



- A New Normal is a **required** new behavior.
- It's **difficult** to allow someone else to establish a new behavior for your life.
- God has already **called** us to a new **normal**.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ² Corinthians 5:17(NLT)

The process of discovering a new normal can cause us to pushback and seek out a **desired** behavior rather than a **designed** behavior.

²⁴...take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you. Ephesians 4:24 (MSG)

² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.... Romans 12:2 (NLT)

- Many Christians want to **fit** into a culture that God has **called** them from.

A new Normal means:

- We do life with **faith** in God.

It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists *and* that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (MSG)

³ ...God has given to every one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3 (BBE)

Faith is:

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1(NLT)

- **Believing** God can do what needs to be done.
- Having **confidence** that God will act.
- Faith is the **activity** of our lives that reflects our confidence in God.

... as the body without the spirit is dead, also faith without actions is dead. James 2:26

O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. **Expect God to act!** For I know that I shall again have plenty of reason to praise him for all that he will do. He is my help! He is my God!" Psalm 42:11(TLB)

To develop your faith:

- Discover what the **scripture** says **God** can do.

I am the LORD, the God of all people. Nothing is too difficult for me. Jeremiah 32:27 (GNT)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by God's Word. Romans 10:17

- Let life's **difficulties** develop your faith.

² Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides.

³ You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. ⁴ So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. James 1:2-4 (MSG)

Faith believes God can, but **trusts** Him even if He doesn't.

- Faith does not ignore **reality**, it brings **God** into it.

Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Hebrews 10:23(MSG)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Name one thing you believe will be part of our new normal due to the COVID 19 virus?
- Do you find it difficult to allow someone else (like a government authority) to establish a new behavior for your life? Is it equally challenging to allow God to establish a new behavior for our lives? Explain.
- Talk about what faith is. How would you explain what faith is to a 10 year old child?
- Why does faith require action?
- How does knowing the character of God increase our faith?
- What is one example in the Bible that shows someone with faith? What allows some to have faith while others struggle to have it?
- Why is scripture such an important part of developing our faith?
- Do you find that this time of isolation has developed your faith? Explain.
- From the Talk on Sunday Dave mentioned two ways to develop faith. What are some others ways to develop faith in God that were not mentioned?
- How does trusting God when He doesn't act develop our faith?

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