

INCREASE YOUR FAITH



And the apostles said unto to the Lord, increase our faith – Luke 17:5

Every year we have a *spiritual* _____ or overall *goal* to achieve as individuals and a local church. It's important that it be easily understood and clearly articulated in writing so that every member can run with it in order to succeed (Hab. 2:1-3). This year's vision represents where we are as a church: By in large our members are faithful in both little and big things, our debts are paid in full, we have a sound biblical mission and an overall structure in place to fulfill it. From the nursery to our church staff and everywhere in between, our growth is consistent—adding and _____. (Our purpose for preaching thru Revelation and related subjects was a success as we added many people.)

This year we are ordaining and sending out a missionary family, and by the grace of God we will seek to send out a new church in the local area and in South Carolina. These are incredible _____ the Lord has provided. The time seems short before our rapture when our work here is done. Therefore with these lofty 2026 aspirations before us it will be imperative for every member to personally *Increase Your Faith*.

INCREASE YOUR FAITH – LUKE 17:5-10

1- Our key scripture verse – Luke 17:5

a- Defining the disciples statement

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

- Context – they are _____ – Mt. 10:1-5
- Request _____ a question, and it was _____ to each man

b- What it really is – a twofold perspective

1) An honest desire for difficult work

What believer wouldn't want their faith increased?

2) An enabling type of request—*“Do for me what I should be doing for myself”*

Faith is personal, it starts in *your* heart and mind and works its way out

Faith is *your* part not God's; it is *not* a work but rather a heart response to God

Jesus' reply in Luke 17:6-10 seems as much a *rebuke* as instructions for their request



2- Our 2026 Vision explained

a- WHAT faith does God desire us to have?

- Faith that has _____ and is accompanied by _____
Hebrews 11:1

Faith is tangible:

The triune nature of God is unseen but can be witnessed in nature as most everything breaks down into 3 parts—water, fire, time, matter, reality, races, mankind, atoms...

You can hold your Bible in your hands—it has substance and there is endless evidence that it is true and has been preserved without provable error

Although the final object of your faith may not be seen as of yet, it is tangible—we sense God's Spirit within us, we know there is more to life than what we see, we look forward to eternity and have confidence this life is just a vapor of time

Faith is far-sighted—by faith you see things afar off

Faith is your soul's hand that grips the promise and blessings of God and adopts them whole heartedly as your very own

Whether your hopes and desires come to fruition or not, even in the most difficult of times, you trust God by faith to ultimately work things out for the good

When presented with a circumstance that requires faith, while you cannot yet see the outcome, you can look to other past examples in your life and the life of others when faith was proven – Gen. 6:13-14a, 22; 12:2; 22:1-3; Job 1:22; 42:5-6

b- WHY is this faith so important?

- For us to live a life that is _____ to God
Hebrews 11:6

When we believe that God is real, and we diligently pursue him in a relationship as if he is real, he will reward us...

c- WHERE does this faith come from?

- _____ the words of God

Romans 10:17

Faith is believing the word and words of God to the point where it motivates you to take action, trusting it more than any human reasoning, wisdom or understanding

d- WHEN is this faith necessary?

- In your _____ circumstances and choices

Romans 1:17

As it concerns the gift of salvation, *faith* is what first believes and then accepts and receives the offer – Eph. 2:8-9

As it concerns daily life and growing in grace, maturing as a believer, the more we act upon God's word by faith the more we grow and mature as a person – Eph. 4:13-15

e- HOW do we _____ our _____?

- With a right _____ attitude do over and _____ what is required

Luke 17:5-10

Trust and obey because you love God

Identify what you are told to do, or what you know is right, or what open doors God has before you, and exceed the opportunity with a right heart attitude...

OUR VISION HISTORY — AN ADDENDUM FOR VISION SUNDAY

Each year's *vision* was directly connected to the circumstances and focus of our ministry and included what was going on in the world around us at the time...

- 2001 – Make connections with people
- 2002 – Volunteerism and sacrifice
- 2003 – Act upon our mission by multiplying disciples
- 2004 – Reaching the world thru your personal testimony
- 2005 – Fortify our ministries
- 2006 – Be prepared to do your part
- 2007 – Bind closer together as a church family
- 2008 – Reach more people – add more members
- 2009 – Don't waste time for God's sake – evaluate your priorities
- 2010 – Seek the Lord – serve the Lord with gladness
- 2011 – Year of the Book
- 2012 – Faithful over a few things
- 2013 – Reproduce a reproducer
- 2014 – Remember your first love
- 2015 – Grow and bear much fruit
- 2016 – Embrace the great commission
- 2017 – Creatively serve the Lord
- 2018 – Fulfill the law of love
- 2019 – Be ready to GO
- 2020 – 20/20 Vision – seeing things God's way
- 2021 – Be focused and faithful
- 2022 – Occupy till I come – possess what God has given you
- 2023 – Do everything better for God
- 2024 – Draw nearer to God
- 2025 – Redeem the time
- 2026 – Increase your faith