



Bethel Sunrise Sermon Notes – “*Now Faith*”

Speaker: Mark Molzen

Series: Jesus Is Better

Scripture: Hebrews 11

Main Idea

Biblical faith isn't wishful thinking or passive hope. Faith is confidently trusting God's promises today, thanking Him before we see the outcome, and continuing to walk with Him alongside a community of believers.

Faith Is Now

Hebrews 11:1 tells us:

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for..."

Faith always lives in the present.

Many of us confuse hope with faith.

Hope is a positive expectation for the future.

Faith is the present assurance that what God has promised is already secure.

Ps Mark illustrated this by comparing faith to purchasing a home.

Once you receive the title deed, the house legally belongs to you—even before you've moved in.

The same is true spiritually.

Faith doesn't wait until circumstances change before believing.

Faith trusts God's promise today.

Sometimes God's answer isn't "no."

Sometimes it's simply "not yet."

Ps Mark shared how he prayed thirty years before becoming a Phoenix police officer. What looked like closed doors was actually God's preparation. God wasn't withholding His calling—He was developing the person who would one day carry it.

God's timing is always better because He sees who we are becoming along the journey.

Faith Changes the Way We Pray

Faith doesn't only change what we believe.

It changes how we pray.

Once we have brought our request to God in faith, we don't have to continually beg Him for the same thing.

Instead, we begin thanking Him.

Thanksgiving becomes an expression of confidence that God is faithful to His promises.

Our prayers shift from:

- **Fear to confidence**
- **Begging to trusting**
- **Doubt to gratitude**

This doesn't mean we ignore reality.

It means we anchor ourselves to something greater than our circumstances.

Stand on God's Truth

Facts are real.

But God's truth is greater.

Ps Mark shared his own physical hip injury as an example.

The facts may say one thing.

But God's Word reminds us of His promises.

Faith isn't denying reality.

It's choosing to believe what God says above what our circumstances suggest.

This is why speaking Scripture over our lives is so important.

As we continually declare God's Word, our hearts become anchored in His truth instead of our emotions.

Faith grows as we meditate on God's promises.

Faith Is a Battle Worth Fighting

Hebrews 11 is often called the Hall of Faith.

But when you look closely, you'll notice something encouraging.

The people listed there weren't perfect.

Noah.

Abraham.

Sarah.

Moses.

They all had moments of failure.

Yet they kept walking with God.

Faith isn't about perfection.

It's about perseverance.

The difference wasn't that they never stumbled.

The difference was they didn't stay there.

God remained faithful while continuing to shape their lives.

Living by faith is a daily decision to trust Him, even when the outcome isn't immediately visible.

Don't Fight Alone

Faith was never intended to be lived in isolation.

Every believer needs people who will:

- **Pray with them**
- **Encourage them**
- **Speak truth when they're discouraged**
- **Stand beside them during difficult seasons**

When spiritual battles come—and they will—we need the strength that comes from biblical community.

God designed the Church so that no one has to fight alone.

Final Challenge

Faith is more than believing God can.

It's trusting that He will accomplish His purposes in His perfect timing.

Don't give up because the answer hasn't arrived yet.

Keep thanking God.

Keep standing on His Word.

Keep walking by faith.

And don't try to fight the battle alone.

Take the next step by connecting with a D-Group and surrounding yourself with people who will encourage your faith.

Discussion Questions

1. Ps Mark shared how God answered his prayer to become a police officer after thirty years. Can you think of a time when God said "not yet" instead of "no"? What did He teach you during the waiting?
2. The sermon distinguished between hope and faith. How would you explain the difference to someone else, and why is that distinction important?
3. Ps Mark challenged us to move from continually asking God to thanking Him in faith. Is there an area of your life where you need to begin thanking God instead of repeatedly asking? What would that look like?
4. The heroes of Hebrews 11 weren't perfect—they simply kept walking with God. How does that encourage you when you experience failure or setbacks in your own faith journey?
5. Why is biblical community essential in the fight of faith? What is one practical way you can become more connected and intentional in encouraging others this week?