

THE STORY (A Discipleship Course)

Chapter 4 – Between the Words of the Story

March 1st, 2023

1 A Quick Review

- **Story Matters**—Story is how God designed life to unfold.
- **Chapter 1**—From the beginning, the creation story shows the contrast between LOVE and FEAR.
- **Chapter 2**—Meaninglessness and the power of Sin spread through the land because of the “fear of death.” The only solution was to introduce The Son into the story.
- **Chapter 3**—Ultimately, the call of God into the Kingdom is to believe Him again. So, Jesus gifted us the powerful tool of REPENTANCE & BAPTISM—not as a way to win God’s affection, but as an ongoing daily process of restoration to a pre-Fall lifestyle of presence and mission.

2 Hidden between the words of our story, there is a power that ignites everything God has seen and brings it into our reality.

- At the center of Jesus’ teaching on the “abundant life,” Jesus gives us the principle of believing in and living by the _____.

- Consider the most impactful and powerful moments of your life...you believed something you could not see, today; and because you believed it, it produced far more than you could imagine.
 - As soon as you spoke it, it activated something!
 - It created _____.
 - It created a _____.
 - It engaged _____.
 - It spoke to a greater _____ in you.
 - It called you into an _____.

- **The BIG QUESTION:** What is this activating substance to our story?

3 You can only be led into supernatural nature of the Kingdom when you live by the unseen, initiated by a "_____."

➤ **Romans 10:5–17 (ESV) — 5** For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. **6** But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) **7** "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **8** But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); **9** because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. **11** For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. **13** For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." **14** How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? **15** And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" **16** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" **17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

➤ As soon as we declare our belief in what God reveals, it _____ that promise to begin working in our lives.

➤ Faith (belief) is initiated by the _____. (v.8-10)

➤ My believing, followed by speaking the Word, initiates new _____ to my story.

4 Once I start the race of faith, faith keeps me connected to a story building process with the _____.

➤ **John 14:26 (ESV) — 26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

➤ _____ comes alive in the Presence of the Holy Spirit—in other words, the Spirit is _____ in us calling to our _____.

- **Galatians 3:1–14 (ESV)** — **1** O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. **2** Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? **3** Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? **4** Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? **5** Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— **6** just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? **7** Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. **8** And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” **9** So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. **10** For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” **11** Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” **12** But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” **13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— **14** so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

- There is “Hearing” the Word of God, and then there is “_____.”
- Faith doesn't _____ God; faith _____ to God.
 - Faith seeks the place of God's greatest _____. (**Hebrews 11:6**)
 - Faith believes for the greater, the higher, and the deeper.
 - Faith pushes past being afraid of God and presses into the _____.
 - Faith pursues as a mission supernatural provision, interventions, and possibilities.

5 Developing Greater Vision for the Use of Our Faith

- “All things are possible to Him who believes.” (Mark 9:23)
- **John 14:8–14 (ESV)** — **8** Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” **9** Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. **12** “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. **13** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.
- God in Jesus, and them in us, call us to produce “_____” of heaven.
 - Talk and live the lifestyle of one filled with the _____.

6 **Another huge consideration: to truly be led by the Holy Spirit into the greater story, you must come to the _____.**

- **John 12:24 (ESV) — 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.**
- A seed contains everything it needs for the _____ intended for it.
- A seed must be placed into the right _____ in order for its design to take over.
- Everything in the flesh wants to _____ itself—to hide and isolate.
- Your _____ will often-times silence the “Word of Faith” growing in you.
- Faith trusts in the _____ where God desires to _____ us.

7 **Some Final Thoughts on Faith**

- You already have ears to _____.
- Fuel your _____ with growth-minded information.
- Make faith-filled _____ a normal reality.
- Give _____ opportunity to challenge you.
- Believe _____ than your willingness.
- Be more than _____; be a _____.
- Live by _____ rather than _____.
- Never stop _____ for the impossible.