

# CORNERSTONE **DISCIPLESHIP** GROUPS

## LIVING BY THE WORD OF FAITH

*Sunday, November 9, 2025*

*Pastor Jonathan Burns*

### HOUSEKEEPING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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### OPENING PRAYER

Begin your group time by inviting the Holy Spirit to illuminate God's Word and open hearts to receive truth.

### RECAP OF LAST WEEK

### ICE BREAKER

Share a time when you first became a Christian (or heard the Gospel clearly). How did your perspective on Scripture change after that moment?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### The Transformation of Spiritual Sight

- Natural people cannot understand spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:12-14)
- The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see Scripture differently
- We're called to live from our transformed spirits outward, not from our five senses inward

### Faith vs. Hope

- Faith is NOT the same as hope
- Faith is "now faith" - always in the present tense
- Faith is the title deed (assurance) of things hoped for and the convicting evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1)
- Faith is rooted in God's promises through Christ's finished work, not in manifesting or positive thinking

### Walking by Faith

- We received Christ by faith; we must walk in Him by faith (Colossians 2:6-7)
- Faith should be exercised regularly, not just during crises
- Our faith should be IN GOD and His promises, not in our own faith
- What God promises, He has the power to accomplish (Isaiah 55:10-11)

### The Word Does the Work

- God's Word contains divine power to bring about its own fulfillment
- Jesus is the Word made flesh
- Our confession should align with God's Word, not our circumstances
- We should never confess something opposite to God's promises

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Understanding Faith

- Read Hebrews 10:38-11:1. What is the difference between faith and hope? Why is this distinction important?
- The sermon stated that "faith is always in the now moment." What does this mean practically? How does this challenge the way you've thought about faith?
- How would you explain the difference between biblical faith and "manifesting" or positive thinking that the world practices?

### Living by Faith

- Read Colossians 2:6-7. We received Christ by faith. What does it look like to "walk in Him" by faith in everyday life? Give specific examples.
- Pastor Jonathan mentioned that many Christians don't exercise their faith until a crisis hits - "like assembling the airplane while it's in the air."
  - Have you experienced this?
  - How can we build our faith muscles before trials come?
- What are some promises God has made to believers through Christ's finished work? (The sermon mentions healing, victory, peace, prosperity, etc.) Which of these is hardest for you to believe?

### The Power of Confession

- Read Mark 11:22-24. Jesus cursed the fig tree and it died from the roots up. What principles about faith did Jesus teach through this incident?
- The sermon emphasized: "If it is real faith, rooted in the word of God, that word of God should always be your word - the confession of your mouth."
  - Why is speaking our faith important?
  - What's the difference between denying reality and confessing God's truth over our circumstances?
- Pastor Jonathan asked: "Would you ever walk around saying you're not saved because you're feeling down?"
  - Why should our faith in God's other promises be just as certain as our faith in our salvation?
  - What areas of your life need this same level of conviction?

### Checking Our Hearts

- The sermon warned against having "faith in our faith" rather than faith in God. What does this mean? How can we tell the difference?
- Read Isaiah 53. What has Jesus already accomplished for us through His finished work on the cross? How should this shape our faith today?

## CALL TO ACTION

### This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

1. Scripture Confession: Identify one promise of God relevant to your current situation. Write it down and speak it aloud daily, declaring what God says rather than what circumstances look like.
2. Faith Inventory: Journal about an area where you're exercising hope rather than faith. What would it look like to move from hope to "now faith" in that area?
3. Gratitude Practice: The sermon mentioned believers should be "the most grateful people you have ever encountered." Each day this week, list 5 specific things related to Christ's finished work that you're grateful for.
4. Study God's Promises: Choose one category (healing, provision, peace, etc.) and find 5-7 scriptures that reveal God's promises in that area. Meditate on these throughout the week.

### Accountability:

- Share with one person in your group which application you're committing to
- Plan to check in with each other during the week

## CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for one another regarding:

- Areas where group members need breakthrough or are standing in faith
- Strengthening of faith to believe God's promises as firmly as we believe in our salvation
- Wisdom to live from our spirits outward rather than from circumstances inward
- Anyone who may need to make the initial decision to believe in Jesus for salvation

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Recommended Scripture Reading for the Week:

- Romans 10:8-17 (faith comes by hearing the Word)
- James 2:14-26 (faith and works)
- Hebrews 11 (heroes of faith)
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 (walking by faith, not by sight)

Question for Next Week:

Come prepared to share: "What happened when you put your faith into action this week?"

"Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith." - Colossians 2:6-7