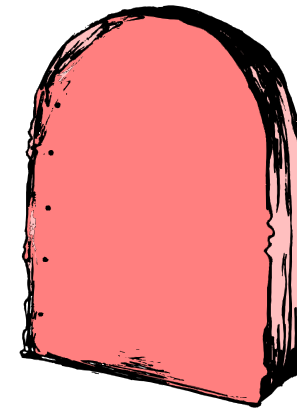


**SERMON NOTES SERIES**

**PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES**

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**DEAD FAITH SYNDROME**



**DR. JOHN PELIZZARI, PH.D.  
SENIOR PASTOR**

Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9)***. I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,  
Pastor John

## RESOURCES USED

- \* The Companion Bible
- \* Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- \* Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- \* A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- \* Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- \* The American College Dictionary
- \* World's Bible Handbook
- \* The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- \* Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- \* The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- \* God's Plan For Man
- \* Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- \* Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- \* Manners And Customs From the Bible
- \* What The Bible Is All About
- \* Halley's Bible Handbook

*These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!*

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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## OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

*Hosea 4:6*

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

*Proverbs 23:7*

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

*Colossians 1:9*

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

*Proverbs 24:3-5*

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

*Mark 13:10*

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,  
*John and Karen Pelizzari*

## DEAD FAITH SYNDROME

**Luke 18:8** I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

**Luke 18:8 (NLT)** I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when I, the Son of Man, return, how many will I find who have faith?"

**Luke 18:8 (MSG)** I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when He returns.

THE MESSAGE OF THE HOUR IS TO LIVE BY FAITH. TO BE A PERSON WHO IS IMMERSSED IN THE WORD OF GOD AS THE DAYS GROW DARKER AND THE TIMES BECOME MORE TROUBLESOME. AS THESE PROBLEMS COME, FAITH WILL BE THE DECIDING FACTOR. THE ENEMY WILL ENDEAVOR TO ASSAULT YOUR FAITH, CONTAMINATE YOUR FAITH AND KILL OFF YOUR FAITH. BUT WE ARE ASSURED THAT FAITH IS OUR VICTORY.

**1 John 5:4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the

**victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

**1 John 5:4 (MSG) Every God-begotten person conquers the world's ways. The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith.**

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**James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?**

1. I want you to see that having faith can be profitable for a person's life.

**James 2:14 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone.**

2. A person of faith is someone who hears a message and finds ways to put action to what was spoken.

a. A person believing for finances would sow a financial seed.

b. A woman believing for a husband would clear out some closet space.

c. A man believing for that new job would buy a new briefcase to take to his new office.

3. Anything that requires faith demands that some type of action take place as evidence that one has already received what they are believing for.

**James 2:15-16 (NLT) [15] Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, [16] and you say, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?**

4. Here we see why some believers are not walking as blessed as they could be. In cases like this, they will tell these needy people, "*We'll pray for you,*" but they won't personally get involved because it might inconvenience them or cost them something.

5. So faith needs to be backed up with some action that validates that the person trusts God, no one / nothing else.

a. Now, allow me to introduce you to a type of faith most people live with.

**James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.**

6. The faith I want to show you here is called “dead faith.”
7. It’s where a person may know the Word, they may have just heard it preached and it can be exactly what they need, but they don’t act upon it.

**James 2:17 (NLT) So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless.**

8. When a person does not apply any type of response to their faith, the enemy will convince you that all this “God-stuff” is useless.
  - a. What’s the use of going to church, nothing’s changed.
  - b. What’s the use in tithing, we’re still struggling financially.

**James 2:14-17 (MSG) [14] Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? [15] For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved [16] and say, "Good morning,**

**friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? [17] Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?**

9. That means you can hear all the messages, buy the CDs, take time off to go to the conferences and listen to it on your I-Pod, but if you don’t respond to the message in some way, you’re dead in the water, you’re not going anywhere and nothing is going to change.

**James 2:18 (NLT) Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." I say, "I can't see your faith if you don't have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds."**

10. So having faith can actually be seen by others.
  - a. Let’s validate...

**Mark 2:1-5 (NLT) [1] Several days later Jesus returned to Capernaum, and the news of his arrival spread quickly through the town. [2] Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with**

**visitors that there wasn't room for one more person, not even outside the door. And he preached the word to them. [3] Four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. [4] They couldn't get to Jesus through the crowd, so they dug through the clay roof above his head. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. [5] Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My son, your sins are forgiven."**

11. What did Jesus see that made Him know they had faith?
- a. Four men were carrying a man through the crowded streets of the city.
  - b. Instead of letting the crowd stop them and just accept the circumstances, they took matters into their own hands.
  - c. They refused to be denied an opportunity to get to Jesus.
  - d. They were willing to inflict property damage, meaning it would cost them something personally to get their friend healed.

- e. They dug through Jesus' roof.
  - f. They interrupted His meeting.
  - g. They lowered the man right in front of Jesus.
12. Their faith was focused on getting this man healed. The actions that they took to get him in front of Jesus was their works, their faith in action.
13. Today, believers would have succumbed to the dead faith syndrome:
- a. There's too many people, we'll never get to see Him.
  - b. These lines are way too long, there no guarantee you know, besides, I don't feel like waiting all day.
  - c. It's hot and if one more person pushes on me, I swear I'm gonna go off.
  - d. Even if we do get close, it will probably be balcony seats.
  - e. Last time I got balcony seats, you couldn't make out diddly.
  - f. Let's just go, we'll try something else when it's easier and more convenient.

- g. I ain't climbing up there, what do I look like, your maid?
- h. You want me to what, pull you up and let you cut in front of me, please.
- i. Man, I tore my new shirt, I hope you're happy.
- j. You know, you might roll off the cot if we lower you.

14. All of these point to **the dead faith syndrome**.

15. How does a person become contaminated with **the dead faith syndrome**?

**James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?**

16. Contamination comes from:

- #1. Being disobedient to God - **O vain man** - means one who is empty of God and full of themselves.

**James 2:14 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone.**

- The focus is on you and yours.

- Every conversation is about your world.

#2. Backsliding - this is where you quit doing the things that are evidence of salvation - **That kind of faith can't save anyone.**

- They love the Lord, but they don't come to His house anymore.

- They are very busy right now, but when they get into some kind of trouble, they know where to find the preacher for some help.

#3. Having no compassion on others anymore. You stop sharing and caring.

**James 2:15-16 (NLT) [15] Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, [16] and you say, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?**

- Dead faith syndrome no longer is concerned about living life, you just exist.

#4. Contamination sets in when you stop bearing fruit.

**James 2:18-20** [18] Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. [19] Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. [20] But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

- You no longer allow the Holy Spirit to change you.
- You think it's always you having to do the changes, no one else.

#5. Contamination sets in when you stop having fellowship with God.

**James 2:21 (NLT)** Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was declared right with God because of what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

- You stop meeting God at the altar.
- You stop laying down what is the most precious thing to you.

#6. A contaminated believer rejects the people of God.

**James 2:25 (NLT)** Rahab the prostitute is another example of this. She was made right with God by her actions—when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.

- Rahab's faith caused her to be the only one in town to accept God's people.
- The rest of Jericho rejected the people of God.

**3 John 1:9-10 (NLT)** [9] I sent a brief letter to the church about this, but Diotrephes, who loves to be the leader, does not acknowledge our authority. [10] When I come, I will report some of the things he is doing and the wicked things he is saying about us. He not only refuses to welcome the traveling teachers, he also tells others not to help them. And when they do help, he puts them out of the church.

- Once a contaminate person has rejected God's people, it becomes easy to talk about them and to treat them ugly.

#7. A contaminated believer stops having fellowship.

**1 John 1:5-8 [5] This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. [6] If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. [8] If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

- **We have fellowship one with another.**
- A contaminated believer stops fellow shipping with others.
- They make themselves scarce, too busy, too tired, too something.

#8. A contaminated person cannot please God.

**Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

- No faith, no works.

17. So why does faith die in some people?

#1. Faith dies when love grows cold.

**Matthew 24:12 (NLT) Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.**

- What used to bother them no longer does.

#2. Faith dies when there no longer is a respect for God.

**Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

- Their disrespect is masked with excuses and reasons.

**Psalm 112:1 Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.**

- Dead faith has nothing to delight in but everything to complain about, reason out and justify.

#3. Faith dies as bad attitudes develop.

**2 Timothy 4:10 (NLT) Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to**

**Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia.**

- The things of God get replaced by things of this world.

#4. Faith dies as roots of bitterness take hold.

**Hebrews 12:15** Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

- Many get defiled, contaminated with bitterness.
- Bitter people talk about how they got wronged or hurt.
- Faith people talk about how God got them through the hurt and wrongful times.

#5. Faith dies because of neglect.

**Hebrews 2:3** How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

18. So how do we cure / resurrect the dead faith syndrome?

#1. Attend church services and bible studies.

**Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) [24] Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. [25] And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.**

- Surround yourself with life, fellowship, praise and worship.

#2. Get into the Word yourself.

**Acts 17:11 (NLT)** And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to check up on Paul and Silas, to see if they were really teaching the truth.

- Check up on the Word yourself, don't just be spoon-fed .

**1 Peter 2:2 (NLT)** **You must crave pure spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment as a baby cries for milk,**

- Crave the Word so you can grow again.
- Tell your flesh no more excuses.

#3. Start doing the Word...by faith.

**James 1:21-22** **[21] Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. [22] But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

- Stop the practice of self deception.

**James 1:21-22 (NLT)** **[21] So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the message God has planted in your hearts, for it is strong enough to save your souls. [22] And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don't obey,**

**you are only fooling yourself.**

- Start cleaning up your act.

#4. Pray.

**Luke 18:1** **And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;**

- Pray to keep contamination away.

**Luke 18:1 (NLT)** **One day Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate their need for constant prayer and to show them that they must never give up.**

- Don't quit, don't give up.

**Jude 1:20** **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,**

- Prayer is exercise for the spirit man.

#5. Start serving God.

**Galatians 6:10** **As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**

- Serve in church, get involved.

**Hebrews 12:28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

- Serve God acceptably.

19. Test yourself.

**2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

**2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT)** Examine yourselves to see if your faith is really genuine. Test yourselves. If you cannot tell that Jesus Christ is among you, it means you have failed the test.

20. Revival starts with you!