# The Church's Greatest Hour: Just Add Faith

Heb. 11:6

...without faith it is impossible to please God

### MANKIND WAS BIRTHED FOR CONFRONTATION

- **Genesis 1:28 (ESV)** –And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and <u>subdue it</u>, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
  - Subdue: Subdue: This verb and its derivative occur fifteen times in the OT. It is evidently related to Akkadian kabāsu "to tread down," and Arabic kabasa "to knead, stamp, press" (cf. also Arabic kabasa "to seize with the hand"). In the OT it means "to make to serve, by force if necessary." Despite recent interpretations of Gen 1:28 which have tried to make "subdue" mean a responsibility for building up, it is obvious from an overall study of the word's usage that this is not so. kābaš assumes that the party being subdued is hostile to the subduer, necessitating some sort of coercion if the subduing is to take place.

# THE CHURCH WAS BIRTHED FOR CONFRONTATION

- **Genesis 12:** Abram was sent into the land of Canaan, occupied by a people who were wicked and idolatrous. *God promised this land to Abram.*
- **Exodus 3:8 (ESV)** and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.
- **Joshua 1:14 (NLT) –..** But your strong warriors, fully armed, must lead the other tribes across the Jordan to help them *conquer their territory*.

# THE CHURCH WAS BIRTHED FOR CONFRONTATION

- Matthew 16:18-19 (NLT) 18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."
- Matthew 11:12 (NLT) And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it.
- 1 Corinthians 16:9 (ESV) for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

# THE CALL TO FAITH...RADICAL FAITH

- Luke 18:8 (ESV) I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"
- **Hebrews 4:2 (ESV)** –For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.
- James 2:20...faith without works is useless
- James 2:26...faith without works is dead
- James 2:14 (NLT) What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?

# RADICAL FAITH TAKES US WHERE GOD SENDS

• **Genesis 12:1 (ESV)** –Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

# Radical Faith Requires Leaving...

- **1. Country:** Land is covenant ...leave all the past ungodly covenant ties and go to where I'm taking you; Kingdom Covenant
- 2. Kindred: Clan or identity...leave the OLD IDENTITY and take on the identity God is giving...Kingdom Identity
- **3. Father's House:** Family Culture...Free from the generational circumstances of birth to Kingdom Culture

#### WHY DID GOD DO THIS?

# 1. God needed a people that He could reveal Himself through to the rest of the world...HE STILL DOES

- a. If the world could see the love of God toward His own, then there would be a jealousy or drawing of those people toward God.
- b. Needed to create a group of people that were specifically His; to represent and express His will and intention
- c. This group had to be separated from the world's system, values, ideals, attitudes

This is the purpose of the church....we are salt and light How are we doing? How am I/you doing?

#### WHY DID GOD DO THIS? CONT'D

# 2. All the nations of the earth could be blessed through this group of people...Gen 12:1

- **John 3:16 (NLT)** "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
  - World refers to people of the world. "Everyone who believes" is everyone in the world can not believe in Jesus and become a part of God's family.
  - The church's message is to bring hope, deliverance, peace, prosperity, health and eternal life.

# RADICAL FAITH TURNS FEAR INTO ACTION

 Hebrews 11:24-31 (NLT) – 24 It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. 27 It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible. 28 It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons. 29 It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned. 30 It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.

# RADICAL FAITH TURNS FEAR INTO ACTION

• Hebrews 11:31-35 (NLT) – 31 It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. 32 How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. 33 By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. 35 Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection.

# RADICAL FAITH TEARS DOWN STRONGHOLDS

- **Ephesians 6: 12 (TPT)**. **12** Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage.
- Acts 17:6 (ESV) ... "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also"
- Isaiah 23:11 (ESV) He has stretched out his hand over the sea; he has shaken the kingdoms; the LORD has given command concerning Canaan to destroy its strongholds.

• 2 Corinthians 4:3-13 (ESV) – 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you. 13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak,