

STRONG AND IMMOVABLE

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Guest Preacher: **Pastor Jason Render**

Worship Song Suggestion:

Build My Life – Pat Barrett / *Firm Foundation* – Cody Carnes

Check-In:

1. Tell us about a time when you had to trust God before you could see the outcome.
2. Have you ever felt discouraged because you couldn't see the fruit of your prayers or efforts?
3. What helps you remain faithful during seasons of waiting?

Key Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Joshua 1:9
- Ephesians 3:16-19
- Mark 4:26-29
- Isaiah 61:1-4

Sermon Summary:

Paul concludes 1 Corinthians 15 by reminding believers that because Jesus has conquered death and eternity is our future, we can live differently today. We don't need to judge our faithfulness by immediate results because God is always working, even when we cannot yet see it.

Faith calls us to remain strong when we feel weak, immovable when circumstances are uncertain, and enthusiastic in serving God because nothing we do for Him is ever wasted.

Throughout the message we were reminded that strength doesn't come from striving harder but from staying close to Jesus. Like an oak tree, deep roots are formed over time. God often works beneath the surface long before we ever see visible fruit. Our responsibility is simply to faithfully play our part and trust Him with the outcome.

Faith Remains Strong Before We See the Results

Joshua had to step into the flooded Jordan before seeing God make a way. In the same way, God often asks us to obey before we understand what He is doing.

Faith isn't the absence of fear - it is choosing to trust God despite it. Even when we cannot yet see the evidence, God is already at work.

Strength Comes From Remaining Close to Jesus

Using the illustration of a tea bag, Pastor Jason reminded us that strength develops by remaining. Just as tea only grows stronger by staying in hot water, spiritual strength is formed by continually abiding in God's presence. We cannot control what God does, but we can choose to keep showing up, staying planted, and allowing Him to deepen our roots.

Deep Roots Produce Lasting Fruit

Weeds and pawpaw trees grow quickly, but oak trees grow slowly while developing deep, strong roots.

God isn't primarily interested in fast growth or outward appearance. He desires to form mature, resilient followers whose lives are deeply rooted in His love. Over time, faithful obedience produces lasting fruit that often impacts generations beyond what we can imagine.

Nothing Done for the Lord Is Ever Wasted

One of the greatest encouragements from this message is that God sees every faithful act.

Every prayer, every act of service, every conversation, every unseen sacrifice matters to God even if we never witness the outcome ourselves. Like the farmer scattering seed in Mark 4, we faithfully sow while trusting God to bring the growth in His perfect timing.

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Key Takeaway

Faith enables us to remain faithful even when we cannot yet see what God is doing. As we stay close to Jesus, allow our roots to grow deep in His love, and continue faithfully obeying Him, we can confidently know that nothing we do for the Lord is ever wasted.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which illustration from the message spoke most to you - the Jordan River, the tea bag, the oak tree, the acorn, or the farmer sowing seed? Why?
2. Pastor Jason said, "Faith enables us to remain faithful when we cannot yet see what God is doing." Is there an area of your life where you are currently being asked to trust God before seeing the outcome?
3. The sermon challenged us to become "oak trees" rather than "pawpaw trees." What practices help your roots grow deeper in God's love rather than simply becoming busier?
4. Paul says that nothing we do for the Lord is ever useless. How does believing that truth change the way you approach serving, praying, loving others, or persevering through difficult seasons?

Prayer Pointers:

- Thank Jesus that He is always working, even when we cannot see it.
- Ask God to strengthen you in any area where you feel discouraged or weary.
- Pray for deeper roots in God's love through daily time with Him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remain faithful in the small things He has entrusted to you.
- Pray for an eternal perspective that values faithfulness above immediate results.
- Pray together: *"Jesus, help me remain strong and immovable. Give me faith to trust You when I cannot yet see what You are doing and help me remain faithful knowing that nothing I do for You is ever wasted."*

Weekly Challenge:

Each morning this week, begin your day by praying:

"Jesus, help me remain close to You today. Strengthen me to trust You, obey You, and remain faithful even when I cannot yet see what You are doing."

Each evening, reflect on these four questions:

- Where did I choose faith over fear today?
- How did I intentionally remain close to Jesus?
- What act of faithfulness did I offer to God today?
- Where did I trust God with results instead of trying to control them?