



Christian Life Center, a Foursquare Church | DiscipleshipDevelopment.org

“So what leads to fearlessness? Faith.” (Ken Harrison, Promise Keepers)

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance (the absolute confidence) of things hoped for (a concrete expectation), and the evidence (proof) of things not seen.* Faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses. (QR code)

**Luke 11:5-13 “...and to him who knocks it will be opened.”**

Faith is not just a power to believe what you’d like God to do for you but an unrelenting perseverance IN circumstances that seem to contradict God’s Personality and His Word. Faith is a decision to believe no matter the outcome. (Hebrews 11:30-40)

### THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH

#### 1. Faith requires that we begin *before* we see results | 2 Kings 3:15-20

- *...And Elisha said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Make this valley full of ditches.’ For thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.’...”*
- That was a strange word to soldiers dying of thirst in the desert. It seemed that all the hot, seemingly useless work of digging in the desert would make the problem worse. But God gave more than this command and promised they would conquer their enemy!

#### 2. Perceived closed doors | Acts 16:6-10

- Paul’s desire to go into Asia was closed twice by God’s Spirit. God used the closed doors and a vision to guide him into Macedonia and the church in Philippi was born.

- The Philippian church is the first church to be planted in Europe. We see how God sovereignly guided Paul and those with him to Macedonia, and specifically Philippi where a number of people believed the gospel.

#### 3. Faith is our (ONLY) defense against the devil’s flaming arrows of fear, anxiety, depression, etc.

- Ephesians 6:16 *...above all, taking the shield of faith (pistis) with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*
- This type of faith is to be persuaded in belief and in action, choosing to believe God and His Word in the face of conflicting reality. (2 Chronicles 20:20-24)



### QUESTIONS

1. What are you facing/experiencing at the present that appears to be a “mountain” too big to overcome?
  - Read Mark 11:22-24
2. Do you feel you’ve failed in your faith? Think again...
  - 2 Timothy 2:13 *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

### This past week...

Chinese Foursquare leaders “Bella,” Elaine, and Robert, (along with Jim and Melinda Scott and Jack and Jane) praying for Tibetans and the Tibetan Bible to be presented to the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala in February. A powerful spiritual reconciliation!

