

## Faith to Faith (Growing Pains)

I was speaking to someone earlier this week about the simple realities of life.

- Life is a process...
- It doesn't happen all at once
- We are not equipped or prepared for it all at once...

There are **growing** pains associated with life

- Sometime you don't feel ready to handle what you are facing
- That can be frightening or overwhelming
- We all make bad decisions and face consequences...
- But it's all part of the process...
- Learning and growing through life experiences

Part of this process of life includes growing from a child to an adult.

- And in that growth there are different expectations from child to adult
- And there can be different frustrations as well

Can't you remember as a child, wanting to do the things that Mom and Dad, or big brother and sister could do?

- Ride a bike
- Reach the top shelf
- Tie your shoe
- Drive a car

At different stages in life, there are going to be things that you want to do, but you are not yet equipped to do...

- So, you will face different frustrations during different stages

I have probably told this story before....

When I was around 5 years old, my dad bought some used mini-bikes for my brother and oldest sister (I'm the Baby!!)

Well of course, I wanted to ride, but I was "too little"...

I watched them ride them, I watched how my Dad cranked them, and I was convinced I could do this!!!

Everyone went inside....except me....

- I grabbed that pull start rope and pulled it a few times
  - And that thing started!!!
  - Then I sat down and hit the gas!! Off I went!!
- I was having a great time riding through our neighbors yard, full throttle, holding on for dear life...with my Dad chasing as fast as he could go!! He kept yelling some strange phrase; “Hit the brakes”
- I must have missed that part, because I had no idea what a brake was on this thing...or how to stop it at all

You can use your imagination as to how this story ended...

But my point is that at that stage in my life I was not equipped or prepared for that experience....

- But it was a learning experience
- A growing experience
- Of course now I ride a Harley with that same enthusiasm!!

But there are always “**Growing Pains**”

- Even in our Christian life
- Our “Faith Walk”

The Apostle Paul put it like this:

I Corinthians 13:11

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

Just like in **natural life, in your Spiritual life, you have to grow** from childhood to adult life,

- There will be growth; There will be growing pains
- But there is one thing we have to have

Romans 12:3

“God has given each a measure of **faith**”

- Faith is the word for today...
- The **key ingredient** to our Christian life
- The key ingredient to our Faith Walk

**Faith:****Hebrews 11:1**

“The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”

In Greek: “pistils”

And this word is associated with “**conviction**” (conviction is associated with the active presence of The Holy Spirit in our lives)

- Conviction that God is real and the creator and ruler of the universe and everything in it.
- Conviction that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, The Messiah, and The One who gives us eternal salvation in The Kingdom of God!!

Even George Michaels knew “**You Gotta Have Faith**”... because...

**Hebrews 11:6**

“But **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

So now we know what faith is, where faith comes from

The important part in this is

- “What do we do with it?”

**Romans 1:16-17**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed **from faith to faith**; as it is written, “The just shall live by **faith**.””

From faith to faith:

We defined Faith above, what I want to point out to you today is another word, a very simple word in that phrase:

- **From**
- This a simple preposition
- But completes this thought

Greek; “ek”

- Out of
- From
- By

What I want to show you today is the simple plan of God for us to grow in our faith...

We see from this verse; “From faith to faith”

- That greater faith
- Comes from operating in your current level of faith...
- Greater faith comes from proving faith...

So maybe you are at a place in your faith walk where your faith is small

- Take that measure of faith and put it into action!!

In “The Parable of The Talents”

Jesus gave three men some talents...

- Two men put their faith into action
- One man sat on his and did nothing with it

The two men who operated in their measure of faith were told:

Matthew 25:21

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; **you were faithful over a few things**, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”

They were “faithful over a few things...

- They used the faith they had
- They weren’t sure what the outcome would be...
- But they knew this was from God
- So they stepped out in it...

The man who didn’t use his....

- Let’s just say
- He didn’t get an increase...
- That’s your homework reading assignment for this week...

### **From faith to faith....**

- When you use what you have
- You get more added to it

**But you have to take a step!!**

- Is there something in your life that is missing?
- Something you feel God has for you?
- Jesus will not lead you wrong...

### **Revelation 3:7-8**

““And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, **He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens**”: “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

**You have to look for the open doors...**

- And you have to operate in faith to walk through them
- Or else they’re doing no good in your life...

**Think about it...**

- Looking back now, how many doors can you see that Jesus had opened
- But you lacked the faith to walk through...

### **Matthew 18:2-3**

“Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**Jesus says come to Him as a child...**

- When I was a child I jumped on that mini-bike
- Had I not done that, I wouldn’t be riding a Harley today!!

**What is it that you are believing for, but you haven’t acted on**

- Is it a lack of faith issue
- Take that measure of faith that God has given you and activate it
- Take a step in faith

**Matthew 17:20**

**“So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”**