

# **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

## **February 2, 2025**

### **SERMON SERIES**

#### ***The Power of the Plus Factor What It Is, and Why You Need It***

#### **SERMON FOR TODAY:**

***“How do you spell faith?”***

**Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19  
(New Revised Standard Version)**

**1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2** Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. **3** By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible...

**13** All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, **14** for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. **15** If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

**17** By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, **18** of whom he had been told, “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.” **19** He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

**Pastor Kip’s Sunday sermons can be found each week in podcast form at “Preaching Now” on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and other platforms.**

# Sermon Notes

This is the Power of the Plus Factor, and Abraham had it! What is it? Faith. But it is helpful to understand that the word “faith” as it is translated from the ancient Hebrew literally means T-R-U-S-T – that is how you spell Faith.

I trust God when...

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ My Faith in a \_\_\_\_\_ Way.

Faith is not believing something in spite of what you think is true.

Faith is believing something because of what you believe is real.

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I trust God when...

2. I \_\_\_\_\_ My Faith in a \_\_\_\_\_ Way.

It takes a lot more faith to believe that the creation happened by chance, than it does to believe that there is a Divine Creator that brought it in to existence.

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I trust God when...

3. I \_\_\_\_\_ My Faith in a \_\_\_\_\_ Way.

Faith as an abstract philosophical concept, or a construct of certain theological motifs, will not empower us to overcome the struggles of life. But...faith as a power at work in us can make all the difference!

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