



DATE	March 3, 2019
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Faith Matters
SERIES	Your faith matters. In fact, it's so important to God that He's given you useful tools, situations and opportunities He wants to use to perfect your faith. You just have to jump. What are you willing to jump into or out of, so God can perfect your faith?

Pastor Smith told us that we need to JUMP at every opportunity to trust God. Mary, the mother of Jesus, provided a great example of this. Luke 1:26-38 describes the time when the angel Gabriel came to her and told her that she would give birth to a son and name him Jesus. Mary's faith was lacking as she asked the question, "How will this be since I am a virgin?" The angel replied that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and that nothing is impossible with God. Mary was then able to 'JUMP-start' her faith in God. She replied to the angel that she was God's servant and that it would be as the angel said.

1. Name some ways in which faith can be a noun (i.e. my faith in Jesus Christ), and list some ways in which it can also be a verb (i.e. believing and trusting).
2. Pastor David posed the question of, "Where do you need to JUMP at the opportunity to trust God?" Can you think of an opportunity that caused you to 'JUMP into Faith'? Perhaps seeing someone in great need of help? If not, are you willing to take that right step in your life right now, having no idea how it will turn out?
3. Many people have significant knowledge of the Bible and are very involved in the Church, but they often times lack the necessary trust in God that causes them to 'JUMP into Action' or in other words, "Get out of the bleachers and get into the game!" Have you found trust that resulted in you taking action? If so, explain it.
4. Do you have an amazing faith that Pastor David spoke of? If not, what do you think is holding you back from giving complete control to God? How can you overcome this?
5. Pastor David begins his sermon by explaining that faith matters (Hebrews 11:6). What are a few important ways that faith matters to you personally and why? Why does God want to perfect our faith (Hebrews 11:6)?
6. What does Pastor Smith mean by "trust is bigger than the outcome" (Romans 8:28)? Deuteronomy 31:6 reads, "...for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Can you think of a situation that generated a strong need in you for faith and trust in Jesus? Even if the outcome was extremely negative, did you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit beside you as you dealt with it?
7. What steps are you taking to trust God not just for yourself but for the "you next to you" (others who need Jesus)?
8. God never causes bad things to happen. God allows things that blow up or grow up our faith and we may not even realize when it is happening. Take a moment to think back over your life and list some examples that you now realize were part of God's plan and how they blew up or grew up your faith.
9. We tend to want to take control when everything is going wrong and possibly blame God for what we're going through. How can you be more disciplined to trust God in these times, to know that He has a plan for you and will never forsake you?
10. It is important that we seek God and trust Him in all seasons of our life. What checks and balances can you put in place to ensure that you will seek, trust, and have faith in Him at all times?
11. List a few areas in your life where you might need to JUMP at the opportunity to trust Jesus. Consider praying over your list and asking the Lord to show you how to make faith active and alive in your life (Hebrews 4:12).

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave us some good advice: "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."