

LIVING FAITH VI
...Conquers Doubt
Hebrews 11:11-12

INTRODUCTION

- A. Empire Strikes Back – Luke in Training.
 - 1. Levitating rocks – starship sinks into swamp.
 - 2. Luke tries, but finds “impossible”.
 - 3. Yoda proceeds to raise the ship from the swamp.
 - a. Luke, “I don’t believe it.”
 - b. Yoda, “That is why you fail.”
- B. Living faith does not have any doubts.
 - 1. Abraham and Noah had no hesitation when commanded by God.
 - 2. Focus on our own inabilities fills with doubt.

I. PROMISE TO SARAH.

- A. Child-Bearing.
 - 1. During the Patriarchal Age, it was considered an honor to give birth to a child.
 - 2. Genesis 24:60, blessing for Rebekah to “...become thousands of ten-thousands.”
 - 3. Psalm 127:3 – children are a heritage of the Lord.
- B. Sarah’s Dismay. Genesis 16:1-4
 - 1. Even though promised children (through Abraham), none yet.
 - 2. Devised a plan to have a child through Hagar.
 - 3. God’s plan was for an heir through Abraham and Sarah.
- C. Prophecy of Isaac’s Birth. Genesis 17:15-19; 18:9-15
 - 1. Abraham had laughed with “*joyful amazement*”.
 - 2. Sarah laughed with “*unbelief*”.
 - a. Would a woman and man of their age be able to have children?
 - b. And once the seed of doubt was planted, then human weakness and self-trust led to skepticism.
 - 3. But then Sarah looked beyond herself to God.
 - a. Gen. 18:14, “*Is anything too difficult for the Lord?*”
 - b. Hebrews 11:11-12

II. THE PROBLEM OF DOUBT.

- A. It Is Human to Doubt.
 - 1. Pessimists doubt everything.
 - 2. Optimists have doubts, they just may not admit it.
 - 3. Christians have entertained doubts.
- B. Doubt Introduced by Satan.
 - 1. Satan is the author of doubt.
 - a. Genesis 3
 - b. Doubt as to the character of God: selfish, jealous, deceptive.
 - 2. Jesus says we can know the truth. John 8:31-32
 - a. God with Israel, Exodus 16:12.
 - b. Job – Job 19:25

- C. Two Reactions to Doubt.
 - 1. Slough off as unimportant, but keeps Christians from growing.
 - a. Ephesians 4:14-16
 - b. Doubt leads to questioning the authority of the Bible and of God.
 - c. Doubt begins to rule their life and eventually lead away from the Lord.
 - 2. To study – delve into God’s Word.
 - a. Realize that God is indeed alive. Psalm 42:5
 - b. Lay a solid foundation through Scripture and prayer, Psalm 1:2-3.
 - c. Leave no space for compromise of God’s Word. Deuteronomy 5:32

III. A LIVING FAITH.

- A. Christianity is Based on a Living Faith.
 - 1. 1 John 5:4-5
 - 2. Hebrews 13:5
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 7:1 (6:14-18) [*Wrong focus?*]
- B. We Are Not to Be Anxious.
 - 1. Jesus taught His apostles, Luke 12:22-30
 - 2. Worry drives away faith and conquers it.
 - 3. Living faith drives away worry and conquers it.
- C. Worry Illustration. (*Illustration by Walter Knight*)

A French soldier in World War I carried with him this little receipt for worry: ‘Of two things, one is certain. Either you are at the front, or you are behind the lines. If you are at the front, of two things one is certain. Either you are exposed to danger, or you are in a safe place. If you are exposed to danger, of two things one is certain. Either you are wounded, or you are not wounded. If you are wounded, of two things one is certain. Either you recover, or you die. If you recover, there is no need to worry. If you die, you can’t worry. SO WHY WORRY?’
- D. God Cares for Those Who Love Him.
 - 1. Psalm 37:5
 - 2. 1 Peter 5:7
 - 3. Philippians 4:6-7
 - 4. Philippians 4:13

CLOSING

- A. Doubting Thomas, John 20:24-29
- B. Conquering doubt builds a stronger resolve to serve God – LIVING FAITH.