

Influence Ministries

FIVE THINGS GOD USES TO GROW YOUR FAITH

LESSON 5

TITLE: PERSONAL MINISTRY.

God uses personal ministry to grow your faith.

The big word in the New Testament is faith, or trust, or confidence.

Faith in God is extremely important to God. It is the essence of our relationship with God.

As your faith grows and matures and develops, your intimacy with God grows and matures and develops.

It is the development of our faith or our confidence in God that gives us the kind of relationship he wants us to have.

What are the things that God really used to blow your faith up big, you would probably tell me a story about a time in your life when somebody presented an opportunity to you to do something.

I didn't feel equipped, and I didn't feel prepared, and I didn't think I was smart enough. And I thought, if I do that, I'm going to make a fool of myself.

And you would tell a story about how scared you were, and unprepared you were, and you went in with fear and trembling. And you're thinking, It's going to be a disaster; I'm going to embarrass myself. And then as you got involved, you began to see God do amazing things, and that would be part of your faith story.

So tonight, I want to talk a little bit about that dynamic, about that tension, and about that fear that we all have.

God may ask you to get outside of your comfort zone and serve Him in a way that makes us very, very uncomfortable.

People are out in a remote area, night is setting in and the crowd is hungry. Jesus turns and says this...

Matthew 14:16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

They are like us, we only have...

Matthew 14:17 We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

Jesus responds... Matthew 14:18 "Bring them here to me," he said.

Jesus says, just bring me what you have.

I didn't even finish college. Well, how far did you go?
I got through two years. Well, just bring me those two years.

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But, God, I hardly know the Bible. Well, just bring me what you know.

Well, God, I don't have that much time. Bring me how much time you have.

But, God, what if they ask me hard questions? Just bring me the answers that you have.

But God, I don't have enough experience. Well, just bring me whatever experience you have.

They did what they knew how to do, trusting that God would do what only God can do.

It's our responsibility is to say, Okay, I'll do what I can do, and I'm going to trust you to do what only you can do.

Matthew 14:29

("Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Do you know what Peter did? He did the same thing he did when Jesus passed out the fish and the bread.

Peter said, I don't know how to walk on water, but I know how to get out of a boat, and I know how to walk, and that's where my limitations are. That's the end of my limitations, but I'll do what I know how to do. I know how to get out of a boat and I know how to walk.

Now, folks, that is the Christian experience to a great degree. I dare you to start praying the Peter prayer: Lord, please invite me out of my comfort zone.

I'm asking for some of you to step out of the boat.

Your faith is blown up when you take the next step by faith and see what God does in your life. So, my question is this:

Would you be willing to do what you know how to do and trust God to do what only God can do?

Would you be willing to do what you know how to do in terms of serving

Would you be willing to take that first step, not because you're ready but because God has called you out of the boat?

Would you be willing to participate with God in this dynamic? Because it will grow your faith like crazy and you'll come out on the other end