

## **WEEK SIX: THE ROLE OF FAITH**

**Statement...today we discuss the role of faith. I am not speaking of faith as a set of beliefs, reciting a Creed, but our daily walk with God. Christians are called “people of faith” but the truth is: all people have faith in something/someone**

**FAITH UP FOR GRABS...these days, many people have lost confidence in institutions/authority. They seek truth but they don't know where to look. They approach faith like CONSUMERS: they test VALUE/VALIDITY of everything; they make up their beliefs as they go. Sadly, many Christians seem unsure what they are supposed to believe much less what they do believe.**

**GROUNDING IN HISTORY... Christianity has CONTENT, grounded in history, based on a truth that is outside and beyond us. We received a story that we did not start. Other world religions strive for moral perfection, but Christianity is focused on WHAT GOD HAS DONE, not WHAT WE MUST DO or KNOW. No human can find God. In Jesus, GOD FOUND US.**

**FAITH IS A MUSCLE...faith is like a muscle: it requires exercise, repetition, and training. The more we exercise it, the stronger it gets. It starts every day. The more we put our faith to work, the more faith works on us. By acting on what God calls us to do. No one can take our steps of faith for us.**

**TRUST, NOT CLARITY...our confidence lies in God's character, not our personal security. We always lack CERTAINTY; what we need is TRUST, wisely placed. Faith isn't flying by seat of our pants; it is trusting God one day/moment at a time, depending on his guidance. Our problem isn't INABILITY but INCONSISTENCY. We are “faithful in spurts”**

**DISCERNMENT...a key biblical concept: discernment. It is not just making good choices, or knowing right from wrong; it is knowing THE GOOD from THE BEST. It isn't a quick fix we use to solve our problem; it is the 1ST STEP we take toward wisdom. We can't do what is wise till we've deduced what IS WISE, as compared to what only LOOKS WISE. We must grow our souls**

