

NEW YEAR – NEW YOU

Pastor Ray Swash

Building Faith from Ground Zero

It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.

Hebrews 11.6 (MESSAGE)

The Story of Gideon's walk of Faith . . .

The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her . . ."

Judges 7.2 (NIV)

It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

God's Definition of Faith:

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.

Hebrews 11.1 (MESSAGE)

Building YOUR Faith:

1) From FEAR to FAITH.

- Judges 7.9-14

That same night the Lord said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand."

Judges 7.9 (ESV)

Faith requires WISDOM

For the Lord gives wisdom . . . For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

Proverbs 2.6, 10-11 (NIV)

Overcoming YOUR Fears:

- Real faith begins with CONVICTION

- Key Word: BELIEVE

2) From FAITH to FULFILLMENT.

- Judges 7.15-25

Then Gideon went back to the camp of Israel and called out to them, "Get up! The Lord has handed the army of Midian over to you!"

Judges 7.15 (NCV)

Faith requires ACTION

. . . faith apart from works is dead.

James 2.26 (ESV)

Conquering YOUR Feelings:

- Real faith concludes with ASSURANCE

- Key Word: HOPE

I have one life and one chance to make it count for something . . . I'm free to choose what that something is, and the something I've chosen is my faith. Now, my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands -- this is not optional -- my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.

Jimmy Carter (making a Difference with Habitat for Humanity)