**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Twenty-three**

**Day 35**

Day 35: “When We Are Our Own Worst Enemies”

**🡺 Depending on how much time you have available or how long the discussion takes, this lesson could be divided into two.**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Generally speaking, and relating to having faith to overcome the overwhelming, what does it mean to be “our own worst enemy”?
2. **Dictating to God How He Will Work**
* How do we set ourselves up for failure when we disregard the ways of God’s kingdom?
* Why do you think we believe it makes sense to us to ignore God’s clear instructions to us?
* Expand on this thought: “Faith causes us to act. As we discover God’s kingdom principles and live according to them, then we can have confidence that God will do what He promised.”
1. **Gathering Sympathy Instead of Seeking Solutions**
* Why might someone be tempted to seek sympathy instead of solutions?
* How will focusing on solutions be more productive?
1. **Responding to Life Based Only on Our Five Senses**
* Our senses give us one message, and we do well to listen, but they can sometimes distract us from Jesus. Discuss.
1. **Folding Instead of Having Faith When Sudden Storms Arise**
* What are the two clear choices we have when sudden storms arise? Discus the consequences of each choice.
1. **Ignoring the Power of Our Words**
* What is the Bible principle that we should keep in mind regarding our words?
* Growing up, how did words from the adults or peers in your life build you up or tear you down?
* “Instead of raising our fists to the heavens, let us lift our voices in praise.” Can you think of some practical examples of how this advice might come into play (relationships, finances, success, health, etc.)?
1. **Sluggishness**
* How is it that we can become lazy about believing God to do miracles?
* If words of whining and words of faith take about the same amount of time, what practical steps might we take to remind ourselves to believe instead of grieve?

🙚***This is a logical place to divide the lesson, if you choose to do so***.🙘

1. **Doubting**
* What normal human emotions do we face when troubles come?
* Expand on this quote: “God is not asking us not to feel or to ignore the facts of our circumstances. He is asking us to choose to believe in Him in the midst of them.”
* How is doubting “more sinister” than our reasonable responses to difficulties?
* How does the example of Abraham illustrate this concept of choosing hope/faith over fear/doubt?
* James points out the ridiculousness of someone asking God with doubt. How does this type of thinking make us “unstable” in all our ways?
* When speaking to mountains in our life, we are to ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_ those things we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and NOT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts.
1. **Giving Up Hope**
* What types of struggles might cause someone to think they can’t “afford” to have hope?
* How did Abraham’s hope play a role in the birth of Isaac, and how will it bring a positive outcome in our lives?
* Think of a situation someone might face and consider how losing hope in God or having hope in God will negatively or positively affect a change?
1. **The Cares of This World and the Deceitfulness of Riches**
* Give a practical example of the “cares of this world”.
* How can these cares “choke the word” and make us unfruitful?
* How can “the constant pursuit of increased wealth for the purpose of self-realization” become a snare?
* Is it wrong to desire to accomplish certain things in life? How can we become imbalanced in this area?
1. **Here and Now Perspective**
* It’s easy to forget that this world in which we live is only temporary. This is not “it”. As believers in Jesus Christ we not only have everlasting life here and now, but we have the hope of His return and everlasting life beyond. Discuss how keeping this truth in focus will help us to have faith as we sojourn through “life”?
1. **Forgetting About the Bread and the Fish**
* Just like Jesus’ disciples, we have witnessed many miracles in our lives. Name some of these.
* How can remembering miracles reinforce our faith in God?
* How can our praise be pleasing to God?