

Life Groups in Central Telford Parish

Summer Term 2015 "Words of Life – The Letters of John"

Week beginning 28th June 2015

1 John 5:1-12 – "Faith In Jesus"

- **The Aim of this Session**

We exercise faith every day of our lives without registering it ... we turn on a light switch and we have faith in the person who wired the house and the people who laid the cables and the people in the power station. But faith only means something if we act on it. And so our faith in Jesus is only evident by our actions ...

- **Welcome**

What is the biggest act of faith you have taken (apart from Jesus!)? eg Walk across a rope bridge..?

- **Worship**

Read 1 Peter 1:3-7... List all the things in these verses which speak of the things God has given us and that we have faith in. Praise God for these things!

- **Word**

Hebrews 11 is a chapter about "faith". In it, the writer lists Old Testament characters who have achieved things through faith. What did these people do by faith (answers in Hebrews 11 if you don't know ...!)

- ❖ Abraham (vv8-10)
- ❖ Isaac, Jacob and Joseph (vv20-22)
- ❖ Moses (vv23-28)
- ❖ How would history look different if they had not done something about their faith?

If someone were to ask you about "your faith" ...

- ❖ What do you have faith in?
- ❖ What does it mean to you?
- ❖ How does it affect your life?
- ❖ What difference does it make?

Spend some time sharing these things.

Read 1 John 5:1-5

- What is the difference between "belief" and "faith"? Belief in "something" is not always enough ... the Devil believes in God but doesn't have faith in Him!
- If we believe in something significant, it may have serious implications. What are the implications of the stated belief in verse 1?
- What does John say is the evidence of faith in Jesus (vv2-3a)?
- Faith often equates to "trust" ... what is it that Jesus did that we are trusting in (vv3b-5)?

- ❖ We **believe** that Jesus is born of God and therefore he is who he says he is.
- ❖ We have **faith** in him and show it by following his command – to love with *agape* love.
- ❖ We **trust** that in the Cross, Jesus won the victory over sin and death.

What is the basis of this belief/faith/trust? Read 1 John 5:6-10. These are quite complicated verses but the argument John makes is quite simple really (!) ... *"There are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement."*(vv7-8

- ❖ **The Water** – the things Jesus did as a human being. The Gospel stories of his ministry.
- ❖ **The Blood** – the Cross. Our understanding of our need for forgiveness and the Jesus bringing it about.
- ❖ **The Spirit** – the work of the Holy Spirit in us. As we grow in faith and trust, so we grow in the Spirit, who gives us a deeper sense of faith and trust in the Water and the Blood.

• **Walk**

Read 1 John 5:11-12. These are incredibly challenging verses because they ask the ultimate question about our lives and where our faith is. Over the previous chapters, John has been talking over and over again about the way that our love (*agape*) is evidence of our trust in Jesus. If we are putting out trust in Him completely, then that love is growing within us and our faith grows ... and so our love grows etc. But if we are half-hearted in our love for God and this is shown by a lack of commitment to God in our lives, in our prayer life, in our worship, in our giving ... in other words our response to his love for us ... then it is not surprising if we aren't growing in our faith!

Take some time to think and ponder these questions ...

"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."(v11)

- ❖ Am I open to receive God's love?
- ❖ Do I have faith that Jesus is the Son of God?
- ❖ Do I have faith that he died for my sin on the Cross?
- ❖ Do I have faith that he rose again?
- ❖ Do I recognize the implications of this faith in my life?

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."(v12)

- ❖ Do I know a life that is free (John 8:32)?
- ❖ Do I know a life that is abundant (John 10:10)?
- ❖ Do I know a life that is in relationship with Jesus?

These are massive questions and ones which we must answer if we are going to speak of having faith. It may be that some in the group have never thought of their faith in this way and need to talk it through and pray about it – demonstrate the love of Jesus for each other in praying about these things.

• **Next Time ...**

John: 1 John 5:13-21 – "That You May Believe"

John's letter is aimed at encouraging belief. Has it encouraged yours?

