

5. Why does simply focusing on reason and truth (to the neglect of beauty and goodness) fall short in helping us keep and pass on the faith?

6. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-16 (see sermon outline). How would you explain this passage to an educated 13-year-old?

7. What hopes do you have for this new series?

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## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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### **Room of Marvels (A Series on Foundational Bible Doctrines)**

“Stronger Spells”

2 Timothy 4:1-5

“When we’re in church and I’m listening to the preaching, it’s like you are weaving a spell. I believe, and the world makes sense to me. But then I walk out the door of the church, and it’s like the spell is broken.”

Keeping faith may be more challenging now than at any other time in the history of our \_\_\_\_\_.

Keeping Faith:

- Holding on to our \_\_\_\_\_
- Living as followers of Christ (by his kingdom \_\_\_\_\_)
- Passing on our faith to the next

The evidence of the difficulties of keeping faith right now in our cultural moment is everywhere—(1) from drastic reductions in church attendance (even before COVID) to (2) the alarming rate of young adults who have walked away from their faith in recent decades and show no signs of coming \_\_\_\_\_.

We need “stronger \_\_\_\_\_.” (Justin Ariel Bailey)

“Do you think I am trying to weave a spell? Perhaps I am; but remember your fairy tales. **Spells are used for breaking enchantments as well as for inducing them.** And you and I have **need of the strongest spell** that can be found to wake us from the evil enchantment of worldliness which has been laid upon us for nearly a hundred years. Almost our whole education has been directed to silencing the shy, persistent, inner voice; almost **all our modern philosophies have been devised to convince us that the good of man is to be found on this earth.**” (C.S. Lewis, [The Weight of Glory](#))

Galatians 3: 1 You foolish Galatians! Who has **bewitched** you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.

The stronger spell is found in what the Bible calls “sound \_\_\_\_\_.”

1 Timothy 4:1-5 (see also Titus 1:9; 2 Timothy 1:13)

Foundational Bible Doctrines are...

- B \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 27: <sup>4</sup> One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

- G \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 33: <sup>19</sup> And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

The road to \_\_\_\_\_ usually travels by way of beauty and goodness.

- T \_\_\_\_\_

John 14: <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” them.

You have been given the gift of the \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the knowledge of God.

2 Timothy 3: <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Read the Introduction of [Emblems of the Infinite King: Enter the Knowledge of the Living God](#) by J. Ryan Lister and illustrated by Anthony M. Benedetto.

## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How does the idea of the need for stronger spells resonate with your experience?
3. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. When you read the entire epistle, it’s clear that what is described in 4:1-5 is already happening at the time of the writing. But how does this description help us understand our own times?
4. How does sound doctrine make for a “stronger spell”?