

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
June 11, 2017

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Sunday Morning 06-11-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"

When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/232441>

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[Image]

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[http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441\\_152x152.jpg](http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441_152x152.jpg)

Our theme for 2017 is Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

These two simple words will transform every person that accepts the challenge. I pray that in the next few months all of us in this church, as well as those who join us, will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.

What is BIG FAITH?

BIG FAITH believes God is who he claims to be and that he will do everything he has promised.

How does Jesus build BIG FAITH?

The 5 things the Holy Spirit uses to grow BIG FAITH are:

1. Practical Teaching
2. Providential Relationships
3. Private Disciplines
4. Personal Ministry
5. Pivotal Circumstances

Hebrews 11:6 NIV

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

<http://bible.com/111/heb.11.6.NIV>

Why is BIG FAITH a BIG DEAL for Jesus?

Trust was devastated in the Garden.

- + Dishonesty
- + Distrust
- + Disobedience

God has been working to restore trust ever since.

- + Truth
- + Trust
- + Transformation

Sermons come in all shapes and sizes. But if you listen closely, you'll hear God saying the same thing in most sermons – trust me.

Matthew 7:24-29 NIV

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.  
<http://bible.com/111/mat.7.24-29.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Putting what Jesus said into practice reveals the key difference between a true disciple and a foolish student.

Three Ways the Spirit Works in You through Bible Teaching

1. The Holy Spirit shows you something you need to put into practice.
2. The Holy Spirit shows you something you already practice.
3. The Holy Spirit invites you to surrender to Jesus as King of your life.

Four Ways You Can Respond to the Holy Spirit

1. "Yes, Lord! Yes! Whatever you say."
2. "Yes, Lord but not now. How about tomorrow? Next week?"
3. "What? Did you say something? I forgot what you said?"
4. "No. I will not do that."

Do more than merely listen to Bible teaching. Allow Jesus to build your faith as you put his teaching into practice.

FIRST STEPS:

Change my mind by memorizing Matthew 7:24

Get back to basics by spending time in regular Bible reading and prayer

Prayerfully consider what I am practicing from what I've been taught

What am I practicing?

" Start asking Jesus this question: "Am I following?"

" Inconvenience yourself. Add an hour to your weekly schedule to learn about following Jesus.

" Pray every day for more of Jesus' love to motivate and shape what you do.

" Pray this prayer: "Jesus, I want what you want more than I want what I want."

" Tell Jesus you will follow him even when you don't understand.

" BUILDING BRIDGES: I will bless 3 people this week, at least 1 of whom is not a part of any church.

" BUILDING BRIDGES: I will eat with 3 people each week, at least 1 of whom is not a part of any church.

" BUILDING BRIDGES: I will make time to learn more about Jesus each week.

" BUILDING BRIDGES: I will make time to listen to the Holy Spirit each week.

" BUILDING BRIDGES: I will share my story as often as I have the opportunity.

" Speak the native language of God's Family - grace and kindness.

" Let go of the drive to keep your family under control. Receive God's deep love for you.

" I commit to appreciating and loving those who disagree with me so we all know we are disagreeing agreeably.