

HEARING

for Faith



The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon notes
of his message, preached August 26th, 2018

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✚ Our topic is ENOUGH Faith.... Sometimes we feel like we just don't have quite Enough Faith. How do we get more faith? When do we have enough?

✚ Last Sunday we discovered that real faith is a gift from God!

You cannot generate it; you cannot work it up; you cannot manufacture it. **It is given by God!** It comes from God! **It is not performance based...** it is a gift from God!

It is not "positive thinking". It is more than positive confession!

It is not an emotional feeling... it's not just feeling excited or optimistic

To often Christians place seek an emotional experience, a high, a feeling!

Feelings come and go! Faith is not based on a feeling!

The other thing that we discovered was that **Each of us has a measure of faith!** And we all are responsible to use the faith that we have... NOTHING MORE NOTHING LESS! Just be who God has called you to be!

We all have ENOUGH faith to do what God has assigned us to do!

Illustration: My motorcycle needs way less fuel than my SUV... they both have different assignments and applications!

**God has given us all the faith we need to
do what He has called us to do**

The issue is not quantity, the issue is purpose (What is your purpose?). Remember, Jesus said that faith was like a small seed which produces a very large tree! That small seed has all it needs to become all it was designed to become! **You have all the faith you need to do what God has called you to do!**

✚ In **Luke 5** we find Jesus teaching by the Lake of Gennesaret. There were two boats on shore and there was such a crowd of people that he asked to sit in Simon Peter's boat (This was before Simon Peter started to follow Jesus and he was washing his nets on the shore). So Jesus got into Simon's boat and had him push it out a bit, and he preached from the boat to the people on the shore. Kind of like an amphitheatre. After he got done he said to Simon Peter...

"Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon and his coworkers had been fishing the whole previous night and caught nothing.

That's a bad day! You work hard and get nothing accomplished, you pray and have no results...

You try and get ahead but nothing works! Frustrating, right? So when Jesus tells Simon to "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" it would be normal for Simon to answered and say to Jesus,

"Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."
And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. He and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." Luke 5:1-7, 9-10

✚ This was Simon Peter's first major encounter with Jesus. Jesus tells him,

"Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."



- They had toiled all night and caught nothing
- They are tired... just finished washing their nets
- And now this young carpenter from Nazareth is telling this experienced fisherman how to fish...
 “let down your nets for a catch”

Peter’s reply changes his whole life’s destination... “at Your word I will let down the net.”

Here is the key to understanding FAITH

- God does everything through His Word

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. Genesis 1:1–3 (NKJV)

Then God said... and He dividing the waters from the waters
 Then God said... and He caused the dry land to appear
 Then God said... and He caused the dry land to appear
 Then God said... and plants and trees started to grow
 Then God said... and stars, planets, appeared in the sky
 Then God said... and fish filled the waters
 Then God said... and animals filled the land
 Then God said... and He created humans in His likeness

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” John 1:1–3 (NKJV)

That same WORD could speak to the wind and the waves and they would obey. He could speak to the dead and they would rise. He could tell the blind to see and their eyes would open. He could tell the paralysed to get up and walk and they would get up... So when He tells Simon Peter to cast his nets into the deep for a catch fish in abundance would be there... and hearing that WORD Peter responds and says...

“at Your word I will let down the net.”

And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them.

The moment Peter heard those words from Jesus he received the faith and acted on that faith.

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17

There are two ways the word “WORD” is used in the Bible...

The Word (Important – foundation)	A Word (Creative – inspired)
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Illustration: GPS – ROAD CLOSED - Detour)

A general word for an overall use	A specific word for a specific situation
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The Word says: “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”. (Prov. 16:18). That’s a general Biblical principle. But if you go to the Gennesaret lake and cast your net you just might not get any fish. That was a specific WORD to Peter at a specific moment!

General Word	Specific Word
For an overall application	For a particular circumstance
Unrelated to a specific time	Designed for a specific occasion

✚ Another example also in Peter’s life.... In **Matthew 14** Jesus had been teaching all day and so late in the day he dismissed the crowd, told His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side and He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.

Now when evening came the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night (That’s between 3 am and 6 am) Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.” Matthew 14:22–29 (NKJV)

Just a couple of points:

- **Often a storm in our life, a crisis, precedes a spiritual discovery**
 - In our opening account, if Peter had of had a great catch the previous night this story would not even be in the Bible. A sleepless night with no apparent success ushered in for Peter a life changing experience.
 - In this story, they are rowing and rowing against the wind all night, getting nowhere and Jesus comes to them in the middle of the storm and they conclude that it’s a ghost!

Some of my greatest breakthroughs were preceded by a storm!

- **Notice in both stories Peter struggles with what Jesus says**
 - Jesus says, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” Peter reasons back, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing”.
 - Jesus says, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” Again, Peter reasons back, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” (IF! He just said “it is I”).

I am comforted by these details because they let me know that I am not abnormal, for often when he speaks to me my first reaction is to struggle and often recognise His leading.

But He is patient with us!

- **As the wind blew and the waves tossed his boat in the darkness of the night, Peter hears a simple word “come!”** That WORD “**come**” had packed in it all the faith Peter needed to walk on water. All he had to do is obey!



Illustration: Last week I was faced with something that really disturbed my spirit. It kept me up in the night, could not sleep. I seemed to imagine the very worst outcomes. I felt the Spirit whispering “don’t worry, I am with you” but, like Peter I struggled. Then I heard in my spirit a very clear question... that very short question filled me with faith, confidence and tremendous peace. It set me free!

That’s what I am talking about... **“Faith comes by hearing”**

That specific Word for your specific situation

It makes all the difference in the world! It turns a storm into a miracle; fear into peace; an empty boat after an all night of working in vain, into a boat overflowing with fish! It opens all kinds of possibilities, turns a mustard seed into a huge tree!

I close with one of my favourite verses, I pray it often...

Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life. Psalms 119:49-50

- He has a Word for each of you, His specific Word for you. It will give you all the faith you need to do what you need to do. It will give you hope. It will give you life... your boat will be filled with fish and you will walk on water!

Next week: HEARING His Voice

