

INTRODUCTION:

Dimensions of Faith – Extant or progression of faith.

REVIEW

- People gather because of God's Presence (V 1 & 2).

Moses said, (Exodus 33:12-16)

¹² Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.'

¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people."

¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest."

¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here.

¹⁶ For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who *are* upon the face of the earth."

(Psalm 16:11)

"You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

- The gathering of the people necessitates the teaching and preaching of the Word.
 - If all Word – the people dry up.
 - If all Spirit- the people blow up.
 - If it is Spirit and the Word – the people grow up.
- It is important to surround yourself with people who can help your faith.
 - Two types of people surround you:
 - People who need you.
 - People who feed off you and leave you when you are down.
 - People you need- people who can carry you for a miracle to happen.
 - Nobody gets to where they are by themselves.

- Jesus saw their faith (V 5)

(James 2:18)

“Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

- The work of faith was shown by the 4 friends of the paralytic (V 4).
- Faith moves God to work miracles, not that He had no compassion for the needy.
- There will always be people who will criticize the work of faith (V 6 & 7).
- Jesus judges your thoughts and heart (V 8 & 9) – man judges what they hear and see.
- Miracles prove Jesus’ divinity. He is a God who forgives sins” (V 10).
- The manifestation of God’s power by faith will always glorify God (V 11 & 12).

This account is to inspire us when we face similar conditions – when we are vulnerable and dependent on others.

DIMENSIONS OF FAITH (PROGRESSION OF FAITH)

- The Position of Faith – your faith and God’s grace brings redemption.
 - Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven you”.
 - Faithless people often murmur but a man of faith knows when to be silent.
 - Faith defends itself – it has evidence.
 - Opposition will only help you to get what you believe God for.
 - So Jesus said, “Arise, take up your bed and walk.”
 - Your faith and God’s grace positionally restores you as a child of God.
 - Do not be satisfied being saved or forgiven – go to the next dimension.
- The Condition of Faith – He was healed
 - Healing is a blessing.
 - You cannot come into a condition of blessing without first being positionally placed as a child of God.
 - After Jesus forgave the paralytic man, He said, “Arise”- many are saved and but live in defeat.
 - The man of palsy was forgiven but not yet healed. Jesus said, “As much as I can forgive you, I can also heal, deliver and bless you”.
 - As you have faith to believe for forgiveness, believe that He will bless you.
 - Arise, the clay is being lifted by the potter.
- The Grip of Faith – “take up your bed”
 - In faith, get a grip of what made you a victim.
 - The “bed” is a reminder that it was God who blessed you and keeps you humble.

- The Life of Faith - walk in your freedom.
 - Live by faith – keep your faith growing and going.
 - God will give to you where your feet walk.
 - Walk in purity – you will be pure.
 - Walk in integrity – you will be righteous.
 - Walk in faithfulness – you will be loyal and a good steward.
 - Walk in the Spirit – you will be holy and not walk after the flesh.
 - Walk in faith – you will pray and expect God’s Promises.
 - Walk in love – you will covers a multitude of sin.
 - Walk in the light – you will be a witness for Christ.