



**Introduction:** As Christians, faith is an integral part of our walk with God; it's through trusting Him that we stay focused on His plan for our lives. Faith is the very foundation of our relationship with Him (Hebrew 11:6). Yet, we all struggle with doubting Him and His faithfulness in our lives.

Pastor David's sermon examined the misconceptions we have of what faith actually is and how we let it drive our decisions in life. Today we'll continue Pastor David's teaching by discussing what our faith should be and how we should be applying it to our daily lives.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Have you ever played the lottery? Perhaps a scratch-off ticket? Explain why you did, or why people you know do this. Were you hoping *in* someone or hoping *for* something? What other times in your life have you felt that you've been hoping for something rather than hoping in Jesus? Did you realize your attitude was flawed and how did you change your actions?
2. Pastor David's sermon dealt with the importance of faith in the life of Christ followers, but not every person you know understands what "faith" actually is. How would you define faith in your own words if a non-believer asked you what "faith" is? How would you explain faith's role in following Christ? Is "living by faith" the same as "following your gut"?
3. Hebrews 11 is often called the Hall of Faith. Read verses 1 through 6 and summarize what the Bible's definition of faith is. Then, consider the person in your life you most strongly consider a "hero of the faith." How do you see their faith impact their actions? How have you chosen to—or how could you—emulate this person?
4. Today's key verse, 2 Corinthians 5:7, states that we as believers must "walk/live (*peripateo*: to move forward, conduct one's life) by faith (*pistis*: belief, conviction, faithfulness), not by sight (*eidos*: appearance, form)." When's the last time you took a step of faith? What were the circumstances? Did God give you peace after your action or did you still doubt? What was the outcome?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. How does knowing that we've been created for a "heavenly dwelling" we don't yet inhabit affect our daily decisions? How does being "away from the Lord" have an impact on the way we view and behave in this world?
6. Pastor David explained that faith is not the absence of intellect. How do you use intellect in your faith? What is the difference between intellect and "earthly wisdom" (Colossians 2:8, 1 Corinthians 3:19-20)?
7. What is the difference between hoping in someone versus hoping for something? How should this distinction affect our requests to the Lord through prayer? Should we still ask for things (Matthew 7:7-12, 21:21-22)?
8. Discuss with your group where your faith is most vulnerable to be shaken. Then, identify steps you can take to strengthen these areas. Make an attempt this week to live by faith and discuss the results with your group the next time you meet.

**Conclusion:** God wants us to cultivate a stronger, more faithful relationship with Him, and the first step is growing your faith in Him. Pray that God reveals weak areas in your heart so you can fortify those areas through study and fellowship with your group in the coming weeks.