

**Self-disclosure Questions/Icebreakers**

Have you ever been faced with circumstances you thought to be impossible, but that God overcame?

**Scripture** – Romans 4:16-25

**Suggested Prayer**

*Spirit, use our brothers and sisters to increase our faith as we discuss your word together, and make us obedient to the gospel in life and death.*

**Sermon Take-Away** – If you need/want to review it, Pastor Colin talked about...

1. Faith glorifies God by facing the reality of our own condition
2. Faith glorifies God by embracing the hope of His promise
3. Faith glorifies God by rejoicing in what He has done

What was your take-away from this week's sermon?

**Discussion Questions** – Choose as few or as many as you'd like.

1. Calvin once said, "It is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God's face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself" (*Institutes* I.i.2). How does the knowledge of God's lead us to recognize our own spiritual condition? How does the knowledge of our spiritual condition, in turn, lead us back to God?
  
2. Pastor Colin discussed the tendency on the part of many to run from reality through tv, movies, internet, virtual reality, etc., while faith leads us to face reality with courage. How is "perfectionism" just one more way of fleeing from reality, rather than facing it?

3. Why do people instinctively flee from reality and what difference does faith make in the experience of a Christian that enables her to *face* reality?
  
4. We were created to “glorify God and enjoy him forever.” How are God’s glory and human enjoyment of God compatible with one another? How might a Christian faith that loses sight of one of these two purposes be deficient?
  
5. Many non-religious people perceive Christianity to be a joyless religion, unnecessarily fixated on “do’s and don’t’s” – many of them get this opinion from observing the lives of joyless Christians. So why do so many Christians seldom receive joy from their faith? Where does joy in Christian living come from?

**Suggested Closing Prayer**

*Jesus, give us faith to lift up our voices and praise you. Make our lives be living sacrifices and songs, bringing honor to your name.*