Faith Outside of the Box

Terry Francis · 1 Samuel 4:1–11 · Series: **A Faith of Your Own**

INTRODUCTION

- One of the mistakes that Israel made in their history is they put their faith in a box. They literally put their faith in a literal container.
- And the problem in the battle of the Philistines is not that the Ark wasn't there, but that they hadn't put their faith in God.
- And all the word ark means is box. And so Israel had put their faith literally inside the box. I wonder sometimes if our faith isn't in a box.

1 Our Faith Stuck in the Box of the Church Building

Hebrews 10:24–25; Acts 2; Acts 6

- And if you and I aren't careful, our faith gets stuck in the box of the church building. The totality of our faith is limited to what happens here.
- Hebrews 10, 24 and 25 tells us to stimulate one another to love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some.
- But I have to tell you that as important as that is, that's not the fulfillment of your obligation to Christ. In fact, that's just a part of it.
- There was a lot of things in the book of Acts that happened outside of the box. We've got to get outside of the box.
- But that doesn't mean that we change what we do and who we are. It just means that we don't confine what is holy to these four walls as God's people.

2 Don't Hide Our Light in the Church Building

Romans 12:1–2

- You are the light of the world, he said. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
- In the same way, let your lights so shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who's in heaven.
- But you know what I'm afraid is that the church building in our culture has become the basket that we hide our light in.
- Our young people have to let their faith shine at school. We as adults have to let our faith shine at work and in our communities and with our neighbors.

3 Getting Outside of the Box in Our Families

Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6–9

- But I gotta tell you that our families need to be in fellowship of faith and practicing their faith outside of the assemblies as well.

- But if he never develops his own faith that exists outside of the church building to the point that he has a hope of heaven, then I have failed as a parent.
- Father, provoke not your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- You know what that passage is saying? You teach your children everywhere. Not just at church.

4 Get Your Work Outside of the Box

James 2:15–17; James 2:26; Galatians 6:10

- So faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
- Faith is not believing something, it is working.
- Galatians 6 10 said it do good to all men, especially those of the household of faith. If you believe that, then you have a responsibility to do the work.
- When we have that kind of faith that works away from the church building, people start to see it.
- Why aren't more churches growing? Because we're hiding our faith inside our buildings.

5 Get Our Focus Outside of the Box

Mark 16:15

- And yet God has it removed away from them and has them defeated to prove that should not be their focus.
- We are God's people when we live like God's people.
- Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
- There are some people who need to be taught the gospel who will never set foot in the church building until after they've been taught the gospel.
- See when the only way we think we can save people is by getting them to the church building. It's the wrong focus, isn't it?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **I encourage you to get outside of the box when it comes to our faith and our service and our work to God.**

MY NOTES