

Week beginning 5 January 2009. Word section

Looking to Jesus in 2009

Read Hebrews 12: 1-5

Happy New year everyone. We are in a new year and we need to look to Jesus for this year. Hebrews 12 1-5 reminds us of some important truths in our journey of faith in Jesus.

1. We are in great company.

Hebrews 11 details the many witnesses of faith and trust in God. Despite hardships and not knowing the full picture they persevered and were faithful to the end. We are also on the journey of faith. We can approach the year with faith because Jesus is faithful. Fear will hinder us from trusting God in 2009. Fear needs to be dealt with if we are to live the life of faith. Need to be like Joshua and Caleb after spying out Canaan (Number 13), and say but the Lord is with us.

2. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

In 2009 we will need to fix our eyes on him if we are to live by faith. Fixing our eyes on Jesus will prevent us from growing weary and losing heart.

For the plans, the uncertainties the challenges in 2009 the answer is to fix our eyes on Jesus. He's the leader and he's the one who perfected our faith.

Jeremiah 17:8 says "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord whose confidence is in him."

Questions for application

Like to encourage you to tackle some of these questions. More importantly I'd like to suggest that you pray into issues as they arise.

1. Is there anything shared on Sunday that needs clarifying?
2. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
3. What's your outlook for the year ahead and why?
4. How can you encourage others around you when they give a gloomy outlook to this year?
5. Do you believe that God is with you in 2009 and how does this impact you?
6. Do you have any challenges or fears for 2009 that you'd like to overcome?
7. Did God say anything to you in 2008 that you would like to see happen in 2009?