

What to do when you don't have enough ...
Faith

What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1 'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see'.

Discussion: what are the promises of God that ought to shape our experience and expectations of church planting?

Why might this lack of faith arise?

Discussion: Why might we find ourselves thinking that this isn't going to work? Or it isn't working?

1. Unfulfilled expectations.
2. Unrealistic expectations.
3. Ungodly expectations.

What's the problem when we don't have enough faith?

The problem is what it does to us. It's where it leads. It doesn't necessarily lead us to a good place. In fact, it may lead us to the place of the 6Ds.

1. Disappointed
2. Discouraged
3. Despondent
4. Disheartened
5. Disengaged
6. Departed

What are the symptoms that we've lost faith?

Discussion: what do you think will be some key indicators that we've lost faith in the church planting enterprise?

What are our options?

1. We could quit.
2. We could continue.
3. We could recalibrate.

What do we need when our faith is failing?

Have you realised that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? Take thought thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up in the morning. You have not originated them but they are talking to you, they bring back the problems of yesterday, etc. Somebody is talking. Who is talking to you? Your self is talking to you'

M Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression*, p20-21

Discussion: what are the biblical doctrines that you think we need to revisit to put fire in our hearts once again? Or the doctrines that will sustain us when things are demanding?

Eight doctrines to remember

1

2

3

4

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6

7

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1. Remind yourself how things work
2. Remind yourself of your responsibility to pray
3. Remind yourself of God's promises
4. Remind yourself of the plan

Reading and Resources

I have found the following chapters in Wisdom in Leadership, Craig Hamilton helpful

The Gospel is God's Power, Chapter 3

God uses Means, Chapter 7

Focus on Doing your Job, chapter 8

Hopetivism, chapter 25

Learn Relaxed Concern Chapter 64