



APPNOTES

Date: Apr 13-Apr 17, 2020

Series: Easter

Genesis 15:1-6 Here is a man who knows death will come, sooner rather than later, and he has no son. At this point, a child is not humanly possible. Yet God promised Abraham that God would give him a son, and Abraham believed. I'm not one who says every random thought that passes through my head is from God and I should claim it as a promise for myself. But if it is in the Bible, I believe it is true, and I cling to that. The Bible says everyone who believes in Jesus for salvation is saved, and Jesus' resurrection means everyone who believes will have eternal life, and the Holy Spirit lives inside everyone who believes, to give us the power of God. I believe that, and on the day that I believed, everything in my life changed. What about you? Have you believed this truth for yourself? Has your life been changed?

Exodus 12:1-13 Nine plagues hadn't changed Pharaoh's mind, but with this last plague, God was going to set His people free. "Put the blood over the door so I know where you are." Do you think God didn't know exactly which houses the people of Israel were in? He knows every hair of my head, and yours. The blood on the door post wasn't necessary for God; it was necessary for faith. Putting the blood on the doorpost meant they believed that He would save them. Our belief in Jesus is the same. Our salvation comes by faith, but often there is an act that goes along with it. Perhaps it's walking away from repetitive sin. Perhaps it's stepping up to serve. Perhaps it's faithfully giving your tithe to the church. God knows your heart and sees your faith, but God gives us the opportunity to act on what we believe. What is your next step?

Joshua 2:12-21 Rahab was a prostitute, below the notice of most people, and from the people whom the nation of Israel was about to conquer. Yet she believed in the God of Israel, and in faith she asked for protection when the Israelites attacked Jericho. The two Israelite spies promised to save her and her family, but only if she did something: she had to hang a scarlet cord in the window. Our faith is what saves us, but there is still something we need to do: we need to act on that faith. Perhaps that means being baptized at the next opportunity. Perhaps it means stepping up to serve. Perhaps it means sharing what you believe with your family and neighbors. In a moment, our faith

in Jesus changes everything, and then, moving forward, it changes each action and word and thought. Jesus changes everything; then Jesus changes each thing.

Acts 9:1-6 This man was actively working to imprison and kill the followers of Jesus. But on the road to Damascus, this man is stopped by a blinding light and a voice. The voice is the risen Jesus, and in this moment this man believes. The man's name is Saul, but who is he? He is the man we know as the apostle Paul, teacher to the Gentiles, writer of most of the New Testament. This moment on the Damascus road changed his life, but it also had implications for all of us, for if you are not of Jewish heritage, then the fact that you believe is in some way due to Paul's ministry to the Gentiles. For all of us who believe, our story is not only ours, but it can impact the wider world around us. Have faith; God will use you to do great things.

1 Peter 1:17-22 You have believed in Jesus, that His death and resurrection mean you are forgiven and will have eternal life. Now what? Do we just go back to life as usual? There is no denying that as believers, we will still struggle with sin. But when the Holy Spirit lives inside us, we have the power to overcome that sin. How then, should we live? We live knowing this world is not our ultimate home; we won't be home until we reach God's presence. This faith and hope in God will change the way we live, very simply, by allowing us to sincerely love one another. Elsewhere in Scripture (1 Corinthians 13), it says, "Faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love." Faith will save me, and save you, individually. But loving each other will help others find their way back to God, and that will change their "everything".

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