

LIFE APP

E X P E C T T H E

unexpected

January 2-3, 2021

UNEXPECTED FAITH

Hebrews 11:1-3 NLT: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

The year 2020 was a year filled with trying times and the testing of our faith. We all had to learn to look at life in new and different ways as we faced many unprecedented and unexpected situations. One thing we all learned is that we are not in control of anything and that we need to know where to place our faith. God clearly revealed to us that we cannot place our faith in our government, in our jobs, in our health, in our activities, in our money, etc. The only thing that remains constant is God and He alone is in complete control of all things. This clearly reveals that only God is worthy of our faith. But we've also learned that God can give us unexpected faith that we didn't even realize that we had.

1A) PERSONAL: With all of the ups and downs from 2020 and the unknowns we're facing in 2021, what does Hebrews 13:8 mean to you?

1B) PERSONAL: How was your faith impacted in 2020? Do you believe it has increased or has it decreased and why?

2A) What do the following verses reveal about God?

2 Samuel 7:22:

Isaiah 61:11:

Habakkuk 3:19:

2B) PERSONAL: How can these verses give you confidence to place your faith in God?

Read 1 John 4:16-18:

3A) According to this passage, why is it so important for us to “know” God?

3B) PERSONAL: How do you think “knowing” God can help you trust Him more and be willing to “obey” Him or patiently wait for Him to answer your prayers, etc.?

4A) What commands are we given in Proverbs 3:5-6 and how can following these commands help our faith increase?

4B) PERSONAL: Why types of things are you planning to do in the new year to get to “know” God better?

4C) PERSONAL; Be honest with yourself: In what areas of your life do you need to be more willing to “obey” God?

Read Philippians 4:6-7:

5A) Write down the commands we are given in verse 6.

5B) What promises are we given in verse 7?

6) PERSONAL: As we begin the new year, how do these verses give you encouragement and hopefully increase your faith?

ACT: We want to begin this year with confidence in God and with assurance that we can place our complete trust in Him. Like the heroes of faith found in Hebrews 11, we need God to help us take that step of faith that is necessary for Him to use us and whatever gifts He has given us to accomplish extraordinary things. Let's commit to spend daily time with God getting to know Him better by reading His Word and prayer, paying attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and then obeying Him - even if it require sacrifices and not fully understanding why or what He is doing. Let's do our best to work with God and trust Him with the outcomes and discover all the amazing things He has planned for us.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's explore passages that describe why we should place our confidence in God.

Monday:

Psalm 71:5-6 NIV

For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.

Tuesday:

2 Corinthians 3:4-5 NIV

Such confidence we have through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

Wednesday:

Ephesians 3:12 NIV

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Thursday:

Hebrews 4:16 NIV

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Friday:

Hebrews 10:35-36 NLT

So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

Saturday:

Hebrews 13:6 NLT

So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"

Sunday:

1 John 5:13-15 NIV

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

