

# Discussion Guide



Summer 2010 Sermon Series

<http://www.rbcpc.org/spiritual-apps/>

## “Transformed by Faith”

Week # 6, August 14/15, 2010

1. **Scriptures:** Mark 9: 21-29, Luke 8:40-56, *free* mobile Bible apps available:
  - iphone: visit App Store, ibible or Bible: Life Church YouVersion
  - blackberry/droid: visit App World, Bible: Life Church YouVersion

2. **Sermon:** “Transformed by Informed Faith” Pastor Bruce Humphrey,  
<http://www.rbcpc.org/about-us/sermons/>

Reading Resource: [www.amazon.com/Life-Youve-Always-Wanted-Disciplines/](http://www.amazon.com/Life-Youve-Always-Wanted-Disciplines/)

Practicing the Spiritual Apps: [www.rbcpc.org/small-groups/](http://www.rbcpc.org/small-groups/)

3. **Study resources**
  - Primary: John Ortberg, *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*, “The Guided Life”, Chapter 9
  - Secondary: Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, pg. 39-46
4. **Study Guide** <http://www.rbcpc.org/spiritual-apps/>
5. **Blog** <http://spiritualapps.blogspot.com/>

Next week:

Aug 21/22: **Sermon:** “Transformed by Patience”

**Study:** *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*, “An Unhurried Life,” Chapter 5  
*Celebration of Discipline*, pg. 110-125

## ***“Transformed by Faith”***

### **Scripture References**

Read and reflect on the following scriptures. What do they say to you about the practice of *faith*?

#### **Luke 8:40-56**

Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him.<sup>41</sup> Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house,<sup>42</sup> for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying. As he went, the crowds pressed in on him.<sup>43</sup> Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her.<sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped.<sup>45</sup> Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you."<sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me."<sup>47</sup> When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed.<sup>48</sup> He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."<sup>49</sup> While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer."<sup>50</sup> When Jesus heard this, he replied, "Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved."<sup>51</sup> When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother.<sup>52</sup> They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping."<sup>53</sup> And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.<sup>54</sup> But he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!"<sup>55</sup> Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat.<sup>56</sup> Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

*Notes:*

#### **Mark 9: 21-29**

Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.<sup>22</sup> It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us."<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you are able!-- All things can be done for the one who believes."<sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"<sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!"<sup>26</sup> After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead."<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand.<sup>28</sup> When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"<sup>29</sup> He said to them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."

*Notes:*

## ***“Transformed by Faith”***

### **Discussion Guide**

#### **Sermon**

Key Words: ***Faith – Belief – Doubt – Healing – Truth***

1. ***“When followers of Jesus talk about faith, we need to carefully define what we mean. We are not talking about some undisciplined, blind leap in the dark. We are talking about a disciplined faith that is informed by multiple trustworthy pieces of evidence.”*** Bruce Humphrey. Why do humans continue to need evidence of *faith*?
2. What is the difference between *belief* and *faith*?
3. What makes *faith* a spiritual discipline?
4. How does Jesus correct the way we look at an event to find the truth?
5. What is “unbelief?” What tools does Jesus give us to cure us of our “unbelief?”

#### **Scripture**

6. Read the Luke 8:40-56 scripture. What message do you think Jesus is trying to tell us about *faith* and healing? Why?
7. How does this story show how much Jesus loves us?
8. What things does Jesus do in this scripture, or what does He instruct others to do, that shows how He wants us to love each other?
9. Read the Mark 9:21-29 scripture. With which character in the story do you identify? Discuss the *faith* of that character.
10. Consider the healing that took place in the Mark scripture. How was the father healed?

#### **Study Resource\***

\* Note: Although closely related, the corresponding text in *The Life You’ve Always Wanted* deals more with the discipline of *listening* to the Holy Spirit rather than the discipline of *faith*.

11. What does Ortberg mean by “spiritual mindlessness?”
12. Ortberg gives three Biblical examples of God going to great lengths to show evidence of His presence: Jacob, Samuel, and Balaam.
  - a) Jacob: Genesis 28:10-22. How did God communicate with Jacob? Why was it important for Jacob to listen to God at that time?
  - b) Samuel: 1 Samuel 3:1-14. Why didn’t Samuel recognize God’s voice? Samuel believes what Eli tells him – what does this say about Samuel’s *faith*? About Samuel’s need for *evidence*?
  - c) Balaam: Numbers 22:21-31. Why do you think God chose to speak to Balaam through a donkey? How was this transforming for Balaam?
13. ***“We must come to believe – mind-stretching as it sounds – that God really can and does personally attend to us.”*** p. 156. Why does God go to such great lengths to communicate with us?

## ***“Transformed by Faith”***

### **Life Applications SPIRITUAL APP: Faith**

Think about what you are trying to achieve through the discipline of *faith* - keep that in mind as you go through this section.

*Remember that not all spiritual apps/disciplines will work for everyone. Celebrate that fact! Spiritual disciplines are a lot like spiritual gifts in that the Holy Spirit uses each one of us in a unique way. If this one does not work for you, don't give up, try the next one!*

#### **Personal:**

Name the people involved in the Luke scripture. Take a piece of paper and make two columns: label one, “Evidence” and label the other, “Faith.” Write the name of each person in either the *faith* or by *evidence* column.

- Is the list balanced? Why/why not?
- In which category do you think you would fit?
- Does this exercise contain a personal message for you? Share your results and concerns with Jesus in prayer.

#### **Small Group:**

Looking back to look forward:

- Describe a time you experienced God's healing: spiritual, physical or emotional.
- Did you see *evidence* of God's presence? Share.
- How does looking back at this difficult time, or experience, help grow your *faith*?
- What does this tell you about the nature of God?

#### **Pray:**

Personal: Submit your health – physical, emotional and spiritual – to the loving and healing touch of Jesus. Pray for enough *faith* to believe He will heal you.

Group: Pray for strength and encouragement within your group as you share your testimonies – that these testimonies will increase the measure of *faith* in each of you.

Kingdom: Pray with confident assurance that what followers of Jesus hope for is going to happen – that the evidence of things we cannot yet see will be revealed and all eyes will be open to receive His truth.