

Lead With Faith

The Power of Faithfulness

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **October 16, 2022**



We can lead in several ways—with power, position, experience, force, with intimidation. But we have been talking about leading with our faith, and leadership is about influence. Your option matters to others, but we've been reluctant to use our faith in our leadership for several reasons, and we have become covert Christians. So, what is the influence of your faith—great, or small, or in the middle? Are you a greater influence for godliness or ungodliness—for which do you have the most enthusiasm? Well, we want to explore what your faith means. We will start with the nature of faith ...

I. THE NATURE OF FAITH

Matthew 8:9–10 ⁹ *For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.* ¹⁰ *When Jesus heard this, he was **astonished** and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.*

Mark 6:4–6 ⁴ *Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor."* ⁵ *He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.* ⁶ *And he was **amazed at their lack of faith.***

1. Where in your life have you been the most reluctant to use your faith influence? Where have you been the most persistent?
2. If we were to ask those closest to you what impact you have had on their life, what would they say? Where do you need to adjust your words or behaviors to be more intentional in your impact?

II. ON ASSIGNMENT

Ephesians 6:10–12 ¹⁰ *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.* ¹¹ *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.* ¹² *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Daniel 10:12–14 ¹² *Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.* ¹³ *But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.* ¹⁴ *Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."*

3. We need the **full** armor of God to stand against the evil forces in our world; what pieces of armor do you struggle with the most? Which are the easiest for you to "put on?" (Ephesians 6:14-17)
4. When was a time you delayed obedience to the Lord and what were the consequences?

III. THE RESPONSE OF FAITH

A. Moses

Hebrews 3:5 *Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future.*

Numbers 12:6–7 ⁶ *He said, "Listen to my words: 'When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.'* ⁷ *But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.'"*

Exodus 40:16–17 ¹⁶ *Moses did everything just as the Lord commanded him.* ¹⁷ *So the tabernacle was set up on the first day of the first month in the second year.*

B. Matthew's Perspective

Matthew 6:30 *"If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, **O you of little faith?**"*

Matthew 17:19–20 ¹⁹ *Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"*
²⁰ *He replied, "Because **you have so little faith**. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

Matthew 25:21 *"His master replied, '**Well done, good and faithful servant!** You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"*

Matthew 25:24–26 ²⁴ *"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'* ²⁶ *"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?'"*

Matthew 24:36–39, 45–51 ³⁶ *"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.*

. . . ⁴⁵ "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷ I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' ⁴⁹ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.

⁵⁰ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹ He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

5. Where have you put more emphasis on studying the Word than giving it application in your life? How can you start to practice putting what you know into action and lead with your faith this week?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, You have chosen us and called us out of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of Your Son. Thank You for that great expression of mercy and love. Holy Spirit, teach us to be faithful in our journey. Forgive us for our attitudes of indifference and our indulgent choices. Grant us a spirit of boldness that we may stand faithfully in our generation. In Your great power, turn back the forces of evil which prey upon the vulnerable. May Your Spirit be poured out upon us once again. Look upon us with mercy. In Jesus' name, amen.