



40 Days of FAITH



Faith Unto Death

MAIN THING

Faith Begins With The End in Mind

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 2 Timothy 4:6-8

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever been frustrated by something that isn't go how you want, and someone said, "You need to see the bigger picture."? How did that make you feel? Did it put things into perspective, or did it just continue to make you frustrated?

OPENING THOUGHT

We live in a right here, right now society. We don't like to wait. We don't like the idea of delaying our desires, and, many times, we don't want to put in the work to earn it. We want what we want, and we want it now. God, however, is the king of the slow play. He understands, better than all of us, that a day is coming when all will be made right. That day just doesn't happen to be today. The big question for us is, "Do we have a faith that can last till the end?" Are we willing to continue in our faith unto death?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. What does Paul compare the Christian life to in this passage? How does this prepare you for the long haul? What happens when you don't prepare the right way? Who decides how you live?
3. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. What is Paul trying to communicate here? How does this connect with the previous scripture? There seems to be an assurance here. What is it? Is this how you feel about your life? Why/why not?

LIFE APPLICATION

When Paul is talking about his life, he compares it to someone who is running a race. There is strict training and commitment. There are times when the body is tired and doesn't want to keep going, but that's the time you need to go harder. Has your Christian life become easy? Do you feel as though you are giving everything, or do you feel that, if Christ didn't exist, not much would change? If your faith feels like you aren't really trying, there's a good chance you aren't. How much are you in the Word? How long is your prayer time? Are you sharing your faith with others? If you're looking at these questions with a blank stare, it might be time to get into stricter training.

CHALLENGE

Training always happens best when you train with others to reach a similar goal. Talk about the areas where each of you aren't quite hitting the mark in your faith. Find out where those areas are and pray for each other. If you are struggling in the same area as someone else, keep this conversation going on through the week with each other. The best way to grow is to grow in community. Take advantage of this opportunity, and help each other stay faithful for the long haul.