



Practical Teaching

Matthew 7:24-28

Big Idea: How to Get Absolute Confidence God is with You.

Bottom Line: It's one thing to believe in something, and it's another to do it. Obedience is proof of belief.

Review:

Imagine with me.

What if God really existed, and what if you had perfect faith in him?

What if you were absolutely confident God was with you – every step you took?

Humanity's problems began when we quit trusting God.

When trust was broken, the relationship was broken, and sin followed.

The entire Old and New Testament is a story of God saying, "Trust Me."

Christianity is an invitation to reenter a relationship of trust with God the Father.

Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith

1. Practical Teaching
2. Wholesome Relationships
3. Personal (spiritual) Disciplines
4. Servant Ministry
5. Challenging Circumstances

Introduction

Today, we are looking at the importance of Practical Teaching.

When your obedience intersects with God's faithfulness, God shows up and your faith gets bigger.

The problem is most churches are content to tell you what to believe, and if you believe, that is enough.

Jesus taught application, not just knowledge. Jesus helped people not only know more but do more.

Truth

Read Matthew 7:24-28.

A church that models Jesus will teach for application and not just knowledge because application builds people's faith.

We don't obey to gain God's acceptance.

We obey because of God's acceptance.

Obedience begins with exposure to God's Word in an environment where it is clear what we are to do and where we are inspired to do it.

At South Bay, we are fanatics about presenting God's Word in a practical way!

Conclusion

*“Unapplied truth is like unapplied paint.
It doesn't do anybody any good.
The value is in the application.”
-Lane Jones*

Jesus agreed. Application makes all the difference.

One of the things God uses to move us toward Big Faith is application-oriented teaching—teaching that moves us to action.

It is teaching that moves us to express faith in God by doing what he says in spite of what we see.

Our obedience unleashes the faithfulness of God in our lives, and that's when and how we experience God. Imagine what your life would look like if you trusted God completely.

God doesn't just want your obedience. He could force that. Instead, He wants you to trust him. He wants you to love him. He wants you to take him at his word.

When you do, you won't be able to do anything else but obey.

Most of the time, we are focused on the wrong thing. We are trying to obey instead of working on trust, but if we trust, we will obey.

Application & Next Steps

- Memorize Matthew 7:24-25
- Join us next week for ***Big Faith: Wholesome Relationships.***

- Identify the areas of your life where a specific application from Scripture would make a noticeable difference. Then, apply it. Do it.