

Living the Faith

- **Are you spending at least 5 minutes a day at least 5 days a week reading your Bible?**
- **Have you shared your conversion story/or a God story?**
- **Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- **Did you spend some alone time with God this week?**

Matthew 12

- **Just prior to this verbal exchange Jesus had cast out a demon in front of them all.**

38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.” 39 He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three

days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. 42 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.

• No belief without a miracle/sign=prove yourself!

Prove Yourself

- **Are we guilty of wanting a sign - or for God to do some specific thing in order for us to believe?**
- **We would never place ourselves in the arena with the Pharisees, but in our daily walk, prayer, and faith, do we hold God to a “do this or else mentality?”**
- **I believe that one of the biggest challenges to our faith is our perception of unanswered prayers!**
- **We pray and it doesn't happen (prove yourself?)**

- Do we allow previous results (real or simply perceived) to impact our faith in the present?

- How many of us have seen, with our own eyes, a God miracle as a result of prayer? (EVERY BELIEVER HAS!) Forgiveness is the greatest miracle of all - the fulfillment of the promise of God for the restoration of His plan for a relationship with us! It is a direct response to God's promise & the results are known by us as the Spirit witnesses to us! (1 John 4:13) = Miracle! (We believe!)

- **In the text Jesus had just performed a miracle... a sign... but they wanted something more!**
- **Do we allow our faith to be fluid based on the need of something more? Something in the present? Almost as if we don't perceive what has already been done in light of the NEXT NEED?!**
- **Let's look for an example at the changed life that God impacts with His presence...**
- **Jesus Continued in His teaching on the impact of the removal of the impure spirit... Matthew 12**

Matthew 12

43 “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. 44 Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. 45 Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

- **God cleans house when He moves in!!!**
- **The next step is for us to allow the Holy Spirit to fill the place!!**
- **Many of us keep struggling with things because we don't allow the Holy Spirit into that area to fill it and we don't keep the house in order!!!**
- **We need our faith to stay strong in Who it is that did the work in us! We need our faith to stay strong as we 'keep the house in order!' We need our faith to stay strong!!!**

- **What is the last thing God did for you? Believe!!**
- **The Disciples struggled often in their faith as they walked with Jesus through His ministry years...**

What changed their faith?

- **The infilling baptism of the Holy Spirit which happened in Acts 2!**
- **The doubters became rock-solid believers and they were used by God to spread the Gospel message throughout the earth, they performed miracles, they were known for their faith!!**

Action Steps

- **Are you guilty of seeking a sign from God attempting to increase your faith?**
- **Are you willing to simply BELIEVE based on the previous work of God?**
- **Are you willing to believe that God will today put your personal house in order?**
- **Are you willing to allow the Holy Spirit to fill those places that God has swept clean? (or Will you allow God to sweep your house clean?)**