

## The Power of a Perhaps

This is the first Sunday in the season of lent. Lent lasts for 40 days and is patterned after the 40 days Christ spent praying & fasting in the wilderness. We also walk in a wilderness and use this time to fast & pray for more of God. Our lent season will bring us into the holy week where we remember Christ & his cross and we celebrate His resurrection.

Let us pray:

Holy God, help me live a life of faith that is devoted to You. I want to have a heart that pursues You before anything else. You said if we seek You with all our hearts, we will find You. I long to behold Your beauty and to know Your heart even more. Align my will with Yours and help

me to keep Your commands.

We pray for all those that are sick. Let them be healed.

We pray for all those who are fearful. Let them be loved.

We pray for those in war. Let them receive Your peace.

We pray for our community. Let them come and receive Christ.

We ask all of this in the name of Jesus, as we pray the prayer you taught us...

Scripture text

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) 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.

Welcome everyone to First Christian Church in Van Alstyne. Thank you for gathering with us today. My name is Chris Fluit and I welcome you. I pray that what I share today is a blessing.

Did anyone drive your vehicle to Church today? Quick show of hands...

Do you know where your car is right now? Are you absolutely certain that your car is where you say it is?

I once had coffee with a friend who had trouble believing in God. He would often look at me and say “I want to believe, I’m

just not certain. How can I know what the Bible says is really true?"

One day we met at a Starbucks, and I asked him the same question I asked you. "Do you know where your car is?"

I sat by a window and had seen my friend drive up in his Ford F-150 super cab. I could still turn and see where his vehicle was parked, but now my friend sat across the table and did not have access to my view out the window.

My friend said, "Well I know I parked right outside." I responded, "But are you sure... are you absolutely certain that your truck is still there?"

You here today, are you absolutely certain?

# Absolute certainty

Absolute certainty is very rare. I have rarely been absolutely certain about anything.

Maybe I am talking to some people today that are “absolutely certain” that God exists, and the Bible is true. I do not want to discourage your strong faith today. If you have absolute certain belief I invite you to pray for the rest of us who are less than certain.

In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 9, a man pleads with Jesus to heal his son. Jesus responds to the man’s cry for help by saying “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

Mark 9:24(NIV) Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Jesus I do believe... but I also struggle... I also may doubt... I also may be afraid... I believe, but I don't know if I believe enough. I have faith, but it is much less than an absolute certainty.

There are people in your Bible who seemed to have absolute certainty. It would be great to be like these people and emulate their faith.

Abraham – Seemed absolutely certain that God was going to rescue him from that whole “sacrifice your son” thing.

Job – Seemed absolutely certain when He said, “in my flesh I shall see God.” His flesh is deteriorating with boils, yet He declares “in my flesh I shall see God... I know that my redeemer lives.”

Moses – Seemed absolutely certain when he lifted up that staff: when He was trapped at the Red Sea.

David – The small shepherd boy seemed to know for certain that this Giant was going to regret what He had said about our Lord.

Paul – In Acts 14 Paul preaches Jesus in the city of Lystra. A crowd of people get so angry at Paul they stone him and drag his dead body out of the city. Yet Paul gets up alive and what does Paul do? Paul walks right back into the city that

had just stoned him to death. (Can you imagine the look on the people's faces when they see Paul walking back into their city?)

We have a God who is worthy of our absolutely certain trust. As the song says, "O for grace to trust Him more."

This message is for anyone who feels more like the man who said, "I believe but help my unbelief" than they feel like Moses at the Red Sea.

This message is for anyone who still struggles with questions like, "God why?" and "God how" and "God when?"



I want to help you by teaching you FAITH IS NOT ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY.

## **Faith is not Absolute Certainty**

If you are only able to remember 1 thing from this sermon I want it to be that faith is not absolute certainty.

The man did believe but also needed help with his unbelief. Belief is not the banishment of all doubt. Belief is not the answering and comprehending of every question.

Faith is essential to the Christian life. No one can be saved without faith. We can't even please God without faith... so we better understand what faith is all about.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) 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.

This one verse teaches us so much. It says anyone who comes to God must do the following...

1. Believe God exists.
2. Believe God rewards our search for Him.

Isn't it great that there is nothing else added to the list...?

1. Memorize the whole Bible.
2. Be perfect – never sin, not even once!
3. Pay Chris Fluitt 1 million dollars.
4. Fix the government

No, all that is required is to believe God exists... and then believe that this God is worth searching for...

“Yeah, but I don’t know if God exists...”

The scripture does not say “KNOW THAT GOD EXISTS” it says believe.

“Yeah, but I am not sure I believe enough...” Sounds a lot like, “I believe but help my unbelief.”

We are not talking about absolute certainty... we have a word in the English language for anything less than absolute certainty. It is the word PERHAPS.

## Perhaps

Anyone who comes to God must believe God exists... so let me ask you, can you perhaps believe? Can you imagine it possible that God exists? I think we all could do this today.

Next... If there is a God, can you imagine that He would reward you for searching for him? Can you perhaps believe this?

If your answer is yes to those 2 questions I have great news... there is NOTHING keeping you from coming to God.

Your perhaps faith is still faith.

God is ok with your perhaps.

God is ok with your questions.

God is ok with your searching.

God is ok with your perhaps, in fact God has built everything on a perhaps. Not only is God ok with your perhaps, but God operates on a perhaps.

**Acts 17:26 (NIV) From one man he made all the nations, that they should**

inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Our all-powerful God... our Sovereign Lord... Our creator & sustainer... He created all nations, marked out their times and boundaries... But why did He do this?

Acts 17:27 (NIV) God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

God has done everything so that PERHAPS you would seek Him... PERHAPS

you would reach out to Him... PERHAPS  
you would find Him.

We hate “perhaps” because it is less than  
certain... God loves “perhaps,” and has  
chosen to build everything upon a  
perhaps. God loves perhaps... because  
perhaps You will choose Him.

You who have felt like your faith is weak, I  
tell you it is powerful.

As Jesus said... “if you have faith as small  
as a mustard seed, you can say to this  
mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and  
it will move. Nothing will be impossible  
for you.” (Matthew 17:20)

Where is your car today?

You don't have to be absolutely certain that it is in that parking lot, you just need to have enough confidence to go look.

I am talking to people who are facing uncertain times...

1. Medical issues
2. Relationship issues
3. Financial issues
4. Spiritual issues
5. World issues

Can you operate on a perhaps today? Can you believe God is worth the search?

I may be talking to someone who has struggled with believing in God... Maybe I am talking to someone who has never confessed their belief in Jesus Christ...

Today is your day. You are not required to

have an absolute certainty... you just need a perhaps.

Our music team is going to play a final song in worship... as they play I want to invite you to operate on a perhaps. I am asking you to come forward and allow me to pray with you.

If you have any special needs in your life, why don't you come forward and allow us to pray for you.

As we come for prayer let us all stand and sing 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus'.

Benediction



God who is worthy of all our trust. In faith we ask for your help. In faith we ask for your wisdom. In faith we ask for healing.

God we believe you exist. God we believe you are worth searching for.

God increase our faith. Because we believe we should be active. Help us to have active faith.

God, in the wilderness of this world, we proclaim what is said in your Word and we believe.