

Faith_02

Script References

Introduction

Eli: Hey guys, it's Eli and Alexis. Today we're continuing our look at faith, but not just some broad, "gotta-have-faith, -ask-the-universe" kind of thing. No, the faith we are talking about is in a person—

Alexis: In our last session, we looked at what it means to have faith in God as our Creator.

Eli: In this session, we're looking at what it means to have faith in God as our Savior.

The Image of the Invisible God

Alexis: Remember Genesis 1:27— how God made human beings in his image? Well, in Jesus, God remade humanity in his image free from the deathly effects of sin. Listen to how Colossians 1 puts it—

The Son is the image of the invisible God... All things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together... God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things... by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)

Eli: God reconciled — that is, reunited - all things to himself by making peace through Jesus' blood, shed on the cross.

This is the Gospel- that God so loved the world, he sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Rather than allowing our sins to separate us from God, God himself came to where we were and paid the price for them.

In Jesus, God became fully human — more human, in fact, than anyone who's ever lived because, unlike the rest of us, he perfectly lived out his calling as the Image of God.

Alexis: Exactly - When he was on earth, Jesus was like us in every way, except that he never sinned. He shared the same experiences as us —

Eli: *Think about the lengths to which God went in order to rescue you from your sin. What difference does that make to your understanding of your identity and purpose?*

Life With God

Alexis: So we've established that Jesus' death was for us, but let's not forget to mention the best part - when he rose from the grave, his resurrection life was for us too!

Eli: That's right - Jesus made a way for our life with God to start now. We're not waiting around for heaven. Jesus invites us to follow him today and every day because it's through that daily process of discipleship that we come to know the Father.

Alexis: And it's through that daily process that we become like the Father. Remember I said, in Jesus, God remade humanity in his image. Well, now, everyone who follows Jesus is being remade in his image too. Listen to this—

Paul wrote in Colossians that you have *“taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”* (Colossians 3:9-10)

Eli: And he wrote in 2 Corinthians that *“we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory...”* (2 Corinthians 3:18)

If you are following Jesus, you are being transformed. Pause the video and reflect on what you think it means to be transformed into God's image with “ever-increasing glory.” What is the old self, and what is this new self Paul is talking about?

Alexis: Jesus made a way for us to experience life with God. Because of what he did, we can have a relationship with the Father.

Prayer

Eli: But, like any relationship, we've got to choose to participate in it. God is always speaking to us - through his Word, his creation, his people - but we've got to learn to listen and respond.

Eli: Prayer is how we listen and respond to God, and it is definitely something that takes practice. When you're constantly surrounded by noise and distractions, setting your mind on God does not come naturally.

Alexis: And then, if you do find time to pray, there's still the question of how to pray. I mean, are you just supposed to monologue to God about what you'd like to see happen in your life? That doesn't sound like much of a relationship to me.

What does your prayer life look like? How do you typically approach God in your prayers? What are the biggest challenges or barriers to you spending time in prayer? Pause the video and write down your thoughts.

Eli: However you answered those questions, consider it your starting point. Remember, you're in training.

The goal you're aiming for – we're all aiming for - is what Paul describes in 1 Thessalonians: to **"Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances."** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Alexis: How would you suggest someone get started?

Eli: I'm gonna suggest you get back to basics and learn to pray using the Lord's Prayer. You can find it in Matthew 6 and Luke 11.

It's a prayer that Jesus taught his followers, and it beautifully frames our conversation with God. In this prayer, we see who God is and who we are. Take a look.

When we look at this prayer, each phrase shows us who we are. We are God's beloved children, foreigners in this world, worshippers of a living God, citizens of God's kingdom, servants, beggars, and reformed sinners prone to sin again.

All your prayers should find a place within this prayer. Think of it like an outline to guide your time with God. Praying this way will train your heart to desire God and his kingdom first in your life

Alexis: I love that.

Eli: What about you? What tips do you have?

Alexis: I'm gonna suggest a resource, actually.

Eli: Let's hear it.

Alexis: Well, there are lots of apps out there that could help you grow some good prayer habits, but the one I'm going to recommend is called Lectio365.

Every day it talks you through a morning and evening prayer experience that includes meditating on Scripture. And they usually only take about 15 minutes. It's a great starting place.

Eli: Sounds like it. Alright, well that's our time for today. Next time we'll be wrapping up this session on faith by talking about the Holy Spirit. We'll be discussing how to discern the Spirit's voice, so make sure to tune in.