

BUILDING A FAITH THAT STICKS IN 2026 - Part 2
First Baptist Church and The Lakefront Church - Venice, Florida
One Church - Two Locations January 4, 2026

Matthew 24:36-39 (CSB) *"Now concerning that day and hour no one knows—neither the angels of heaven nor the Son —except the Father alone. ³⁷As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. ³⁸For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. ³⁹They didn't know until the flood came and swept them all away. This is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be.*

Genesis 6:8 (CSB) *Noah, however, found favor with the LORD... Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God.*

- How does a person know they are walking with God?

I. Walking With God Is Relational.

Amos 3:3 (CSB) *Can two walk together without agreeing to meet?*

1. Walking Implies Companionship. Companionship includes:

A. Appreciation - Enter His gates with Thanksgiving

Who you appreciate, you value; who you value, you love.

B. Communication

- (1) We listen. Read God's Word.

Psalms 119:11 (CSB) *I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.*

- (2) We talk. Pray to God.

Philippians 4:6-7 (CSB) *Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

C. Devotion

Genesis 6:15 (CSB) *This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. [With three decks!]*

Genesis 8:18-19 (CSB) *So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, came out. ¹⁹All the animals, all the creatures that crawl, and all the flying creatures—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark by their families.*

- Devotion to God is because of His blessings, not to get them.

II. Walking With God Is Resolute

Resolute - firmly decided and unwilling to back down, even when it's difficult, unpopular, or costly.

Luke 22:31-32 (CSB) *"Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

Luke 22:54-55 (CSB) *They seized Him [Jesus], led Him away, and brought Him into the high priest's house. Meanwhile Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, and Peter sat among them.*

Matthew 27:11 (CSB) *Now Jesus stood before the governor. "Are you the king of the Jews?" the governor asked Him. Jesus answered, "You say so."*

"You say so." Voice: Active. Jesus is not passive, evasive, or confused.

Mood: Indicative. Not a question, not a condition, not irony. A statement of fact

Acts 1:12-15 (CSB) *Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they arrived, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴They all were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters - the number of people who were together was about a hundred twenty ...*

Acts 2:12-14 (CSB) *They were all astounded and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But some sneered and said, "They're drunk on new wine." ¹⁴Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, "Fellow Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay attention to my words.*

Acts 15:6-8 (CSB) *The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. ⁷After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you are aware that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the gospel message and believe. ⁸And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he also did to us.*

Matthew 26:64 (CSB) *"You have said it," Jesus told him. "But I tell you, in the future you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

Romans 8:34b (CSB) *... He also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.*