

November 27 & 28, 2021

Message: Pastor Doyle Jackson

Study: Pastor Doug McCoy

Ancient Truths 4: Seed

I. Announcements & Prayer

- **This Weekend** – indoor worship services **Saturday @ 5pm** and **Sunday @ 9:20 and 11am**. You can listen in your car by tuning your radio to 95.3 FM or watch the livestream on Facebook or thechurchnextdoor.org. **Bring a neighbor! Invite a friend!**
- **Radio Show** – The **Your Next Step** radio show continues **Mon-Fri at 10:30am and 6pm** on **The Word 880 AM and 104.5 FM**. The podcast is also available on our website yournextstepnow.com as well as all podcasting services.
- **TV Show** – The **Your Next Step** TV show is normally airing after Saturday Night Live, **Saturdays @ 1am** on **NBC4**.
- **Christmas Opportunities** – we are doing several great things here at The Church Next Door to celebrate Christmas. We will have Cookies with Santa on **December 4 from 10-12noon**. We will have ice skating after services on **December 4 & 5**, a snowglobe on the **11 & 12**, and nativity animals on the **19**. We will also have Christmas Eve services on the **23 at 4:30 & 6pm** and the **24 at 3, 4:30, 6, and 7:30pm**.

II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. If you could be any plant, what plant would you like to be and why?
2. When do you normally start decorating for the holidays? What decorations do you like the best?

III. Bible Study

Pray the widow's prayer together:

*Father in Heaven, I want You to know I have put my trust in You and Your Word. You have my full attention. I'm looking and listening. I know I will have plenty. You are my provider of food, life, health, and rest for my whole body. I am glad to say "You are my God" for I know You will not let me be put to shame. Today, I am watching, waiting, and worshipping You. I lift my hands and my voice with thanksgiving and praise. You are my strength, my deliverer, and my salvation. Thank You for loving me. I want to say, I love You too. In Jesus' name I pray.
– Amen*

1. How has praying this for a month affected your life?

Read **Luke 17:6** (NIV) and **Luke 13:18-19** (NIV)

Jesus speaking 6 He replied, "if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

18 Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches."

2. Why does Jesus use such a small seed to illustrate faith?

Read **Hebrews 11:5-6** (NIV)

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

3. How important is pleasing God to you? What have you done in the past to exercise or grow your faith? What has worked?
4. Pastor Doyle gave us a list of five things to build your faith: worship God, enjoy faith-filled people, ask in prayer, plant in fruitful soil, and listen to God's word. How are you doing in these areas? Is there anything the church can do to help you?

Read **Romans 10:16-17** (NIV), **Mark 5:34** (NIV), **Luke 7:50** (NIV), and **Luke 8:25** (NIV)

16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

*34 He said to her, "Daughter, **your faith** has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."*

*50 Jesus said to the woman, "**Your faith** has saved you; go in peace."*

*"Where is **your faith**?" he asked his disciples....*

5. Pastor Doyle said we are responsible for our faith. How do these passages illustrate our responsibility for our faith?

Read this **proclamation** out loud together:

For it is by grace we have been saved, through faith—and this is not from ourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so we cannot boast. We are all God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

6. How does reading this proclamation inspire you?