

# 1) THE ADVENTURE OF *THE* *UNSEEN*



**Series Intro:** The culmination of our faith is action. Once we have acknowledged that God is REAL and GOOD, that He is worthy of our ALL and makes us ONE in him, then God says to us "GO!" Go into all the world. Go preach the gospel. Go make disciples. Go bear fruit that will last. A series called "GO!" might seem a strange choice in the midst of lockdown, but our faith isn't bound by our circumstances and is never placed on hold. Instead, the Christian life involves a constant call to incredible adventures with God. The question is... will we answer the call?

**Series Warm Up Question:** In what way have you experienced your Christian faith as an adventure with God?

**Special Request:** Would any of you be willing to send a short (30ish second) video of your answer to Pastor Andrew, to be included in upcoming services? If so, please email to [acameron@ecbc.org.au](mailto:acameron@ecbc.org.au) or text to 0411249747.

## INTRO

The Nicene Creed from around 300AD began with: "We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen." When Christians talk about "unseen" things, what are we referring to? What biblical examples can you think of?

## THE FOUNDATION: FAITH (READ HEBREWS 11:1-16)

1. **Verse 1** is translated variously as: "Now faith is the [substance/assurance/confidence] of what we hope for and the [evidence/conviction/assurance] about things unseen." Many people see faith as something that humans are left with in the absence of understanding, whereas this chapter talks about faith as something God gives to lead us into greater understanding (as well as confidence and assurance), especially of unseen things. What has been your experience of the relationship between understanding and faith?

2. The remaining verses talk about the content of our faith. Firstly, what do these verses tell us about the nature of the God whom our faith is in? Secondly, what to these verses tell us about the actions that should result from faith?

## THREE PRACTICAL ACTIONS

1. **Regular Practices.** In Matthew 6 Jesus teaches his disciples not to do their regular practices of faith (i.e. giving to the needy, prayer and fasting) to be seen and praised by others, but to do them in secret. With each practice, Jesus says, "Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Through these practices we cross the threshold between the seen and unseen.

- What has been your experience of doing them (joys and frustrations)?
- What would help you to be able to press into them more?

2. **Revelations.** In Acts 2, quoting from Joel, we find these words: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." It's possible to believe in the supernatural and yet live in the natural. It's possible to believe in God's revelation and yet rely on your own understanding.

- What has been your experience of visions, dreams, prophecy, spiritual discernment and insight from God?
- How actively are you seeking God's revelation in your life?

3. **Power.** The Apostle Paul wrote, "'For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.'" We really enter into the mystery of the unseen we seek God's power to heal, reconcile, save and restore. But seeking God to act in these words can also feel quite uncomfortable for us.

- How have you seen God's power manifest in your life?
- How can you step out in faith and seek God's power more in your life?

## PRAY

Ask God to stretch you, in your understanding and actions, beyond the natural and human, and into the unseen.

**THIS WEEK'S GO! CHALLENGE:** Get a blank piece of paper and a pen, spend half an hour with God, and ask Him to speak to you.