

Faith Share

Why do we need Faith Share? Much like when Jesus took Peter, James & John on the high mountain and was transfigured there... The experience had to have been breath taking.

Matthew 17:4

4 Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents^{Le1} here, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Like us, Peter wanted to live on the mountain top. We too have mountain top experiences and we draw very close to the Lord in those experiences and we desire to preserve that moment and not want it to end. Living on the mountain is easy, in Christ's presence there is no temptation, there is no distraction. Unfortunately we are not called to live on the mountain top. We are called to live in the valley.

John 17 reminds us that we are to be in the world, but not of the world. In the world there are temptations, enticements, and lures designed to separate us from the love and fellowship of Christ. So we must renew our relationship.

Faith Share is a time of renewal.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you can test and prove God's will... His good pleasing and perfect will.

When we left our retreat... most of us were on fire for the Lord. Like all fires, unless you keep fueling the flame, the fire will burn out. We must fan the flame to keep the fire alive so that others will be enticed to catch fire and burn bright for Christ.

Faith Share stokes the fire and fans the flame.

Many of us left our retreat with hopes and commitments to change or to pursue our faith more intently. Over time we can lose track of those commitments if we do not renew our pledges and continue to pursue Christ presence, but we get tired, lazy and distracted. There is an old saying in sports that... "Fatigue

makes cowards of all of us" In our weariness we become weak and make ourselves an easy target for temptation and sin... When did Satan tempt Jesus... when he was in his weakest moment... when he was tired, hungry and most fragile? In that moment, Jesus quoted scripture to battle Satan. Jesus is in perpetual fellowship with the Father. So must we... We too will become tired, weary and weak.

Isaiah 40

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Faith Share renews our strength.

Hebrews 10 Gives us A Call to Persevere in Faith

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

So let us renew our mountain top experiences, let us renew our minds, let us fan the flame, and let's not give up meeting together for we cannot do it alone. We must pursue our community as to pursue Christ. God did not create us to be alone, but he designed us to be social and to lean on one another, to hold each other accountable, to love on one another other in times of pain and discord, and to rejoice in times of celebration.

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Your community needs you!