

STEPS OF FAITH: GOD'S WORD

1. Introduction

- a. Joshua had great, courageous steps of faith
- b. This 4 week series will address how we can take courageous steps of faith
 - i. God's Word
 - ii. The Holy Spirit
 - iii. Prayer
 - iv. Community
- c. Story
- d. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
 - i. *For Dummies* books
 1. Over 2500 different titles
 2. 200 million books in print
 3. Topics include Acne, Fishing, Divorce, Puppies, and Fortnite
 - ii. The Bible is the ultimate guide "for dummies"
 1. We all need help
 2. We all need God's guidance

2. Bible Facts

- a. 66 books
 - i. Divided into 2 main sections
 1. Old Testament
 2. New Testament
 - ii. Organized by Chapter and Verse
 1. Reference is book name, then chapter, then verse
 2. John 3:16
 - iii. 30,442 verses
 - iv. 40 different authors guided by the Holy Spirit
 1. Tax collector, king, philosopher, fisherman, rabbi, etc.
 2. Written over 1500-year period
- b. Source of Answers
 - i. Reveals God's Character
 1. His Mind
 2. His Will
 3. His Nature
 4. His Ways
 - ii. Explains Life's Circumstances
 1. Creation
 2. Humankind
 - a. Self (Who am I?)
 - b. Relationships (How do I deal with them?)
 3. Sin
 - a. "All have sinned"

- b. All need a Savior (Jesus)
 - 4. Eternity
 - c. God's Word
 - i. 2 Timothy 3:16, "Breathed out by God"
 - 1. The word of God can be trusted
 - 2. The word of man cannot be trusted
 - ii. Over 15,000 references to God
 - iii. A personal word from God to know Him more deeply.
 - iv. Not intended to acquire knowledge but to get acquainted with God and His purpose for you.
 - d. Truth
 - i. God never changes and is always true
 - 1. "Because we can trust the God of the Word we can trust the Word of God to be true as well." Anonymous
 - 2. Malachi 3:6, "I the LORD do not change"
 - ii. His word can never change and will always be true
 - 1. Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."
 - 2. John 17:17, "Your word is truth."
 - iii. Absolute truth DOES exist and cannot change based on culture, preference, time, feelings, or popularity.
 - 1. God is all-knowing. His words cannot expire.
 - 2. "If only God would've known there would be buffets He never would've taught about self-control and gluttony." Matt Chandler
3. God's Word is the foundation "for teaching"
 - a. "profitable" teaching means teaching what is right and truthful
 - b. THE source of truth is God's Word
 - c. Studying the truth is necessary for teaching
4. God's Word is the foundation "for reproof"
 - a. "to scold and correct in a sharp way"
 - b. If someone is to be scolded sharply, it MUST be based on Truth not preference or emotion.
5. God's Word is the foundation "for correction"
 - a. "to restore to an upright or right state with the improvement of life or character"
 - b. You can correct others
 - c. You can correct yourself
 - i. If truth wasn't absolute but based on each individual to define, correction wouldn't exist or be necessary
 - ii. Because truth is solid, absolute, and never changing there is no dispute.
6. God's Word is the foundation "for training in righteousness"
 - a. Raising Children
 - b. Hear, Study, Apply
 - i. James 1:22, 25, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only...a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

- ii. We all need training in righteousness. It won't happen naturally or without a guide.
- 7. God's Word is the foundation for being "equipped for every good work"
 - a. We are called to live a holy life
 - i. 1 Thessalonians 4:7, "For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life."
 - b. We were created to do good works
 - i. Ephesians 2:10, "created in Christ Jesus to do good works"
 - ii. Believe what is true, not false, and in truth, accurately do that which is pleasing in the sight of God, to His glory.

If God's Word is supposed to filter everything we hear and say and influence everything that we do or think and it is the foundation for teaching, raising kids, being a spouse, doing good works, correcting, and growing more like Christ then it's no wonder why culture is hurting, our families are suffering, our lives are a mess, and the world is confused on what is so special about scripture. They think we are following it because we say we are, but we aren't practicing it. We may not even be reading it.

- 8. Difficulties
 - a. Boredom
 - b. Fear
 - c. Guilt
 - d. Understanding
 - e. Time