

lifeGROUP Discussion questions Feb 24-27, 2012

1. The Living Bible paraphrase puts Hebrews 11:1 this way: TLB "What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead."

Question: How do you define faith?

Question: Is your faith in God growing or diminishing?

2. 1 Peter 1:7 TLB *"These trials are only to test your faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests gold and purifies it-and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold; so if your faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day of His return."*

Question: Have you been through any fiery tests in the last five years?

Question: What lessons about God's power did you learn through this trial?

3. Deliverance faith is the kind of faith that inspires great books and movies. It's the exciting part of the faith journey when God comes through and the miracle takes place. But Endurance faith is the hard work of faith. Endurance faith believes but has not yet received the promises. It's the faith that stands even when the promise never comes to pass in the manner that we thought it would.

Read out loud through Hebrews 11:29-39 noting the ebb and flow of endurance faith and deliverance faith working side by side.

Question: Had you ever thought about the between endurance and deliverance faith?

Question: Which concept do you struggle the most with, endurance or deliverance?

Question: What did God say to you about your faith during this message?

PRAYER POINTS Over the past three years our faith has been severely tested with the downturn in the economy as well as various other trials that many of us have gone through. Last fall as I prayed about 2012 I felt the Lord strongly impress me that I needed to challenge the members of this church to rise up and walk in faith. I believe God has promised that 2012 is the year of replenishing. This is the year that God is going to fully restore what has been lost.

How can we pray for you? What things are you expecting God to do in your life and family that we can agree together with in prayer?