

**How to Have
"Epic Faith"**

T·P·W·2024



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —*Psalm 145:11*
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —*Joshua 22:5*

"Talking Points, Walking Points" is a publication of
the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.



Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent, action. I Timothy 4:7 instructs you to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." Since "**Talking Points, Walking Points**" is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to "dive deep" too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled "**Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time**", are perfect for private reflection.

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Who in the Bible do you believe had "epic faith" in God? What about their life makes you believe that?
- Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28.
If "epic faith" required going through what Paul did—would you still want to have that kind of faith?

What are some hard things God used to grow your faith and trust in Him?
- Read James 1:2-4. How is it possible to rejoice in trials?

How does v. 3 begin? How does the truth in v. 3 make rejoicing in trials **possible**?

What would make rejoicing in trials the only **logical/reasonable** thing to do?

Who do you know who, as a result of trials, has become **bitter**? Who has become **better**?
What determines the outcome?
- Support the following statement: "Trusting God" is not an impractical cliché, it is the most practical thing you can do in a trial!"
- How would you respond to a person who angrily asks: "How can you trust a God who allows bad things to happen?"

Sermon Summary

Notes

Think about someone you know who has “epic faith”. When tough times come their way they keep focused on God; they don’t let hard circumstances shake them so that they respond in anger. We can Have an epic faith too! How do we know this?

Look at people in the Bible who had epic faith—people such as Paul, Moses, David. Paul (Saul) was totally opposed to Christianity. Moses killed a man and complained to God that he could not speak in front of people. David committed adultery. So, obviously, you don’t need to be perfect to have epic faith!

In order to have epic faith we need to grow in trusting God in (1) the unknown and (2) in hard times.

(1) There is a difference between trusting and knowing. To trust is to put your full weight on something. To have epic faith, you will need to begin to grow in your trust in God when you don’t know what the future holds.

(2) Paul teaches us about hard times in 2 Corinthians 11:24-28. Most people, if asked, “Would you want to have epic faith like these people in the Bible?”, would say “yes”. But in order to have a faith like them you have to learn to trust God in hard times like they went through!

Approach God and others with humility (Romans 12:3). Fear God more than you fear man (Proverbs 29:25; Matthew 10:28). We need to begin caring more about pleasing God and less about pleasing people (Hebrews 11:6; Romans 4:19-21).

You will face moments when you must choose integrity over the pressure of culture. You will face moments when you must choose pleasing God rather than pleasing people. You will face moments when you must decide to go through something hard rather than taking the easy way out. You will face moments when you must work through marriage issues rather than running away from them. You will face moments when you must choose what God has for you over what the world offers.

Have you had moments like these? Have you had an epic faith moment with your spouse—where you chose to love them even when they are angry at you? Where you chose to get down in your kids’ world and really begin to see what their life is like, instead of just patting them on the back and keeping busy in your own world? Take some time to think about both the unknown things in your life you are facing and the hard moments you are going through.

Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time

During their time with Jesus, the disciples often struggled to trust him. Once they asked Jesus: “Increase our faith!” I know that’s your desire as well, so let’s explore this critical issue of developing “epic faith”.

Monday—Read 1 Peter 1:1-7, and mark the word “faith” in v. 5 & 7.

- According to v. 1, to whom did Peter write?
 - Think about aliens/refugees today. In what ways do they have a fearful existence?
 - According to v. 1c-2, Peter’s audience were “chosen according to...” What? How could this help them with their fears?
 - According to v. 2, what role did each member of the Trinity play in your salvation?
 - According to v. 3, is their (any your) “rebirth” a past event or a future event?
 - According to v. 4, is their (any your) “inheritance” a past event or a future event?
 - According to v. 5, is their (any your) “salvation” a past event or a future event?
- } Explain this.
- Look at the prepositions (“by”, “through”, “for”) in v. 5, and explain the interrelationship of God’s power and our faith.
 - What does “the proof of our faith” mean (v. 7)?

Tuesday—Read 1 Peter 1:8-19, and mark the word “faith” or “believe” in v. 8 & 9.

- We say, “Seeing is believing.” According to v. 8, what is the biblical take on the relationship between faith and sight?
- According to v. 9, what is the outcome of “believing **without** seeing”?
- How does the end of v. 12 describe the gospel?
The angels don’t sound bored—why do you think that we believers sometimes get bored with the gospel?
Are you ever bored by the gospel (“Yeh, yeh, I know that...”)? How can you change that (see Luke 7:47)?
List the three commands found in v. 13. List the one command found in v. 14. List the one command found in v. 15.
What is the rationale for these five commands (v. 16)?
How would obedience to these commands and an embracing of this rationale help overcome boredom with the gospel?
- According to v. 13, **how much of** our hope is to be fixed on the grace we’ll get when we are in God’s presence?
How much of your hope currently is fixed on the grace you’ll receive when you are in God’s presence?
What steps can you take to day to increase that?

Wednesday—Read 1 Peter 1:20-25, and mark the word “faith” and “believer” in v. 21

- V. 21 says that “**through Jesus** we are believers **in God**...so that our faith and hope are **in God**”. What do you think is the significance of those prepositions (“through” and “in”) and the objects of those prepositions (“Jesus” and “God”)?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-17. Mark the eleven occurrences of the words “raise”, “raised”, and “resurrection”.
Outline the logic of 1 Corinthians 15:12-17. What is Paul saying?
- Now, compare 1 Peter 1:21 with 1 Corinthians 15:15.
How are the factual nature of Jesus’ resurrection linked to the veracity of God the Father?
What do you think about those who say they believe in God—**but not in Jesus**? Would these verses say that is possible?
Explain.
- 1 Peter 1:23 says that you **have been** born again (ie, it is a past, completed action). 1 Peter 1:22 speaks of a past, completed action (in the first half of the verse). In the words of v. 22a, “...you have _____ your souls...”
- These two completed actions are linked with the word “because” (or, “for” in some translations): “you have purified your souls because you have been born again”—so they really amount to the same thing. To be born again is to have a purified soul.
What is commanded of born-again, soul-purified people in v. 22b?
- Which believers at TCC do you find it easy to “fervently love from the heart”? Which ones are difficult to love?

Thursday—Read 1 Peter 2, and mark the word “believe” or “faith” in v. 6 & 7.

- Mark the three occurrences of the word “precious” in v. 4-7.

How confident are you that you have “come to Jesus, God’s choice and precious living stone”? (v. 4)

What promise does v. 6b make to all who have come to God’s “choice and precious living stone”?

Are you disappointed?

What should you do when you are disappointed?

- V. 6b says that “he who _____ in him will not be disappointed”. How can epic faith help you in your disappointments?
- From v. 9-10, make two columns, one listing what is true of you “in Christ” and the other listing what was true of you “in Adam”. Which list describes you? Does this disappoint you or encourage you?
- According to v. 11, what “wages war against your soul”? What must you do to win that war?
- Show how v. 16 summarizes all of the specific commands found in v. 11-15.
- According to v. 19-25, what should you expect in the Christian life?

Friday—Read 1 Peter 3-4, and mark the words “entrust” and “faithful” in 4:19.

- Suffering is the main theme of **half** of 1 Peter (2:11—4:19).

Write out the text of 1 Peter 4:19 here: _____

- Christians **will** suffer “according to the will of God” (4:19), ie, suffering “for doing what is right” (3:17). Skim chapters 3-4 and jot down examples of “suffering for doing what is right”. Which of these have you experienced?
Skim chapters 3-4 and jot down examples of “suffering for doing what is wrong”. Which of these have you experienced?
- Concretely speaking, how does one “entrust his soul to a faithful Creator in doing what is right”? Relate this to Galatians 6:7-10.

Saturday—Read 1 Peter 5, and mark the word “faith/faithful” in v. 9 & 12.

- List all of the commands in v. 8-11.

List all of the promises in v. 8-11.

- According to v. 8-11, how can we be “firm in our faith” (ie, have “epic faith”)?
- According to v. 1-4, what role do TCC’s elders play in helping you have epic faith?
According to v. 5a, what attitude must you have **toward your elders** so that they can help you have epic faith?
According to v. 5b, what attitude must you have **toward God** so that your elders can help you have epic faith?
- What is the relationship between anxiety (v. 7) and humility (v. 6)?
- What promise is made at the end of v. 10? Is that disappointing (2:6b) or encouraging?
- 1 Peter 1:6 and 5:10 both make reference to the same period of time. What is it?
Explain this statement: “Compared to eternity, eighty years on earth is only ‘a little while’.”