

START HERE #13 GENESIS 6 "ONE BOARD AT A TIME"

Who was the greatest financier from the Bible? Noah. He was floating all his stock, while everyone else was in liquidation! Where did Noah keep his bees – ark hives.

How do you keep your faith during difficult times? Really.....

U.S. church membership has fallen below 50% for the first time, according to a Gallup poll continuing a decades-long decline in membership driven by growing numbers of Americans who express no religious affiliation.

Cultural upheaval, fragmentation in churches, - **reality life is filled with challenges**

MP: Faith is the right response to God's grace.

Story of NOAH – YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE (live for God – SAME AS US)

- **3 KEY INGREDIENTS -**

FAITH THAT TAKES GOD'S DIRECTIONS AND STARTS MOVING

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

MOVED w/ godly fear – took warning of God seriously – **HE TOOK IT/DIDN'T GIVE IT**

- Too big job, too little information, too unconventional, too inconvenient....
- 1 board – You have to start somewhere – **GET MOVING**

Faith is something that is built over the course of time. MUSCLE UNUSED

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. Martin Luther King Jr.

FIGURE IT OUT – It wasn't a blueprint – GOD GIVES YOU A BRAIN FOR A REASON

FAITH THAT KEEPS MOVING THROUGH THE HARD TIMES

Noah lived during the worst time in human history.

- **CHARACTER:** justman – perfect his generations – walked w/gd: (not pulled dn)
- **ENDURED RIDICULE** – outcasts, loners, THEY HAD THEIR FAMILY

2 Peter 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a **preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.

- **OK BEING OUTNUMBERED – REMNANT THEOLOGY**

Starting Over: God is ok with going small. Small is Big. Noah, Abraham, Joseph, David, Elijah, **GIDEON**

God doesn't need numbers he wants hearts.

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those whose heart is loyal to Him*. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.

FAITH THAT NEVER STOPS MOVING

It's not sexy – steadfast, faithful, consistent

2 COMMANDS SEPARATED BY 75 years – **1 yr./5yrs./10yrs**

- Continued until he finished COMMAND 1 – **PEOPLE QUIT TOO EASILY**

Instant success myth, unwilling see failure as lessons learned, unwilling to make a pivot, delusions of grandeur – **BE A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN**

- Norman Geisler (lunch)

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING – 7 THINGS

1. Keep doing things that make you spiritually strong (1st place of attack – communion/righteousness/community/trust)

2. Be authentic with God about the adversity (Unload, honestly, the burden)

Job 13:15 Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face.

3. Be patient wuncertainty (don't let the unknown undermine your faith – ALL TIME)

Your faith is built for the unknown.

4. Focus on the good – **DON'T LET YOURSELF GET STUCK IN DESPAIR**

The vortex of failing faith spins on disappointment.

5. Get involved – **SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE**

6. Life Is hard but God is good (tether yourself to the character of God)

7. Remember God is holding on to you (HE GAVE HIS OWN SON -HE'LL SEE U THRU