

“Living” Faith

Good morning. As we consider God’s word this morning let’s pause for a moment of prayer. Almighty and ever living God, as we are gathered together today to worship you, we thank you for the many blessings you’ve bestowed upon us and the many opportunities you’ve set before us to serve you. Help us now to come to a deeper understanding of your word, and have more confident steps in the path of your righteousness. We claim the promise made by your Son, Jesus Christ, that when two or three are gathered together in his name, that he will be with us. We ask for your presence now and your guidance as we seek your truth. In Christ’s name, we pray, Amen.

What we just did was an example of an act of faith, belief in God’s ability to do what he says he will do. Anytime you pray, you are demonstrating your faith or belief in the power of God. Faith is a very important component in the life of a Christian in fact without faith; we can’t really receive the gift of salvation.

Eph 2:8-10

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)

What is faith? The Bible defines it in Hebrews chapter 11 verse 1, as “being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” There are all kinds of ways to demonstrate the physical act of faith. One of the simplest is to look at

electricity. We turn on a light switch and have faith that the lights will come on. We hope that lights will come on and we’re sure that they will as soon electricity begins flowing through the wires in the wall. We can’t see the electricity moving, but we’re certain it’s there. We have faith in electricity---Especially when the lights come on.

Of course, our faith is not based on something physical like electricity. Our faith is based on something spiritual. We believe in God. We believe God is on His throne in Heaven and right here in this room with us at the same time. He is omnipresent. We believe that he is always aware of us even when we are asleep. He is omniscient. And we believe that he knows everything that has ever happened or ever will happen. He is omnipotent. We are certain of these things even though we can’t see them. Because of our faith in this wonderful God, we can pray and believe our prayers will be answered. We can know with confidence that our sins are forgiven. And we can boldly proclaim to the world the good news that Jesus Christ the Son of God was born; lived on this earth for a time long enough to begin a ministry; died for our salvation; was resurrected and is now in heaven with His Father; and through the power of the Holy Spirit is directing his ministry on this earth through His church of which we are all apart because of our faith.

Faith is a gift **from** God. And what you do because of your faith is your gift **to** God. The things that you do are the evidence of your living active faith. Just like shining lights are evidence of lively active electricity working, our good works are the evidence of our shining faith. Read the whole 11th chapter of Hebrews and see all the examples of works accomplished through faith. Every prayer you pray is an act of

living faith. Every time you show love to a neighbor you are performing an act of living faith. The offerings you give are an act of living faith. Every time you tell someone about the salvation they can have through Jesus Christ you are acting on faith. Faith is more than just believing, true faith requires action.

Are you living faith? Not living on faith, but living faith. If someone were to observe the way you lived for a week, would they be able to say that you are a Christian? Would they see you pray? Would they see you pick up a Bible and spend sometime studying the word of God? Would you be witnessed helping someone in need? Would they hear you mention God or Jesus Christ an exclamation of joy and not attached to an expletive?

This year let's examine our faith. Living active Faith is more than just belief. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we can't see. Faith is confidence in God. Faith is the instrument through which we receive salvation. If we have faith and do nothing, then our lives can't be a witness for God so faith requires action. We must live our lives in such a way that when others see the things we do, they will know that we have faith in God. **“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Jesus Christ to do good works which he has prepared for us to do.”**

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

(Mat 5:14-16 NRS)