FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH     LESSON #2

Jude 1:3 (NIV)
Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

1 John 5:4 (NIV)
for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

Intro. Tonight’s lesson is one of the most important in this series.

Psalm 107:2 (NKJV)
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

1. We’re going to look at the power of our faith’s confession
   a. How what we believe about God affects what we say about Him

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)  Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

   b. Words are containers; they hold life or death, the power to encourage or discourage

   • We need to watch our words; they have power for good or bad

I. OUR FAITH AND OUR CONFESSION ARE

Romans 10:8 (NKJV)
But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach).
A. FAITH ISN’T SOMETHING THAT LIVES IN ___________

1. Faith has to do with our heart and ________________
   a. What we believe in our hearts must and will be confessed with our mouths
   b. This is so important that even our conversion depends on it

Romans 10:8-10 (NKJV)
8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):
9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
   c. 3 times in these 3 verses Paul stresses the importance of speaking the faith that is in our hearts

2. This is a ________________; what is in our heart will come out of our mouth
   a. Whether for good or bad

Luke 6:45 (NKJV)
"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.
   b. Jesus is saying if we want to know someone’s heart, all we have to do is listen to what they say
   c. This is so important that Jesus said it will be one of the measures of judgment!

Matt 12:36-37 (NKJV)
36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment."
"For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

3. We need to ________________ what we say more closely
   a. The things we say about God, about ourselves, about others, about life, about finances, about everything

**James 3:2-3 (NKJV)**
2  For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.
3  Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

   b. The point here is we have to "bridle our tongues"

**James 3:5-6 (NKJV)**
5  Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!
6  And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

**B. THE SPOKEN WORD IS AN _________________**

1. The Bible begins with _________________
   a. In the first two chapters of Genesis alone- 11x’s it uses the phrase, "God said."

2. The word of God isn’t static or stationary; ___________

**Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)**
So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.
Psalms 107:20 (NKJV)
He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

- God’s word travels and does things wherever it goes
  
  a. Isaiah 55:11 says it causes things to prosper wherever it goes
  b. Psalms 107:20 says it brings healing and deliverance wherever it is sent

3. When Jesus spoke, ______________________

Matthew 8:24-26 (NKJV)
24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.
25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"
26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Mark 5:39-42 (NKJV)
39 When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."
40 And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.
41 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."
42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.

- When Jesus spoke, things happened
  
  a. This same spiritual law applies to us

C. ______________________ WHEN WE SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD
Matthew 17:20 (NKJV)
...for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

1. We don’t need ________________
   a. All we need is a little faith, as small as a mustard seed, and then PLANT IT!

2. We “plant” our faith with ________________
   • “you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”
     a. All of us at times face mountains; mountains of bills, conflict, worry, hassles with other people, of sickness
     b. We need to get into the word of God, find out what it says about our mountain, and then plant a seed of faith by speaking the word to that mountain

3. Examples of words to ________________
   a. Sickness

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)
who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed.

ex. “I believe that by Your stripes I am healed.”

b. Need

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)
And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
ex. “I trust You to supply all my need according to Your riches…”

c. Worry and anxiety

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)
6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

ex. "I bring all these worries to You believing that Your peace will guard my heart and mind through Christ Jesus."

d. Weakness

Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)
Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

ex. "I will be strong in the You and in the power of Your might."

e. Loneliness

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NKJV)
5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

ex. "Thank You Jesus for never leaving or forsaking me. You are my helper and I won’t be afraid of anything. As long as You’re with me, what can anyone do to me."

• The confession of our faith is so important; speaking what we believe

Mark 11:22-23 (NKJV)
22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God."
"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.

- We plant faith deep in our hearts when we confess it

II. FAITH AND OUR CONFESSION OF

A. THANKSGIVING IS MORE THAN GRATITUDE TOWARD GOD, IT HAS

1. Thanksgiving is one of the most powerful ___________ of our confession
   a. When we voice with our mouths how thankful we are for who God is, what He has done for us, and what He’s going to continue to do, we release a powerful dimension of faith

- Confession is more than quoting scripture
- It has a lot to do with speaking our gratitude and thanks to God

B. OUR CONFESSION OF THANKS SHOULD COVER

Ephesians 5:20 (NKJV)
giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)
in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1. Now if we’re going to pull this off it’s going to take some ___________
   a. It takes faith to cultivate a thankful attitude about our lives
2. The truth is we’re a lot better at ___________________
   a. Complaining can color our outlook on life
   b. It will diminish our capacity to enjoy the good life God has given us

*Philippians 2:14 (NKJV)* Do *all things* without complaining and disputing.

3. We can ___________________ being thankful instead of complaining

*1Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)* In everything give thanks.

   a. How do we do that? In everything???
   b. By believing that God has the final say over everything in our lives and He will work it out

*Romans 8:28 (NKJV)* And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- There’s a way we can test whether our faith is growing
- We can tell how much faith we have by how thankful we are and how little we complain

- One of the most important expressions of our faith is a confession of thanksgiving
- We all have a lot to be thankful for

**PRAYER AND CONFESSION:** Thank You Jesus, that Your word has power. It carries the power of life. I understand that my words also carry power, the power of life or death. I want what I say to bring life. I will plant my faith by speaking Your word. I will speak Your words of forgiveness, healing, and encouragement over my life and others. Help me remember to replace griping, complaining, and negativity with thanksgiving. My confession will be one that brings life, in Jesus’ name, Amen.
FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #2

I. OUR FAITH AND OUR CONFESSION ARE
   (CONNECTED)

   A. FAITH ISN’T SOMETHING THAT LIVES IN (OUR HEART
      ALONE)
      1. Faith has to do with our heart and (our mouth)
      2. This is a (spiritual law); what is in our heart will
         come out of our mouth
      3. We need to (watch over) what we say more closely

   B. THE SPOKEN WORD IS AN (AWESOME FORCE)
      1. The Bible begins with (God talking)
      2. The word of God isn’t static or stationary; (it travels)
      3. When Jesus spoke, (things happened)

   C. (THINGS WILL HAPPEN) WHEN WE SPEAK THE WORD
      OF GOD
      1. We don’t need (“big faith”)’
      2. We “plant” our faith with (our words)
      3. Examples of words to (speak to mountains)

II. FAITH AND OUR CONFESSION OF (THANKSGIVING)

   A. THANKSGIVING IS MORE THAN GRATITUDE TOWARD
      GOD, IT HAS (INcredible POWER)
1. Thanksgiving is one of the most powerful (expressions) of our confession

B. OUR CONFESSION OF THANKS SHOULD COVER (EVERYTHING IN OUR LIFE)

1. Now if we’re going to pull this off it’s going to take some (faith)

2. The truth is we’re a lot better at (griping and complaining)

3. We can (cultivate) being thankful instead of complaining