

SESSION TWO

OVERCOMING THE ATTACK ON YOUR FAITH

Faith has fallen on hard times. People are losing faith in all sorts of things.

There was a time when professional athletes would spend their whole career playing for one team in one city. The fans knew the whole roster of players and followed their stats and careers closely. The local team players felt like members of the family. Now athletes shift from team to team and town to town based on massive salary and bonus offers. Faith in professional athletes and sports teams is simply not what it was before.

There was a time when people had faith in their governing officials. There was an inherent sense that these people were civil servants who wanted the best for their community, state, or country. Even if we did not know what was happening behind the political veil, we could trust in these leaders and have faith that they would make decisions that would serve the greater good. In those days, politicians on both sides of the aisle could maintain friendships with each other, share a meal, and work together. Something happened! All the polls show that faith in what political figures say and even promise is on a sharp decline.

In the 1970s a man by the name of Walter Cronkite was commonly called “the most trusted man in America.” When he said something, people put faith in it. They took it as truth. He served as an anchorman for CBS news for almost two decades. Try to imagine any newscaster being rated as the most trusted person in an opinion poll today. Faith in the news media is in a death spiral!

Even faith in pastors and church leaders has fallen on hard times. Prominent religious figures seem to be caught in compromising situations on an all-too-frequent basis. Add to this the countless not-so-well-known pastors and church leaders who make poor choices and compromise their integrity. These leaders don’t hit the endless news cycle, but they break the hearts of Christians who have trusted them.

In this time of diminishing faith and broken trust, Satan is having a party! He knows one of the best ways to attack Christians is to go after their faith. Step one in the enemy’s strategy is to dismantle our faith. In a time when faith (in people and institutions) is on the decline, Satan will try to get us to question our faith in God’s power, presence, and grace. We need to be ready to fight back and strengthen our faith in the God who never changes teams, who never tells a lie, and who is never unfaithful.

Satan’s number one target is your faith.

TALK ABOUT IT

- What are signs that people's faith in institutions and worldly leaders is decreasing (in sports teams and players, politics, media, religion, and other areas of life)?

We will be better off and stronger if we face the spiritual reality that we are in a battle.

WATCH VIDEO SESSION TWO

(Either use the DVD or your streaming video access on the inside front cover.)

Video Teaching Notes

Use the space provided below to write down notes, ideas, observations, or questions that hit you as you listen to Jim's teaching:

Face it, we're in a fight

Everything hangs on faith

The battle between faith and discouragement

Jesus was amazed by faith

**Faith receives from God all the blessings and wonderful gifts
that are offered in Christ.**

Fortifying faith by reading God's Word

Fortifying faith by seeking community

Faith and the realms of what has not yet happened and what is not yet seen

Hold the hand of God

When you have faith, you are absolutely confident about things that have not happened yet.

VIDEO DISCUSSION

After watching this week's video teaching on spiritual warfare, go deeper into this topic by talking with your group members using these questions and conversation prompts:

1. What does it mean to live by faith, and what are tangible signs that we are actually living in faith?
2. **Read Hebrews 11:1–6.** What does it mean to say, "Without faith it is impossible to please God?" How does walking in faith actually please the God who made us?

3. If the first target for Satan to attack in spiritual warfare is our faith, what are specific ways you see the enemy seeking to tear down the faith of Christians? How can we strengthen and fortify our faith so that we are ready for the attacks of Satan?
4. How does regular study of the Word of God deepen our faith? How can we orient our thinking to God's Word instead of the messages the world sends us?
5. **Read 1 John 5:1–5.** How can faith give us confidence and hope even amid all of life's challenges, problems, and disasters?

Faith brings confidence, joy, and boldness.

6. Who is a close Christian friend or family member who encourages you to believe in God and live with a confident faith? What does this person do and say that strengthens your faith? How can you follow their example?

One important lesson in spiritual warfare is to stay near people who promote faith and beware of those who tear down your faith.

7. If we are going to stand in faith, we should not focus on last year or next year but live in the present. What will help us keep our eyes on Jesus, take his hand, and faithfully walk with him right now?