

SUMMER 2024

TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH

What is Faith?

We definitely can gain a significant amount of understanding about what faith is from Hebrews chapter 11. Verse one tells us *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* When the wind blows, we know it exists from the evidence of the leaves moving and the coolness from the breeze on a hot summer day. Our faith as believers originates in Genesis chapter 1 with the first four words. *"In the beginning God."* This is further emphasized in the first chapter of the Gospel of John verses 1-4. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him: and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life: and the life was the light of men."*

The importance of faith is stated in Hebrews 11:6. *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him".* Jeremiah 29:13 tells us *"and ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart"*. Each of us who have been converted, sanctified and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit have a clear understanding of what this means.

Hebrews 11:7 instructs us that *"by faith Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved without fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house: by the which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."* It had never rained prior to the flood but Noah labored for one hundred years believing God. When the flood came God shut the door to the ark and kept his promise. Noah did not have a back up plan. He stood on the promises of God. Although we may go through challenges and difficult times God's promises are never known to fail. Whatever we may need, when we do our part, we have the assurance that God will do His. When all is finished, we can have a testimony similar to that of Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7. *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

Bro Eddie Bedwell

"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God"

Psalm 90:1-2

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*"'Cause I wasn't made to be tending a grave
I was called by name
Born and raised back to life again
I was made for more
So why would I make a bed in my shame
When a fountain of grace is running my way
I know I am Yours
And I was made for more"*

**from "Made For More" by
Blake Wiggins / Jessie Early /
Jonathan Smith / Josh Baldwin**

Being the Bigger Person

In society today, perhaps more than ever -there is a strong emphasis on being the "Bigger Person". Inwardly, this pride may have always been there, but today there are more mediums and outlets for one to manifest that pride, and perhaps this hasn't been good for society. If someone feels disrespected they are taught to retaliate, to protect their image. This can be done via a text, a social post, a tweet - whatever. You can't let someone get the upper hand on you, you must be the one that is perceived as being the "Bigger Person", the one that society looks up to as being on top, being the winner, etc. If someone gets cut off in traffic, do they have to retaliate, to go back around them and show them up? There is an endless list of examples where this can happen. For some, a lot of effort is given to try and always come out on top, to not be disrespected, etc. You can't let someone treat you that way without retaliating to protect your reputation.

When we look at the scripture, and what Christ emphasizes, perhaps the case can be made that Christ also looks to us to also be the "Bigger Person". Being the "Bigger Person" in the eyes of society versus in the eyes of Christ are at completely opposite ends of the spectrum, though. To many this can be a confusing concept. What Christ expects from us and admonishes us to often times do is completely opposite of what society values. So, what would it mean to be the "Bigger Person" in the eyes of Christ? Let's look at Matthew 5:39 - 41...*"But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain."* If someone were to smite you, you would have to smite them back, right? You can't let someone treat you that way. That's not what it says here; you turn and offer them the other cheek. Well, that's not what society today teaches, you must defend yourself, you are weak if you don't fight back. This verse may be a physical example but likely pertains to other examples too. Christ doesn't want us to look to avenge the things done to us, but to act in terms of humility. We can't look to get back or to get even but we are to react in a way that manifests godliness. Take a look at Luke 6: 35, *"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."* This is a similar concept to Matthew 5, but to "love your enemies?" That's not possible, is it? I'm weak if I don't treat my enemies just like they treat me - that just seems reasonable. How about lending to someone, and not expecting it to be returned? Does this mean not expecting any interest on the principle that was loaned out, or perhaps to not even expect a return of the principle at all; either way this would be uncommon in society. It's your money, you deserve it in return and more! This is how many people think. It's easy to be selfish with things we have and would expect it in return, but in reality, someone else may need it more than we do. There certainly is humility in looking at it this way and for many this is challenging to do.

There are other scriptures and examples pertaining to this concept too, but it's important to act in a way that God is pleased with us, and not necessarily the world. We can't get caught up in acting and reacting in the ways that the world does & we can't go out and try to impress others with our actions of pride, self-promotion, self-protection and always trying to let ego win and to come out on top. What the world expects and what God expects are typically in opposition to each other. Others may be more impressed, and certainly take note, when humility is manifest. When we don't have to get in the last word, can bite our tongue, turn the other cheek, and allow ourselves to be shorted the influence on those around us will be great. These displays of God's love and Spirit really make us the "Bigger Person", and society needs much more of this and a lot less manifesting of pride. A haughty spirit tends to align with the world's expectations for us, but God has made it so we don't have to be that way. Think how much better off this world would be if everyone would truly be the "Bigger Person" and let humility be the ultimate guide.

-Bro. Rhett Basham



“And I Went After It”

This is an excerpt from a conversation with Sis. Dot Ansell about her experience of being sanctified.

So one camp meeting we went and they come back there to him (Bro. Lacy) and [they were] trying to get him to the altar. He looked at me and said, "if she'll go, I will." "Well," I said, "no, I'm not going." ... By the next camp meeting I was miserable...

You know how the devil keeps you on, stringing on, "if you'll just accomplish this, that will make you happy," or "when you accomplish that." It don't work. It doesn't make you happy. So I would think of something else. So the last thing that I thought of, "if I can just build a house like I want it, I'll wrap myself up in it." ... And I designed it. I drew the plans. And I designed it where I'd have a corner window in the kitchen. "Okay," I thought, "that is special." I had a circular driveway and sidewalk going up to the front porch between the trees and I just thought that was going to be beautiful.

I was walking down the hall from the bedroom with a box in my hand, and I came to the family room ... and I sat that box down and I said, "I'm no happier here than I was before." No better off. And the Lord just painted the picture in front of my face. It wasn't a dream or vision, but it was a picture in my mind. And I saw sanctified people standing up on the stand. And I saw Bill Hobbs up there standing up, and they're singing that song, "I need no mansion here below, for Jesus said that I could go." And he said, "won't you come and go along?" I saw that and I saw the happiness on their face and I said, "that's what I need."

And I went after it. So when Lacy came home from work, I was crying and he said, "what are you crying about?" And I said, "I want to go to Campmeeting." He said, "what do you want to go there for?" And I said, "I want to get sanctified." So he said, "well, if that's why you want to go, we'll go." So he encouraged me all the way. We went to camp meeting, and I think there some workers came back there and talked to him trying to get him to the altar. He said, "she's the one you need to be talking to." And they looked over there at me, like, "yeah, right." And they didn't say anything to me. I didn't want to go back home without getting sanctified. I didn't have the nerve to go myself on my own.

People don't realize and you don't know ... when the Lord is working with somebody. I found out then, I found out the Lord can work with somebody. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12) So I'm convinced that God can appear to anybody...

Well, we ... left from Campmeeting to go to Memphis And I [didn't want] to go home because [of] getting in that rut again. I realized that wouldn't satisfy me. I wanted something else and I went after it. I was convinced that sanctified people had it and I didn't know what it was really. I didn't know what it was. I just knew they had something that I didn't have and it made 'em happy. So he carried me out there and we had to fly back after a couple of days ... but then he stayed and I flew back by myself back to Memphis ... and we're at a church - portable type of tabernacle at Olive Branch...

So [Lacy] called and said, "have you gotten sanctified yet?" And I said, "no." He said, "well, I might as well ... fly back out there and drive you home." When I got off the phone Aunt Jenny said, "what did Lacy have to say?" And I told her what he said and she said, "why not?" I said, "well, I feel like I've got a job to do and I don't have the tools." I didn't even know what that was. I was so dumb about the way of salvation because mama had taken us to every tent meeting that came to Norview ... and I thought, "if that's religion, I don't want nothing to do with it". It didn't appeal to me going overboard about evangelists, I didn't like that. So I didn't know what to do, how to go about it. And I said, "if I just would feel like that again, I think I could go to the altar." And she said, "well, why don't you just pray for it?" Well, I never prayed ... [but] in my small way, I asked the Lord to do it. "Give me that same feeling..."

We went to the church in Olive Branch and the [spirit] started falling. And I was looking out the window to make sure nobody saw me. I was still fighting it, like I always done... I went home there at Aunt Jenny's house and I think it was the next day I was upstairs and...I was looking for the Brown book, and I came to that song, "Jesus took my burdens, I could no longer bear." And I was just reading it ... and ... when I read that line, "you to the Lord belong," the windows of heaven opened and I felt the spirit of Lord for the first time. And I could have floated down their steps, their stairway to tell Aunt Jenny that I had my sins forgiven ...

So I went back that night (of course they had meeting that night) and I went to the altar and got sanctified... People say, [when you're forgiven] you feel like you could fly, but when you get sanctified, there's a peace. And I have no doubt that I was sanctified ...I knew the work was done. ...I picked up a Bible and just read a verse. And it was so different. It came alive. And I have no doubt ... and it's been 60 years last September the 3rd...

I've never looked back and I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today ... He has been a satisfying portion all of my life. [I've] never seen anything or anybody that I would give the Spirit of the Lord for. **Sis. Dot Ansell**

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“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Acts 26:18

