



April 10, 2018

Dear Christ First Family,

Would you join me in taking a walk? Seriously. Let's walk. I'll explain more at the end of this letter.

Sunday, April 29 begins a defining moment in our church. It's the beginning of a new sermon series and three year faith journey called, "**Daring Faith: Pursue One More**" and the disclaimer is, I'm going to stretch your faith. I am going to challenge your faith. I'm going to poke it, I'm going to prod it (many times during this journey!), and you're not going to feel real comfortable. Why? Because we don't grow in comfort. Growth is often uncomfortable. However, the result of growth is blessing, maturity, answered prayers, and so many other wonderful things. In full disclaimer, I'm going to say it again so it sinks in: *in this Daring Faith series, I am going to challenge your faith.*

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

Faith is multifaceted and sometimes it can seem vague to talk about. As we get set to stretch our faith as a community, I want to clarify what faith is and is not:

What faith is not:

1. **Desire.** Desire is self-focused.
2. **A feeling.** Often we go in faith despite our feelings.
3. **Bargaining with God.** "God if you do this then I'll do that."

What faith is:

Faith is simply a way of seeing.

Faith is seeing from God's point of view.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Faith is being certain of what we do not see. It's being certain in what God sees. It's God's vision that truly matters.

In Genesis 13 God took Abraham up on a hill and said, "*Look at all the dust in the land. The amount of dust that you can see will be the number of offspring – your ancestry that will inhabit this land will be counted in the millions and millions!*" Abraham understood that he wasn't going to have baby pieces of dust running around his home one day in the future but he saw what God saw already. He saw multitudes of people in the future who could trace their ancestry to Abraham. And God told him to do something significant by faith BEFORE it happened:

Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”
Genesis 13:17

No doubt Abraham considered the hundreds and hundreds of acres of dust around this special walk that represented the number of his offspring God invited him to see. Abraham had two choices on this walk. He could look with eyes of faith or fear. If you know Abraham's story, he had seasons of looking with both faith AND fear, but in the end he still moved forward and realized God's vision.

I invite you to also see with eyes of faith what I believe God has for us Christ First. By 2022 I believe God is going to bring 600 adults, 75 students and 125 children over the next four years. We will also celebrate 100 people taking their spiritual growth step of baptism. One of the puzzle pieces to seeing that happen is updating our tired and confusing campus. Today I invite you to see with eyes of faith an incredibly new and fresh campus our community will love to come back to over and over again. It's a campus with a design that will celebrate our rich heritage while looking forward to an exciting future.

Beginning April 22, a week before the series begins; I invite you to go for a walk like Abraham did. I invite you to take a faith walk around our campus to five different mile markers that will be set up. They will be in the following locations:

1. Classic Worship Center
2. Modern Worship Center (Grass)
3. Education Building
4. Parking Lot
5. Chapel

There you will pause, pray and give praise to God for what He has in store for us. Cover our campus in prayer. Imagine what God will do and by faith, thank Him in advance. Do it at least once. Even better... do it every week. Whether it's on a Sunday or literally anytime during the week, come on our campus and walk, pause, pray and praise Jesus.

If you happen upon someone at the same mile-marker at the same time, introduce yourself, and spend a minute praying together for what's on that mile marker and don't forget to pray for each other. God may even lead you to invite them to start a Daring Faith Community Group with you and another friend. May the Lord challenge, stretch and bless your faith!

In Christ for whom we pursue one more,



Pastor James
Lead Pastor