



I. REVIEW/INTRO

- A. Staying planted for future formation
- B. The tension of time and eternity

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV) To everything *there is* a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV) He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

- We were built for here, and we were made for more
- C. Faith lives in the middle of here and eternity
 - Faith exists because the future is hidden
- D. Staying planted when you can't see what's next

John 16:13 (NKJV) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

The Holy Spirit prepares us for the future, by anchoring us in truth so that when an uncertain tomorrow arrives, our faith stands firm.

II. FAITH IN THE GAP

- A. When uncertainty is in the gap
 - **When we can't see what's coming our mind will invent something to help us out**
- B. Substance, Evidence, Framed

Hebrews 11:1–3 (NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

- **Not only was the world framed by faith, but our world will be framed by our faith as well**

Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.



- They lived from a picture, You do too
- We should not only pay attention to what we're looking AT but what we're looking THROUGH

III. A DIFFERENT KIND OF SIGHT

A. Faith needs a picture

1 Corinthians 2:9b–10a (NKJV): “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

B. Abraham had to replace an image of barrenness

Genesis 15:1-6 (NKJV) After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward. But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* Eliezer of Damascus?” Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!” And behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.” Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

- Abraham had to replace the image of barrenness with the image of abundance

C. Elisha's servant needed his eyes opened

2 Kings 6:15–17 (NKJV) And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

D. Lord, open our eyes

- Abraham looked up and saw stars, the servant looked up and saw fire. **In both cases, heaven was more active than it appeared**

John 15:8 (NKJV) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

- This church will be framed by the Word of God