



DATE	March 17, 2019
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Into God-Given Relationships
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?

God created us to be in relationships. In Genesis 2:18, He says, "It is not good for the man to be alone." In fact, today's sermon teaches us that our relationships are so important, they can have a positive or negative impact on our faith.

1. When considering the importance of faith in your life, compare and contrast the two extremes: "without faith it's IMPOSSIBLE to please God" (Hebrews 11:6); "...but with God, all things are POSSIBLE..." (Matthew 19:26).
2. Understanding God's viewpoint will help grow our faith and trust in Him. In Proverbs 11:14 and Proverbs 12:15, what does Solomon say we need to gain wisdom and see things more like God? What does Proverbs 13:20 say about the percentage of time spent with the wrong influences?
3. When looking at the percentage of positive vs. negative relationships in our lives, what are some signs that the percentage could be out of balance? Is it possible for the percentage of positive relationships to be too high? In other words, is it ok to only surround yourself with positive relationships (i.e. only having relationships with other Christians or those who support your views)?
4. How can we use Jesus as an example for our relationships? Who were his confidantes (Luke 6:12-19)? Who did he associate with (Luke 15:1-2; Luke 19:1-9; Luke 5:31-32)?
5. Today's message emphasizes that fear dissolves faith. Think of the things you are afraid of. What does trusting God do to suppress fear? Read and contemplate what the following verses tell us about fear: Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 56:3; 2 Timothy 1:7; John 4:18; Psalm 23:4.
6. In Numbers 13 and 14, 10 of the 12 spies commissioned to explore Canaan let fear filter their assessment, thus influencing the Israelites to wander 38 years before finally taking the land God promised them. When have you also been negatively influenced or witnessed another drifting from God, despite Christian influences in their life? What factors influenced your/their decisions?
7. When our faith is positively influenced by people, Pastor David says we can humbly expect God to do great things. Give examples of what this humble expectation might look like.
8. David said that God uses people so our faith shrinks troubles; is ready for a miracle; moves God to act on our behalf; opens the promises of God; turns God-given dreams into reality; and gives us the power to hold on during tough times. How have relationships in your life helped in any of the afore-mentioned categories?

Faith is seeing like God sees. This week, consider praying that God will use your relationships to give you a Godly lens on life.