

## 40 DAYS SERIES ON FORWARD BY FAITH: FAITH BUILDERS.

**DAY 1: *COMMENDED FAITH.*** Hebrews 11:1-4. God is searching for faith to commend. We believe in God so we let go and let him drive our lives. Abel's faith was commended. Matthew 8:10, 15:28 God also found it in the Roman Centurion and in the Canaanite woman. Will he find it in you in this year? The key is to let go and let God. Have faith in the God who holds the entire universe in his hand. Learn to walk and live by faith. As you go through the scripture reading, examine how these brothers and sisters lived by faith in their unique situations. (Scripture reading: Hebrews 11:1-39)

**DAY 2: *REBUILDING YOUR FAITH.*** Romans 10:17. We build faith in many ways: by experiencing God's power through his blessings, by seeing him work in another person's life. One key area is from listening to and obeying his word; in sermons at church, in discipling relationships and in Quiet Times. Read the bible a lot. Set a goal to read the whole bible this year. (Scripture reading: Psalm 119:9-16, Luke 11:27-28, Mark 4:24-25)

**DAY 3: *DISCIPLINED AND CONSISTENT.*** Luke 17:1-7 Many times we all cry out like the apostles, "Lord, increase our faith" and stop there. Rather, we should learn from the servant. You increase faith by starting with the small faith you have. Then build it by being disciplined and consistent in your obedience to the Master. Keep on with the Lord's business and watch your faith grow. (Scripture reading: Matthew 21:21-22)

**DAY 4: *FORGET WHAT IS BEHIND.*** Philippians 3:10-14 Many times when we look back, we do not see what we accomplished, and instead we only see how much we did not achieve. Fear of setting new goals grips us! It's good to look in the rear view mirror and learn from the past. After that we must press on. Paul knew what was behind. He decided to "forget" them and focus on the prize ahead. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Reflect on last year and note the achievements and the areas that need work. Give thanks to God for all of them and leave them in his hands. Being too hard on yourself with regard to the past may leave you frozen and unable to make any step forward. Forget what is behind.

**DAY 5: *SETTING GOALS.*** Proverbs 16:3 Scripture promises that when God drives our plans we will succeed. But first we have to make the plans. Philippians 3:10-14 Some of Paul's spiritual goals were: To know Christ; to know the power of his resurrection; to participate in Christ's sufferings; to see God one day. When we set goals, we have something to aim for and as we stay disciplined and obedient God helps us to achieve. Do not fear setting goals. If you aim at nothing, you will hit it all the time! Trust God with your goals. Take time to think through what you want to achieve for God this year and then write them down. Make plans and set goals for different aspects of your life; both spiritual and physical. (Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, John 14:1-4)

**DAY 6: *CHARACTER GOALS.*** 1 Timothy 4:7 Training oneself to be godly is an expectation. Anyone desiring to achieve great things in their life must go into strict training. Identify character traits you want to focus on this year. Pursue them tirelessly. It could be godliness, integrity, diligence, hard work, patience, honesty, serving, seriousness, approachability, being prayerful etc. Make your list, identify the top three and go for it. (Scripture reading: Daniel 1:8-9, Daniel 6:1-11, Proverbs 10:4)

**DAY 7: *MINISTRY GOALS.*** Romans 15:20. Paul had an ambition to spread God's word where it was lacking. There are many around us who are still waiting. This was driven by how he saw people, as harassed and helpless. Matthew 9:35-38. How do you see people around you? Let's set some goals for the year that will lead us to fruitfulness. Then ask God to lead you to open people who will repent and get baptized this year! John 4:34-39. The harvest fields are as open as our mouths are. Determine to open your mouth wherever you are and see God use you to bear fruit. (Scripture reading: Matthew 4:18-22, Revelation 5:9-10)

**DAY 8: *HEALTH GOALS.*** 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 2 Corinthians 7:1. Your body is the temple of God. You need to take care of it. Do not contaminate your body. Keep it pure by staying away from any contaminants: Sexual immorality, impurities, drugs, smoking, alcoholism, pornography etc. 1 Timothy 4:7 Training your body to stay fit is of some value. Add that value to your life this year. Sign up for a marathon, a hike, a trek, a tournament and get in shape for it! Set your goals according to your body's ability and go for it. We will not all be stronger than lions, but we'll get healthier! (Scripture reading: Genesis 39:6, 1 Samuel 16:12, 2 Samuel 1:23)

**DAY 9: *CAREER GOALS.*** Genesis 41:37-45. Joseph desired a change of career. While being a shepherd he dreamt of being a "super star" that others will bow down to. While serving wonderfully in jail he hoped for the baker and the butler to remember him, but he was forgotten there another two years. What is your dream? What do you want to do? How successful do you want your business to be? Put it before God. Work hard. Be patient. Let God take you there. (Scripture reading: Proverbs 13:11, Proverbs 14:23, Daniel 6:1-11)

**DAY 10: *NAME YOUR YEAR.*** You have a clean page as you begin the year. Nothing has been written on it. You have the power to write on what you want. Genesis 1:26-28, Isaiah 40:25-26. We are created in God's image. He passes on to us the power to create. Genesis 2:19. Whatever name Adam gave the animals, that's what they became. You are able to Name Your Year and make it become. You could name it Faithful 2018, or Successful 2018, Integrity 2018, Healthy 2018, Fruitful 2018, Courageous 2018, just to name a few. What will you name your year? (Scripture reading: Hebrews 11:1-6)