Summary of Faith Walkers: Living by Faith

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Faith Walkers Series Conclusion

Meeting Overview

The service concluded the church's "Faith Walkers" teaching series with an interactive review and practical application of its central lessons. The pastor emphasized that church attendance and biblical teaching are not intended merely to provide information. The goal is transformation: believers should take what they learn into their homes, schools, workplaces, relationships, and difficult circumstances throughout the week.

The central challenge was to move from **knowing how faith works to actually living by faith**. The congregation was repeatedly encouraged to remember and apply God's promises when life becomes stressful, confusing, disappointing, or frightening.

Opening Prayer and Welcome

The service began with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to have His way, bring peace to people's minds and households, and address the needs represented in the congregation. The Pastor Anthony welcomed everyone and acknowledged that many attendees had participated throughout the Faith Walkers series.

The Pastor Anthony explained that renewing the mind without allowing that renewal to produce changed behavior is only "good information." True spiritual growth becomes visible when believers execute what they have learned after leaving church, especially on Monday morning and during the ordinary pressures of the week.

Why Believers Are Called Faith Walkers

The phrase “Faith Walkers” was connected to the biblical idea that people must eventually walk in what they say they believe. Words are important because what comes out of a person’s mouth often reveals what is being believed in the heart. The congregation was therefore cautioned to pay attention to negative declarations such as “I can’t,” “I hate myself,” or statements that contradict God’s promises.

The Pastor Anthony clarified that faith is synonymous with dependence on God. To walk by faith is to walk by dependence rather than by sight. This does not mean denying what is happening or pretending that fear, sadness, anger, or disappointment are not real. Instead, it means refusing to let what is seen or felt have the final authority over one’s decisions and identity.

A key statement was that faith is not the ability to control life; faith is trusting the One who can. Circumstances are often outside a person’s control, but a person can choose how to respond. The congregation was encouraged to depend on God even when facing sickness, financial pressure, family conflict, consequences from past decisions, or uncertainty about the future.

Faith Versus Perception

The pastor distinguished perception from promise:

- Perception reports what is seen or felt in the present moment.
- God’s promise reminds believers what He has said.
- Faith determines which voice will guide the response.

The repeated principle was: “We walk by faith and not by sight.” What people see can be real without being the final word. Feelings are also real and can provide useful information, but they are not instructions that must automatically be obeyed.

The example of Abraham was used to illustrate this point. Although Abraham and Sarah were extremely old and the circumstances appeared physically impossible, Abraham was not ultimately moved by the condition of Sarah’s womb. He was moved by God’s promise. In the same way, believers should acknowledge difficult facts while placing greater confidence in God’s character and Word.

The pastor also discussed how attention shapes perception. Similar to noticing a particular model of car everywhere after purchasing one, people tend to notice more of what they have recently learned to recognize. Once believers understand

faith as dependence on God, they may become more aware of situations that require trust. These circumstances are not necessarily appearing for the first time; they simply stand out because the person now has a framework for recognizing them.

Reaction Versus Response

A major distinction was made between reacting and responding. A reaction allows circumstances to determine behavior. A response takes time to place the circumstance alongside God's promises and then chooses behavior based on those promises.

For example, a child who hears that the parents may divorce could immediately conclude that the situation is their fault, that the parents do not care, or that the family is falling apart. Those conclusions may lead to anger, withdrawal, depression, poor grades, or other reactions. A faith-based response would acknowledge the fear and sadness while praying for the family, speaking life over the relationship, asking God for wisdom, and continuing to act responsibly.

The pastor emphasized that faith does not require people to ignore what they see. Instead, faith refuses to allow perception to have the final word. Attendees were encouraged to step outside the intensity of the moment and look to God's eternal perspective before making decisions.

Seven Core Truths Reviewed

The teaching summarized the Faith Walkers series through several foundational truths:

1. **Faith is dependence upon God.** Confidence should not rest in the ability to control life but in God's ability and faithfulness. Hebrews 11:6 and Romans 4:20–21 were referenced to reinforce trust in God's promises.
2. **Perception reports what is seen, but promise reminds believers what God has said.** Facts may describe the moment without becoming the final authority. Hebrews 10:23 was used to emphasize that God can be trusted to keep His promises.
3. **Faith responds while fear reacts.** Prayer, petition, thanksgiving, and the peace of God help believers respond rather than being controlled by anxiety. Philippians 4:6–8 was referenced in this discussion.

4. **Believers live from the finished work of Jesus, not for acceptance or victory.** Jesus declared, "It is finished." Faith does not work to earn a victory that Christ has already accomplished; faith lives from Christ's victory. Second Corinthians 5:17, John 19:30, and Colossians 2:10 were referenced.
5. **Identity is established in Christ.** Believers do not need to prove to other people what God has already declared about them. The pastor urged attendees not to define themselves by past experiences, current struggles, other people's opinions, or temporary desires. The identity emphasized throughout the service was being the righteousness of God through Christ.
6. **Believers do not perform for acceptance; they live from acceptance.** Good works are the fruit of connection with Christ, not payment used to make God bless or accept someone. The pastor compared believers to branches connected to a vine: their actions should grow from their relationship with Jesus rather than from an attempt to earn His love.
7. **Grace provides, and faith receives.** Grace is not earned through perfect behavior or religious effort. Jesus provides, and believers receive what He has made available. Trying to earn what Christ has already completed leads to exhaustion, striving, and discouragement.

Interactive Review and Discussion

The congregation participated in several exercises involving cards, questions, and competitive responses. Attendees identified whether statements represented faith, perception, performance, or grace.

Examples included:

- "I have done everything right, so God should bless me" was identified as performance because it treats personal behavior as a form of payment.
- "I am disappointed, but my circumstances do not determine God's faithfulness" was identified as faith.
- "If I keep confessing this enough, God has to make it happen" was identified as performance because it treats confession as a formula for controlling God.
- "What I see is real, but it is not the final word" was identified as faith.
- "Jesus has already qualified me, so I can respond from acceptance instead of working for acceptance" was connected to grace and faith.

Additional scenarios addressed studying for an exam, receiving a disappointing grade, working hard while trusting God, and believing that good works can flow from faith without becoming a means of earning acceptance. The pastor repeatedly checked whether the congregation could apply the concepts in realistic situations rather than merely repeat definitions.

Practical Faith Filter

The service ended the teaching portion with a simple three-question filter:

- What do I see or feel? This is perception.
- What has God said? This is promise.
- Which one will determine my response? This is faith.

The congregation was encouraged to use this filter during the week. When a circumstance does not align with God's promises, believers should not allow the circumstance to dictate their identity, decisions, or behavior. Attention was described as a powerful resource, and attendees were urged to pay attention to God's Word rather than allowing fear, social pressure, or negative circumstances to dominate their focus.

Prayer, Ministry, and Spiritual Support

The pastor invited anyone needing prayer, encouragement, salvation, support for a family member, or freedom from destructive thoughts to respond through the church's ministry process or QR code. The congregation was also instructed to check on the people sitting nearby and pray with anyone who needed support. The pastor specifically acknowledged people struggling with thoughts that they were worthless, unseen, or that the world would be better without them, encouraging them to seek prayer and connection rather than remaining isolated.

The service also included an invitation for those seeking the baptism or spiritual gift of speaking in tongues. This was presented as a grace gift for believers who have accepted Christ, intended to help them pray beyond the limitations of fear and personal understanding.

Praise, Worship, and Declarations

Before moving into praise and worship, the pastor explained that worship should not depend solely on current feelings or favorable circumstances. The

congregation was encouraged to praise God before seeing the outcome, trusting that God is faithful and will not fail. Several students shared brief testimonies that God had remained faithful through school, emotions, trials, and other challenges.

The congregation repeated declarations including:

- “I am made righteous.”
- “No weapon formed against me shall prosper.”
- “I can do everything through Christ.”
- “My GPA is excellent.”
- “My mental health is strong.”

The service then transitioned into worship with the recurring declaration, “He won’t fail.”

Announcements and Closing

The pastor announced the following upcoming items:

- The fall party is scheduled for October 18.
- The conference tour has been rescheduled for October 17.
- People who have not joined the book club were asked to sign up.
- Weekly Power takes place every Monday at 7:45 a.m.
- Students in grades 11 and 12 were directed to the game room for life-skills preparation.

The closing prayer thanked God for what the congregation had seen and heard, affirmed that attendees are the righteousness of God, and asked for guidance and straight paths throughout the coming week. The congregation was dismissed with the reminder that they should leave changed and transformed, not merely informed.

Overall Decisions and Takeaways

The primary decision was a commitment to practice faith after the series ends. Attendees were challenged to depend on God, compare circumstances with Scripture, respond rather than react, live from Christ’s finished work, reject performance-based acceptance, and use their identity in Christ as the foundation for daily behavior.

The main takeaway was that the true measure of the Faith Walkers series is not how well participants can remember the lessons, but whether they use those truths when life happens. The congregation was encouraged to carry the faith filter into the week and declare that God's promises—not perception, fear, performance, or temporary circumstances—will determine their response.