



## **The Gift of Uncertainty** (Summary of the Sermon)

If you had the ability of seeing into the future, what would you like to know? Tempting! But we wouldn't, because knowing how things play out might just paralyze us with fear, paranoia or may spoil the rest of our life. To most people uncertainty seems more like a curse than a gift. When the path ahead is not clearly marked, we grow nervous. Paul calls us who want a high need for certainty in life being childish. For Paul a mature faith is one that embraces life as a mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved. A mature faith accepts uncertainty as a gift, not a curse.

How do we live with uncertainty? Let us remember even when we don't know why or how God is leading us in a certain direction, God wants to assure us that God is walking toward us, holding our hands and saving us from the storm of life. What can we do? Do nothing! Don't fight it. Don't struggle against new things in life. Just live in it. Embrace it. "Many things about tomorrow we don't seem to understand; But we know who holds tomorrow, and we know who holds our hand." (Stanphill)

We have to bloom where we are planted right at this moment. When the storm comes and the wind blows fiercely, then we can root our mind and heart deeper and deeper in the heart of God. Then when the time comes and we blossom, the flowers grow more beautiful and stronger and make more fruits. Faith might be precisely the ability to trust the Big River of God's amazing love. We just need to allow it and enjoy it. We are oriented toward goals and making things happen. Yet the Big River of Life is already flowing through us, and we are only one small part of it. Simone Weil said, "It is grace that forms a void inside of us and it is also grace that fills that void." Let us ask ourselves regularly, "What am I afraid of? Does it matter? Will it matter at the end? Is it worth holding on to?" God knows the full picture. God will work in all the ups and downs of those trials, heartaches, and blessings. Will you live by faith toward unknown territory and with uncertainty by faith, faith alone?

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Look back on your life to times when you were scared. Did God bring you through it? How will you greet the challenges of your journey? Do you tend to approach life as a problem to be solved, or a mystery to be lived? What kinds of people tend to be problem solvers? Are there any parts of life that simply cannot be solved?
2. Do you ever find the things you are engaged in in the world exhausting? Have you ever considered that your exhaustion might be a sign you need to change? How do you experience the difference between certainty and trust? What spiritual practices do you think lead people deeper into trust?
3. What kinds of situations make you most anxious? Do you have any spiritual practices that seem to help you in managing anxiety? How do you feel about Simone Weil's remark, "It is grace that forms a void inside of us and it is also grace that fills that void."