

Facing the Giants In Marriage

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Preparing for Rain

Hebrews 11:6 Preparing for God's Answer

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

- > Key to any marriage is *the level of faith* you have for God to move.
 - Faith in God's plan for you
 - Faith in each other
 - Faith in your abilities
 - Faith in the abilities of others
- > Without faith you can not please God, but without God you have no faith.

Film Clip 38:30-40:30

Let's Talk About It: Where is the Rain?

1. By the time Coach had gotten to this point (unable to have children, broken down car, parents plotting to get rid of him as coach, and not being able to provide for his family) *where was he headed?*
2. How important was it that Mr. Bridges spoke a message from God? How important is that to you and your marriage?

Faith + Works = Rain Ready

James 2:14

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

> Linking faith and action is key in moving ahead in your marriage.

> Faith and Action = Miracles

Based on the promises of His Word

1 Corinthians 13 (last semester)

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22ff

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

> Our faith for growth in our marriage is not based on what we see, but what God desires for us.

Psalm 33:4

For the word of the LORD is right and true; *he is faithful in all he does.*⁵ The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

He is faithful in all He does, even when our marriage or our situation seems beyond our earthy hope.

Game ON!

1. When you come to the *faith/action starting line*, do you want to run the race?

Romans 15:13ff

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace *as you trust in him, so that you may overflow* with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

>Trusting the Lord for your marriage growth is a joy not a burden.

>When trusting and action go hand in hand our faith becomes a life style and the vision god has for us is about a blessing from Him, not of our own doing.

> Hope: vision to see beyond your limits...even in the good things.

> The power of the Holy Sprit > to accomplish the “new” direction you need to prepare for the rain of blessing.

2. Our understanding limits us to our comfort zone. God wants has a vision for our marriages that is far greater than the day. He wants a harvest from us...but it starts one seed at a time.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

⁸ This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

> We acknowledge Him with our actions:

Agape Love, Forgiveness, Compassion, Communication, Wholeheartedness, “Acts of Kindness” (name a few), Vision/ actions for your Marriage

READ> Hebrews 11

**This is the Faith chapter that links the faith and works.
Read it this week and get moving!**

