* equips people to be intentional every day about God's mission, in their vocation, through their God-given skills, and at every age and stage of life.

9. Is there a textbook that goes with this course?

- In *Everyday Faith* you will read the latest book written by Tom Nelson, pastor of Christ Community Evangelical Free Church, a Gospel Coalition leader, and president of the national Made-to-Flourish Pastors' Network.
- Tom Nelson's book, entitled *The Economics of Neighborly Love*, helps us think afresh about how we as a church apply our faith in the economic realities of everyday life.

- This book is deeply rooted in Scripture, helps us read key passages with fresh eyes, and provides important theological context for faith application.

10. *Is this about the prosperity gospel?*

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (James 2:16)

- *Everyday Faith* is absolutely not about the prosperity gospel. This course does not simply encourage people to get richer, and it's not about just giving dollars. It's about reaching out to people who desperately need Christ in ways that are meaningful and relevant.
- Nor is *Everyday Faith* about the social gospel. Galatians warns us against distorting gospel truth. *Everyday Faith* is about helping us apply Biblical faith authentically in the real world.
- *Everyday Faith* is about equipping our generation for the gospel & the Great Commission for our time & culture, for the common good.

11. *Who are some of the seminar leaders and their topics?*

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." (John 14:23)

- *Seminar leaders include people from all walks of life – leaders from education, business, research, law and the corporate world, amongst others.*
- *Topics include real-life matters covering the entire life-cycle, such as self-management, resilience, raising children, church-state separation, retirement, leadership, and our changing world.*
- *The common denominator that ties it all together: practical ways to follow Jesus authentically -- in all of life.*

12. *Why do you charge a fee for this course?*

The worker is worthy of his wages (1 Tim 5:18; Luke 10:7)

- The cost of the *Everyday Faith* seminar series amounts to \$15 per seminar (the cost of 4 coffees you might buy in a week). The entire seminar series costs the same as a night out on the town.
- This course helps us raise funds for the ministry. We offer honorariums to our seminar leaders, who give valuable time and expertise to serve our church.
- We do not want anyone to be precluded for financial reasons from attending this course, so we offer scholarships where there is need.

13. Let's get to the bottom line -- What's in it for me?

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21-23).

- *Everyday Faith* is not about you or me, it's about worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ in the way we live our lives.
- It's about following our Lord who said, *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* (Mt 4:19).
- It's about *our generation being obedient in our time and culture*, to our Lord's command to His church, as they are going, to:

"make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

And His gracious promise is *"behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28: 19-20).

14. What if I have other questions?

- Speak to Warwick Alcock, facilitator of the *Everyday Faith* seminar series, at Warwick@VillageSchoolsoftheBible.org or call 952.540.9460.