

May 28, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

Where will your journey take you?

Name:

Take me home!



HOW IS YOUR JOURNEY? ...

Where are you going and when will you get there?....

We are all on a journey and we are all heading somewhere. We journey through school years, we journey through or family life, we journey through friendships and we are all on a spiritual journey. For the next few weeks we are going to be looking at our spiritual journey. Asking questions that make us think about who we were, who we are and who we want to become. Where we are in our spiritual journey has a lot to do with who we are. When we refer to spiritual journey what images come to your mind? How do you define spiritual journey? Some people might think about praying all the time are always reading their bible as an image of a spiritual journey. Have you ever thought of your spiritual journey as a relationship? A relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Think about the first time that you really met God, think about the relationship that you have with

God. Has it grown? Has it become more and more real to you? We all have relationships, some grow and become a large part of our life, while others are here one day and gone the next. As we journey through life we see that our relationship with God either grows or it fades away. Take a look at **James 4:8-10 8 Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Make your hearts pure, you who can't make up your minds. 9 Be full of sorrow. Cry and sob. Change your laughter to crying. Change your joy to sadness. 10 Bow down to the Lord. He will lift you up.** Is your journey leading you to come near to God or to pull away from God? We have choices and freedom, we have to decide. I love verse 10 because it allows God to lift me up and guide my journey, if I am willing to surrender and admit that He is the purpose of my journey...

Would you rather...?

...be woken up by music or by an alarm?

...step in dog poop barefoot or have a bird-dropping hit you on the head?

...have a life full of good memories or a life full of exciting adventures you couldn't remember?



Living Extreme means...

You know where you are going and you have a plan to get you there. Where is your journey going? Do you include God in that journey? For so many of us we grew up in the church and we have been surrounded by the christian faith our whole life. We have become comfortable with God and with the notion that we will just grow old with Him. But we are not extreme, we don't set a course to follow Him at all cost. Many of us say we would but we don't in our daily choices, because we don't even include God in our day. This is the work of the thief playing with our lives. We think we are something that we are not. We are deceived! So what does it mean to be on a journey with God? Try these on and see what you think.

Things we do to stay on journey with God:

Spend time with Him everyday.
Seek His wisdom about every decision.
Learn new things about the journey.
Base all that we are about what He says about us.

So are you extreme? This is just a small list of things one can be doing to grow in their spiritual journey with God. We are all on a journey, but we are not all on the same road. Where is your road leading you?

CHARACTER

Is your character based on your relationship with God? Or is your character based on what you feel. God is stable and does not change, if we base who we are on God then we will be steady and fixed on we long to become. If we base our character on feelings then we will be well crazy because who we are from day to day will change depending on how we are feeling. Don't be crazy, base your character on God and keep the journey alive...

Think About it...

(Growing and journeys)

How do you grow? Funny question, since in the physical sense we just grow. It just happens one day you can wear those jeans and the next day they just don't fit anymore. What happened? Well you grew. But does this type of growing happen with all parts of our life, are do we have to work to grow other areas. If a person never went to school would they stay dumb or would they grow in knowledge through life experience? The question is tricky, and you have to think about it. Things just grow, and learning happens everyday even when we don't attempt to learn. But is that what we are really talking about here, or is there something more. Apply the growing just by itself to relationships that you have with people. Do friendships just grow even though you don't spend any time with them? If you never asked them questions. If you never ever cared for them? No of course not. To make a relationship grow you have to put in the time and learn who that person is and what that person is about. You have to develop the relationship. That is the way a journey works, if you never move then you won't get very far. You have to move and explore and grow in order for a journey to go some where. So how is your journey where have you been and where are you heading?

If you don't think about it and if you don't plan then you will never ever really get where you want to go. This is true for all journeys. However for most of us we think our journey and our relationship with God is just going to take care of itself and we don't have to do anything. If you believe that then well things might not look so good for you in the future because hard things will come your way.

It is time for you to take a serious look at the journey your relationship with God is on and figure out how you are going to go, and where you hope to end up. If you don't stop and look around once and a while you might not know how you got to the place you are at.

The journey is yours, you have to decide where it is going, and what you will need to do to get there.

James 4:8-10 8 Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Make your hearts pure, you who can't make up your minds. 9 Be full of sorrow. Cry and sob. Change your laughter to crying. Change your joy to sadness. 10 Bow down to the Lord. He will lift you up.

Finish this Sentence:

(Fill in the blank... How would you finish this sentence?)

In my spiritual journey I feel I'm...

*How would you describe your relationship with God? (using only one Word)

*Take a look at James 4:8-10 what do you think it is saying?

*How has your journey ever looked like James 4:8-10?
