**September 21, 2014 Faith that Overcomes Doubt Exodus 4-6**

**How can your faith overcome your fears and difficulties?**

**Our faith is dependent upon the faithfulness of our Heavenly Father**

**1. Our faith depends on God’s faithfulness to his children (Exodus 4:19-31)**

Recall the covenant promise of Genesis 15

The Exodus story has two parts: It is about Israel’s redemption and Pharaoh’s punishment.

As God’s first-born son, Israel dynamically foreshadows Jesus Christ who is the only begotten off God.

Israel will suffer and then be redeemed. Christ would suffer so that we are redeemed. God’s only begotten Son, whom he loves, dies to deliver us. (Hosea 11:1 & Matthew 2:14,15)

**2. Our faith depends on God’s power to overcome our difficulties (Exodus 5:1-21)**

The next six chapters contrast Pharaoh’s stubborn heart and limited power with God’s holy heart and unlimited power. There is a repetitive cycle that will continue: Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh and make the offer the Lord has given along with the conditions to let God’s people go. Pharaoh’s hard heart will refuse to release the Hebrews to go to their God.

Pharaoh increased the labor of the Hebrew slaves and Israel’s leader failed the test.

They still believed Pharaoh’s power was greater than their God’s strength

**How can fear cripple our faith**

**When do you let fear drive your beliefs?**

**When does your faith depend upon your circumstances?**

**3. Our faith depends on God’s provision to keep him promises (5:22- 6:13**

5:22-23 Moses appeals to the Lord and is reassured of God’s promised covenant. He is discouraged by Israel’s lack of trust in God’s plan. He returns to the Lord for help. Even though the Lord told Moses Pharaoh’s heart was stubborn and he would not relent, Moses still blames God for his trouble.

Look at Moses’ complaints in 5:22,23

“Why have you done evil to this people?”

“Why did you ever send me?”

“Why do you allow Pharoah to do evil?”

“Why have you not rescued your people?”

Moses is revealing his heart to the Lord. He is showing his lack of trust and impatience just like the rest of Israel.

We complain just like Moses:

“Why have you allowed these bad things in my life?”

“Why did you ask me to do what I can’t do?”

“Why do you allow others to hurt me?”

“Why have you not released me from this difficult time?”

6:7-8, God makes a special declaration of how he wants to relate to Israel. His words are intimate and reassuring,

The I AM is also the “I WILL”: [in 6:6-8]

‘I will deliver you from the burden of slavery”

“I will rescue you from bondage”

“I will redeem you by the power of my might”

“I will take you to be my people”

“I will be your God”

“I will give you everything I promised your fathers”

“I will bless you with their inheritance”

**We can look to these promises of our salvation and trust God for them**

The Sovereign Lord was not shaken. He simply told Moses and Aaron to stick with plan. Despite theirs and Israel’s doubts, God was about to do something terrifyingly awesome in Egypt.

**Christ’s Story: Bringing Redemption**

Christ’s faith was dependent upon the faithfulness of his Father

Jesus related to God as Father (see John 5)

*For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. John 5:20-23*

**Our Story: Redemptive Living**

Our faith is dependent upon the faithfulness of our Heavenly Father

We must relate to God as Father.

Fathers love their sons and daughters. They know what is best for them.

They discipline them at times. Often they show mercy.

Keep your promises. Pray with faith, pray believing in the promises of God

*Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?*

*Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

*Matthew 7:9-11*