

## THE WORD FOR LIFE - SERMON NOTES

What Do I Do When...#5  
My Faith Is Shallow  
By Louie Marsh, 9/6/2009

### 1) Signs that my faith is shallow.

□ **It's all \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Are you listening to me? Really listening? How can I account for this generation? The people have been like spoiled children whining to their parents, 'We wanted to skip rope, and you were always too tired; we wanted to talk, but you were always too busy.' Matthew 11:15-17 (MSG)*

□ **I \_\_\_\_\_ from God.**

*Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 1 Corinthians 1:22-23 (NIV)*

□ **I quit when things \_\_\_\_\_**

*From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:66-69 (NIV)*

□ **I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_**

*When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers!" Matthew 9:36-37 (MSG)*

□ **I'm a \_\_\_\_\_**

*Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews. John 7:12-13 (NIV)*

### 2) Two private acts I can take to deepen my faith.

• **Pray for \_\_\_\_\_**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Psalms 139:23 (NIV)*

*Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it. 2 Corinthians 13:5 (MSG)*

• **\_\_\_\_\_ on God's Word.**

*Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8 (NIV)*

*O God, we meditate on your unfailing love as we worship in your Temple. Psalms 48:9 (NLT)*

*My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises. Psalms 119:148 (NIV)*

### 3) Two external ways to deepen my faith.

• **Dare to go \_\_\_\_\_**

*Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NIV)*

*When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NIV)*

• **\_\_\_\_\_ to the storm.**

*Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:7-11 (NIV)*