

UGLY FAITH

We are presently in our series on our 4th week discussing how we overcome strongholds and today I want to talk to you about UGLY FAITH!

2 Corinthians 7:5-7 – For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—**conflicts on the outside, fears within.** (NIV)

2 Corinthians 6:3-5 – We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God... in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger... (NIV)

UGLY FAITH IS HONEST

1 Samuel 27:1- But David thought to himself, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand." (NIV)

1 Samuel 21:11-15 – ...And at that, David shot out of there, running for his life from Saul. He went to Achish, king of Gath. When the servants of Achish saw him, they said, "Can this be David, the **famous David?** Is this the one they sing of at their dances? Saul kills by the thousand, David by the ten thousand!" ¹²⁻¹⁵ When David realized that **he had been recognized, he panicked**, fearing the worst from Achish, king of Gath. So right there, while they were looking at him, **he pretended to go crazy**, pounding his head on the city gate and foaming at the mouth, spit dripping from his beard. Achish took one look at him and said to his servants, "Can't you see he's crazy? Why did you let him in here? Don't you think I have enough crazy people to put up with as it is without adding another? Get him out of here!" (MSG)

UGLY FAITH GRINDS

The Grind: When you go to work and toil... when you're too exhausted to think... when the drudgery of putting one foot after the other is overwhelming...when there is no strength to walk and you still have to do it the next day and every day after that...when there is no relief in sight... when panic and pretending are your only response.

Psalms 34:4... I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. (NIV)

1 Samuel 27:1- But David thought to himself... The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines... (NIV)

Q What do you do when you cannot find rest... and your enemy **your stronghold** seems to be the best option... When our testimony is...I have outside conflicts and inside fears!!

Romans 8:28- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (NIV)