



## *The Big Gift: Faith vs. Certainty*

December 3, 2023 | Matt Anderson

### Warm up

1. What is your favorite Christmas song?
2. What stood out to you in this week's message?

### Dig in

3. Why would the sign promised in Isaiah 7:10-14 promises become scandal?
4. Why do we often prefer the mediocre existence we feel more certain about to the unknown frontier that comes with trusting and following God?
5. Read Matthew 1:18-25. What was Joseph "dead right" about? What would he have done if God didn't give him a fuller perspective?
6. Why are most of our fears and insecurities based on deception. Can you think of a time when you thought you had all the facts but were only acting from a very limited perspective (parenting, marriage, conflict, health, etc)?
7. What does the word *Immanuel* mean, which is one of Jesus' nicknames given back in Isaiah 7? How does trusting that God is with us and in each situation give us the potential to change how we react to them?

### Digging deeper (extra credit!)

8. Read Hebrews 12:1-2.
  - a. What does it mean to be surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses" and why does it matter?
  - b. How do we throw off sin as this passage encourages?
  - c. How can we run with perseverance?
  - d. Why is the life of faith described as a race?
  - e. How do we fix our eyes on Jesus?
  - f. What does pioneer and perfecter of our faith mean?



**Series: *The Big Gift***  
**Title: *Faith vs. Certainty***  
**Speaker: Matt Anderson**

- Have you set up an automatic giving plan to “automate the important”? We’re here to help!
  - Learn about Surprise Covenant Partnership: [Surprisechurch.com/Partners](http://Surprisechurch.com/Partners)
  - Download helpful resources for our *Reconnect* series: [SurpriseChurch.com/worshipresources](http://SurpriseChurch.com/worshipresources)
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- Year End Spark Giving: Text SPARK to 701-380-8210
  - Reserve your seats (and invite friends!) to Christmas at the Belle: [Christmasatthebelle.com](http://Christmasatthebelle.com)

Faith vs. Certainty: We tend to fear...

Will I rely on what I \_\_\_\_\_ or admit my \_\_\_\_\_ perspective (faith)?

Isaiah 7:10-14 – God’s future sign...

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph was dead \_\_\_\_\_.

Joseph’s facts vs. God’s Facts

Fear assumes:

Faith assumes:

We need to see God’s bigger...

Hebrews 12:1-2

Fear:

Faith:

Thank God that Jesus is...