

TITLE: *"You Can't Have Both"*

3 TRUTHS ABOUT CONTROL:

Our attempts to control are almost always an effort to feel good.

The world tells you to control, but Control replaces faith.

If our first response is to control, we limit God.

Mark 6:1-3, 6— "Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They asked, 'Where did he get all his wisdom and the power to perform such miracles? He's just the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.' They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him... And he was amazed at their unbelief."

Matthew 8:5-10— "When Jesus arrived in Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, 'Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and racked with pain.' Jesus said, 'I will come and heal him.' Then the officer said, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed! I know, because I am under the authority of my superior officers and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, "Go," and they go, or "Come," and they come. And if I say to my slaves, "Do this or that," they do it.' When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd, he said, 'I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all the land of Israel!'"

Hebrews 11:6— "So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

Faith Is: trusting God with control.

Luke 17:5— The apostles said to the Lord, "Show us how to increase our faith."

Faith has to be developed.

LIFE SITUATIONS TO APPLY MORE FAITH:

- Friendships
- Dating
- Marriage
- Children
- Career/Work
- Health
- Finances
- Conflicts
- Other _____

STEPS OF FAITH:

“Acknowledge Me”

“Follow Me”

“Get To Know Me”

“Watch Me”

“Sacrifice For My Sake”

“Obey Me”

GROUP QUESTIONS:

- What’s something small in life you tend to control (schedule, food, plans, etc.)?

Pastor Gary said control is often an attempt to make us feel better. Why do you think control makes us feel safe or better in the moment?

- Can you share a time when trying to control a situation actually increased your stress instead of reducing it?

What emotions tend to drive your need for control (fear, anxiety, insecurity, past hurt)?

- The world says control everything—but control replaces faith. Where do you see this message in culture (work, parenting, finances, social media, etc.)? Why is it difficult to hold both control and faith at the same time? • Looking at Mark 6, why do you think Jesus did fewer miracles in Nazareth? How does unbelief (or over-control) limit what God wants to do in our lives? Compare that with the centurion in Matthew 8—what made his faith different? Which example do you relate to more right now—and why?