

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

October 23, 2016 – Faith

Faith is confidence that God is who He says He is and will do everything He promised to do.

Sports Word:

Baseball – how can a MLB player remain confident to hit when success is 3 out 10 (forget the strike outs, remember the hits).

Football – quarterbacks throwing the ball where the receiver is going to be not where he is (100 times in practice he is there)

Bull Riders – Justin McBride has the best career average with riding 4 out 10 bulls.

As a Christian, the foundation of our faith is a person, Jesus Christ.

Biblical faith is very misunderstood; if you read the Bible at all you will read the word FAITH over and over...

The Promises of God are the bridge that moves us from HOPE to FAITH

Things that God did not promise

He did not promise to keep bad things from happening to you. Most of his first followers died for their faith because they saw his rise from the dead

He did not promise wealth. Most lost everything to follow Jesus.

He did not promise to heal everyone. John 5, Jesus heals 1 at the pool of Bethesda, 100's were there sick...

He did not promise to stop the consequences of our sin

John 16:33 “...in this world you will have trouble.”

Hebrews 4:14-16 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, (sympathy is I feel bad for you, empathy is I've been there and I know what it's like) but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are...

Jesus knew what it was like to dread the events of the next day...

For us – a court date, Dr's appointment,

For Jesus – Crucifixion – he had seen it and knew he was going to experience it.

Jesus knew what it was like to be betrayed by a friend. He watched as Peter, the guy he had poured his life into told a young girl, “I don’t even know Jesus.”

Jesus knew rejection of a family member.

Jesus saw everything he worked for crumble around him.

Jesus knew temptation (he knew peoples thoughts, think how much money you could make if you could read minds). Every woman wanted to marry a man like Jesus. He was a rock star at one point.

This takes away our need to explain everything to God...He already knows

- **Yet he did not sin.** (purity leads to clarity)

16 Let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, boldly so that we may receive (every time you will receive something from God) **mercy** (not giving me what I deserve....this means that God will take your situation seriously, because he knows what you’re going through.

And find grace to help us in our time of need. Giving us what we don’t deserve. He may not deliver you FROM it but he will always take you THROUGH it.

Philippians 4:5-7 REMAIN CALM

5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near,

Don’t let your joy be determined by your circumstances, when your joy goes so will your character. The Lord is near. God has not gone anywhere.

REMOVE ANXIETY

6 Do not be anxious about anything. (Oh, I never thought of that) **but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God**

But in every situation...marriage, house, jobs, relationships do this instead..

In every situation by prayer, (all communication with God)

Petition, (asking God to directly do something)

Thanksgiving (humbly admitting that whatever God does it is right)

RETHINK YOUR REQUESTS

Present your requests to God

PRESENT = reveal Greek word in context means to solve a mystery. Nothing is a mystery to God, so it must be written to me. Spend the time necessary to understand for yourself and tell God what your deepest desire is.

That is the solution for anxiety.

Uncertainty brings to the surface our deepest prayers.

We seldom pray at the level of our deepest fear.

God, here is what I want and here is why I want it.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(not of circumstances) which transcends understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Guard = stand watch over

The reason we are so anxiety ridden is we have not allowed God to stand watch over our hearts and minds. We want him to guard our job, our health, kids, marriage.

CS Lewis – I pray not to change God but to change me...