

# PULPIT COMPANION

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LIVING LARGE  
WHILE  
LEARNING  
SMALL LESSONS

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HEBREWS 11:1

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PASTOR WAYNE JACKSON



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1811 S. 7TH STREET, SAN JOSE, CA

WWW.MARANATHACC.COM

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This powerful message invites us to explore what it means to possess 'now faith'—not a blind, wishful thinking, but a daily, active confidence in God's presence and provision. Drawing from Hebrews 11:1, we're reminded that faith is both the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen.

The sermon beautifully illustrates this through the metaphor of an Airbus plane flying steadily versus a fighter jet doing flashy maneuvers, showing us that sometimes God's greatest work happens not in the spectacular moments but in the steady, faithful journey toward our destination. We discover that our ancestors understood this deeply—they didn't have all the theological terminology, but they knew how to trust God through impossible circumstances, like the story of an eye miraculously healed through prayer. The message challenges us to understand that faith isn't passive; it's behavior tied to belief.

Every morning we wake up and get in our cars without checking every mechanical detail—that's daily faith in action. Similarly, God calls us to develop that same confident reliance on Him, built day by day through experience. When we read Jeremiah 29:11—"For I know the plans I have for you"—we must understand that 'you' means all of us collectively. God's kingdom economy leaves no one behind. The evidence of things not seen is like knowing gifts are hidden in the attic but not knowing which box contains what we need—we trust that God will present the right provision at the right time.





## SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

### Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Hebrews 11:1** - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
2. **Isaiah** (general reference) - The pastor mentions the congregation studied Isaiah last week, specifically referencing a passage about coming to the mountain of the Lord (likely **Isaiah 2:3**)
3. **Jeremiah 29:11** - "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
4. **James** (general reference to faith and works) - Likely **James 2:14-26** regarding "show me your faith without works"
5. **Hebrews 11** (broader context) - References to "by faith Enoch," and other faith heroes

### Alluded to or Paraphrased:

1. **Psalm 37:25** - "I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread"
2. **Deuteronomy 31:6** or **Hebrews 13:5** - "Never leaves us nor forsakes us"
3. **Ephesians 3:20** - God doing "above and beyond what we can ask or think"
4. **Lamentations 3:22-23** - "Great is Thy faithfulness... morning by morning new mercies I see"
5. **Matthew 26:36-46** (or parallel passages) - Jesus praying while disciples sleep in Gethsemane
6. **Matthew 14:22-33** - Jesus calming the storm and Peter walking on water
7. **Matthew 14:13-21** - Feeding of the 5,000
8. **Romans 3:23** or **Ephesians 2:8-9** - All standing equal at the foot of the cross

### Relevant Verses for Main Themes:

1. **Hebrews 11:6** - "Without faith it is impossible to please God"
2. **2 Corinthians 5:7** - "We walk by faith, not by sight"
3. **Romans 10:17** - "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"
4. **Proverbs 3:5-6** - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart"





## DEVOTIONAL

### Day 1: The Steady Pace of Faith

**Reading:** Hebrews 11:1-6

**Devotional:** Faith is not about flashy maneuvers or dramatic displays—it's about the steady journey toward God's destination. Like the Airbus that flies consistently through varying conditions, our faith carries us through life's turbulence when we rest in God's design. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that faith is "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." This isn't blind optimism; it's confident trust built on God's faithfulness.

Today, resist the pressure to constantly perform or prove yourself. Instead, settle into the rhythm of trusting God's steady hand. Let Him guide you to your destination without all the flips and flashes. Sometimes the greatest act of faith is simply resting in His capable hands.

**Reflection Question:** Where in your life are you exhausting yourself with unnecessary "flips and flashes" instead of trusting God's steady guidance?

### Day 2: God Knows Your Future

**Reading:** Jeremiah 29:11-14

**Devotional:** "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord." Notice God doesn't say "I'm thinking about" or "perhaps"—He says "I KNOW." When others speak limitations over your life, remember they don't author your story. God does. He sees beyond your seventh-grade teacher, past your current circumstances, through your fears and failures. His plans aren't just good—they're designed specifically for you to prosper, not to harm you. This promise extends to "all y'all"—the entire community of believers. You're not alone in God's economy. His future for you includes hope that doesn't disappoint and purpose that doesn't fade. Whatever voices have told you what you can't become, God's voice declares what you will be in Him.

**Reflection Question:** What limiting beliefs about your future do you need to surrender to God's greater knowledge and plans?





## DEVOTIONAL

### Day 3: Faith Grows Through Daily Experience

**Reading:** Lamentations 3:22-26

**Devotional:** "Morning by morning, new mercies I see." Now faith isn't yesterday's faith recycled—it's fresh trust cultivated through daily encounters with God's goodness. Just as you trust your car each morning without a fifteen-point inspection, faith becomes habitual through consistent experience of God's faithfulness. Every answered prayer, every provision, every moment He shows up expands your capacity to trust Him more. This isn't "name it and claim it" theology; it's the reality that genuine faith requires action and produces evidence. The disciples could sleep while Jesus prayed because they'd experienced His protection. Your grandmother could pray over an injured eye because she'd witnessed God's healing power before. What daily habits are you building that allow you to experience God's new mercies each morning?

**Reflection Question:** How have you seen God's faithfulness in small, daily ways that build your confidence in Him for bigger challenges?

### Day 4: Fear Cannot Coexist With Faith

**Reading:** 2 Timothy 1:7-12

**Devotional:** Fear of failure, fear of inadequacy, fear of comparison—these are vocabularies of the enemy, not the language of the Kingdom. When we stand at the foot of the cross, there is no comparison. God's grace doesn't grade on a curve or favor those who appear more polished. Every believer receives the same access to His presence, the same invitation to His purposes. Now faith cultivates confidence not in our abilities but in God's character. It provides assurance because we've seen Him work before. It empowers us for daily living because we know He never leaves us. Stop measuring yourself against others and start measuring yourself against God's calling on your life. You are exactly who He needs you to be, right where you are.

**Reflection Question:** What specific fear is hindering your faith today, and how can you replace it with confidence in God's character?





## DEVOTIONAL

### Day 5: The Evidence of Things Not Seen

**Reading:** Romans 8:24-28

**Devotional:** Remember sneaking into the attic to see Christmas gifts? You knew presents existed, but you didn't know which box held your treasure. That's the evidence of things not seen—knowing God has gifts prepared for you even when you can't see the packaging yet. Faith isn't about knowing every detail of God's plan; it's about trusting the Giver. Every challenge you face is an opportunity to unwrap another aspect of God's provision. The "rigamarole" of life—the waiting, the uncertainty, the process—is where faith deepens. God is placing boxes under your tree that contain exactly what you need for your journey. Your job isn't to figure out which box holds what. Your job is to trust that the One who knows you best has prepared perfectly for your future. Keep your faith active, your hope alive, and your eyes on the Gift-Giver.

**Reflection Question:** What "wrapped gift" from God are you waiting to receive, and how can you trust Him in the waiting?

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, help us to walk in "now faith"—the kind that grows daily through experiencing Your goodness. Remove our fears, expand our confidence, and establish our assurance in You alone. Thank You that You know the plans You have for all of us, plans to prosper and not to harm, plans that give us hope and a future. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: "Now Faith"

### Opening Prayer:

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand and apply His Word in practical ways this week.

### Key Scripture:

Based on Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

### Icebreaker Question

Share a time when you had to trust someone or something without seeing the full picture first. How did that feel? What was the outcome?

### Key Takeaways

#### 1. Now Faith vs. Blind Faith

Faith isn't passive wishful thinking—it's active trust in God that involves both belief and behavior. It's confidence built on daily experience with God's faithfulness.

#### 2. Faith Cultivates Through Daily Experience

Like checking our car every day without a 15-point inspection, we build faith through consistent, daily experiences of God's provision and presence.

#### 3. Three Functions of Now Faith:

- Cultivates our confidence in God through daily experiences
- Provides assurance based on God's past faithfulness
- Empowers us for daily living in practical ways

#### 4. God's Plans Are for All of Us

Jeremiah 29:11 uses "you" in the collective sense—God's plans to prosper and give hope and a future are for all His people, not just select individuals.





## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: "There's a Shoot Coming"

### Discussion Questions:

#### Understanding the Message

1. The sermon contrasted a fighter jet (fast, flashy, unpredictable) with an Airbus (steady, purposeful, reliable). Which approach better describes your current spiritual life? Why?
2. The preacher said, "Now faith is not blind faith—it's behavior tied to belief." What's the difference between these two types of faith? Can you give an example from your own life?
3. How does the story of the grandmother's brother with the dislocated eye illustrate "now faith"? What made that different from just hoping for the best?

#### Personal Reflection

1. What fears hinder your faith right now? (Fear of failure, fear of not being good enough, fear of comparison, etc.) How can "now faith" address those fears?
2. The sermon mentioned that faith grows through daily experience with God. What daily practices help you experience God's faithfulness? What gets in the way?
3. Think about a "box under the tree" moment—a time when you knew God had something for you, but you didn't know when or how it would arrive. How did you handle the waiting? What did you learn?

#### Application to Life

1. Pastor mentioned that the disciples could sleep while Jesus prayed because they were protected by His love even when He wasn't physically present. How does this truth change the way you face your daily challenges?
2. Jeremiah 29:11 promises plans "to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." How does knowing this promise is for the collective body of Christ (not just individuals) change your perspective on church community?
3. The preacher said, "Don't fret what you don't see because He's at work on your behalf for your future." What situation in your life right now requires this kind of trust?





## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: "Now Faith"

### Practical Applications (15 minutes)

#### This Week's Challenge: Choose One or More

**Option 1: Daily Faith Journal** Each morning this week, write down one way you're trusting God that day before you see the outcome. Each evening, record how God showed up.

**Option 2: Faith Testimony Exchange** Share with at least one person this week a specific time when God proved faithful to you. Ask them to share their story too.

**Option 3: Comparison Fast** Identify one area where you regularly compare yourself to others. Each time you're tempted to compare this week, intentionally thank God for how He's uniquely made you and what He's doing in your life.

**Option 4: "Now Faith" Action Step** Identify one area where you've been stuck in "blind faith" (hoping without acting). Take one concrete step of obedience this week that demonstrates active trust in God.

### Group Prayer Focus (10 minutes)

#### Pray for each other in these areas:

- For faith that cultivates confidence in God's character
- For assurance based on God's past faithfulness in our lives
- For empowerment to live out our faith daily in practical ways
- For the courage to trust God's plans even when we can't see the full picture
- For our church community to grow together in collective faith





## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: "Now Faith"

### Memory Verse for the Week

**Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)** "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

### Closing Thought

"Now faith is a faith that only operates and continues to grow by doing. It's not about ducks and dodging and flying and flipping. Sometimes it's about taking a steady pace, reaching your destination. God wants us to rest in Him and watch Him take us to our destination."

### Before Next Week

Come prepared to share one way you experienced "now faith" in action this week—a moment when you trusted God and saw Him work, even in small ways.

