

Pastor Terri spoke the offering message this past Sunday, sharing;

Are you intensifying (increasing) your spiritual means?

Hearing this message is only the beginning, it is not the same as doing. Test and inspect your life, asking yourself;

"Am I improving in knowledge and proficiency?"

As you increase your wisdom in the Lord, and are correctly applying the Word, are you seeing the promised results? Otherwise, there is something that needs to be changed in your application.

What is the condition of your faith? Is it working the way you expect? A law explains what will happen when the same conditions exist, like the law of lift or the law of gravity.

Romans 3:27 tells us there is a law of faith, and this is how this will be and always be. It will not change based on my circumstances, wishes, or need.

We learn the law, repeat the successful application of the law, and learn to not repeat the mistakes from ourselves or from others.

Ephesians 2 - faith is a gift and comes from the Word - Romans 10:17.

We are simply to say what God says, and what we have heard from Him. It is not our words from ourselves that contain the power to produce; rather it is believing and saying His Word that produces the life changing results. Just as Jesus did nothing apart from what he heard and saw His Father do.

Championship Faith –

"How do we give God's Word first place?"

Praying over 2025, the Lord reminded me of our mission statement. The Lord gave this to me in April of 1992 when I was reviewing material from Brother Copeland's teaching taught in 1975.

"Take a group of people and disciple them intensely in the Word of God. Teach them an UNCOMMON FAITH to help them stand victoriously in life. Work them in the Word. Drill them. That is the only way to overcome the world."

Intensity - extreme force, and strength.

The Lord led me to begin a series on Sunday, December 29.

"My Faith is Alive in 2025."

Foundation scripture for this series:

1 John 5:4;(AMPC)

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Our 2025 Faith Confession

- My faith is alive in 2025.
- My faith is activated.
- My faith is working.
- My faith is producing results. I see with the eye of faith. I hear with the ear of faith; I speak with the Words of faith. And I think thoughts of faith which see the victory before me, and then I am walking in faith, and enjoying the provision the Lord provides in every step.
- My capacity for greater faith is enlarging.
- My faith is getting stronger every day.
- My faith is growing exceedingly.

Word from the Lord, Sunday, January 5, 2025.

The Lord spoke a word to me about the new year.

"2025 is our Championship Year" & "I have Championship Faith"

1. A champion is someone who has defeated all opponents. They have won the game.
2. A championship series determines the ultimate winner. I am in Christ an ultimate winner!

2 Corinthians 2:14; (AMPC)

"But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory]."

A trophy represents a win. Therefore, when the Lord sees us as His trophies, He is reminded of His unfailing Word to anyone who believes and correctly acts on the Word. As we see our brothers and sisters in the Lord as trophies, we are reminded of His faithfulness – we are all at different levels of faith, but He is faithful to each one of us.

Romans 8:37; (AMPC)

"Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us."

1 Corinthians 15:57; (AMPC)

"But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Paul's Faith Training Plan

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10; (KJV)

"For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God; Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?"

(NLT) ...to fill the gaps in your faith.

(CEV) ...help you to have an even stronger faith.

When things are lacking with our faith, more development is needed. We are always able to use the faith we currently have, and to develop our faith in every area to a greater degree.

i.e.; How strong is your faith in healing, in joy, in direction, in wisdom, in protection, in forgiveness, in provision, etc.

Each area has a different level of faith, and we need to focus on each area and build our faith stronger. Just like a weightlifter builds muscles, but the person cycles through various training methods to grow stronger in multiple areas, otherwise the person may be strong in their legs, but not in their back.

Pastor quoted a statement from Dr. Katie Linder;

"We need to spend more time warring instead of worrying."

Worry is a total waste of time. It doesn't change anything for the positive. All it does is steal your joy and keep you very busy doing nothing.

Paul had a strategic plan to move their faith up to the next level.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4; (NKJV)

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of everyone of you all abounds towards each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure."

The churches were being attacked, and Paul said how you will overcome persecution and attacks is by having strong faith and strategically using that strong faith with the correct corresponding action.

When the Apostle Paul said this was a light affliction, it was because his faith had grown strong in this area. In an earlier time in his life this might have been a heavy affliction. But, with developing faith in this area, and walking in love, forgiveness, and running the race with hope and patience, the affliction was now seen as light.

(NLT) Your faith is flourishing.

(GWT) Your faith is showing remarkable growth

(MSG) Your faith is growing phenomenally

Championship Faith Training Steps

Romans 12:1-3;

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Meditation in the Word will increase your capacity for faith.

Every believer begins with the same measure of the Godkind of faith. **Therefore, we don't need more faith — we need to develop the faith we already have.**

God is speaking His Word, producing faith as a coach, encouraging us, motivating us, and reminding us to get up and continue to run the course of victory.

Pastor George reminded us of some of the faith giants and to listen to their teachings.

- Charles Capps
- Fred Price
- Kenneth Copeland
- Kenneth Hagin

We need to remind ourselves how the Apostle Paul ministered to the other churches that were dealing with attacks. He would have ministered the same to the church at Thessalonica. Paul would begin with encouraging them, reminding them of the Word which is active, which is to live mightily within us, renewing our mind, allowing us to see the needs of others and rise up in faith and minister to people as God directs us.

Step One — Receive Jesus as the Developer of Your Faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2; (NLT)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, THE CHAMPION who initiates and perfects our faith. Jesus develops our faith every time we exercise our faith and stand on the Word.

Step Two: Give the Word First Place and Make it Final Authority

We do that because...

- God and His Word are one.
- God's Word is His will.
- God's Word is alive.
- God's Word is God speaking to us.
- God's Word is life and health to our flesh.
- God's Word always works.
- God's Word settles every issue.

Your situations are subject to you, what words are you giving as the commander, like the centurion did with Jesus. Your words are framing your world.

We have the same precious, championship faith like Peter, like Paul, and like Jesus. The question then is "how are you growing that faith," and "how are you strategically applying that faith with the correct actions?"

2 Peter 1:1-4;

"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

When situations come, go to the Word for the first Word to direct and lead you, and make that the last Word; so that you are not looking for others' words, directions, or influencing. You need to stand on the Word as the beginning, and that it now is your last Word.

God's Word is THE answer to every situation we face.
God's Word is the FIRST WORD and the LAST WORD!

Exercises

You need provision: (supply). Let this be the first word and the last word.

Philippians 4:19;

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

The Word says God is our supply.

I give this Word first place and make it final authority.

You need healing:

Proverbs 4:20-22;

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health (In the Hebrew, this means medicine) to all their flesh."

The Word says I am healed.
I give this Word first place and make it final authority.

You need freedom from fear:

2 Timothy 1:7;

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

The Word says I am free from fear. Timothy was under a tremendous amount of pressure, especially where his church was concerned.
I give this Word first place and make it final authority.

You need deliverance from worry:

Philippians 4:6; (AMPC)

"Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God."

V. 7 (KJV) "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

The Word says I am delivered from worry and care.
I give this Word first place and make it final authority.

You need assurance over your future:

Philippians 1:6 (AMPC)

"I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return]."

The good work that God began in me, He will continue and develop that good work and perfect that work until it brings forth the full harvest and is complete.