

SOUNDINGS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Remember These In Your Prayers

The Barbers Rhonda Parnell Otto Spieth
Rubin Carter Ray Quick Roy Sutherland
The Kryders Kitty Reynard Megan Vaughn*
Charles Nance The Sands Debbie Walker

Away With The Military

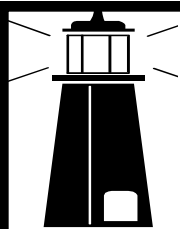
Those Traveling
Mike and Jason Clark,

Times We Meet This Week

Worship:
Sunday 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM
Bible Classes
Sunday 9:30 AM
Wednesday 7:00 PM

Deacon Duties Thru December

Benevolence: Paul, Ron & Jeff
Service Roster: Mike Mc. & Tim
Children’s classes: Ron
Sun PM Annemnts: Henry & Mike C.
Wed PM Annemnts: Ron



THE BEACON
BREMERTON CHURCH OF CHRIST
500 PLEASANT DRIVE
377-5622

Elders
Randy Fisher 360-271-0810
Mike McCown 360-509-5917
Sam Titus 360-698-0430
Mike Clark 360-551-5994
Roger Gibson 253-884-2814
Paul Vlastelica 360-308-2416
Ron Haws 253-691-3251
Henry Royster 360-865-8646
Dan May 360-471-6197
Tim Turner 360-271-2251
Deacons
Evangelist
Dan May 360-471-6197
Bremerton church of Christ Wi-Fi Access Code:
Godislove

Volume 22 Number 12 March 22, 2020

Faith and How It Works

When someone you love is facing a serious problem, we may tell them, “Just have faith. It will all work out.” But what is faith? How do we acquire it? How does it work (within us)?

In the New Testament, the word translated “faith” is the Greek work *pistis*. Strong’s Expanded Dictionary of Bible Words says, “Faith means trust, confidence, assurance, and belief.” It is the word used in Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith (*pistis*) is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Many use the words faith and belief interchangeably and, while they are generally synonymous, there is a difference between the two. Writing about what we call a “dead faith,” James says, “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder” (2:19)! This demonstrates that you can have a belief in something (in this case, God), but not have faith (trust) in Him.

So, how do we acquire faith? Humans operate on a belief system. A belief is a decision based on evidence presented to us and then evaluated carefully. Let me see if I can illustrate this. I move to a new city. Soon thereafter, my car needs some work and I set out to find a good mechanic. I ask members of the church and they suggest a name. I might do a Google search

HEALTH:

- **Rubin Carter’s** surgery has been postponed indefinitely but he is doing well at the present time. His case is critical enough that his appointment with the cardiologist is still on for Tuesday so we need to keep him in prayer.
- **Rhonda Parnell** saw her oncologist on Wednesday. She has what is called a Meningioma — her is benign and is about 3 centimeters in size. If they had caught it earlier they would have already removed it. With the health situation as it is she is scheduled to go in for an MRI in 6 months to see if it has grown. The oncologist also determined that her headaches where caused by a concussion she suffered when she fell of her deck — and he is referring her back to her primary care physician about the headaches. So we need to keep her in prayer.
- **Misako Haws’** eye surgery has been postponed as it is viewed as elective and not critical
- **Leroy Horton’s** surgery has also been postponed indefinitely and we need to continue to pray for him as his heart is also in need of repair
- Many of our members are in the “at-risk” group (sadly that includes me at this stage of life) and we need to be prayerful and supportive of them as they are quarantined voluntarily or by doctor’s orders — if they have gray hair, or no hair, pray for them.

TRAVELING:

- **Mike and Jason Clark** did some travel this week but were planning to be home early Sunday morning — we pray that went as planned
- All other planned travel for everyone has been canceled for now—which is wise.

for reviews. Finally, I have enough information (evidence) to believe he can do the job. Do I have faith (trust) in him? Not yet – he hasn’t demonstrated that he can do the job. The first time I take my car to him, there may be a belief that he can do the job based on evidence presented, but there is still a certain amount of risk involved. After the job is completed on time and on budget, I begin to develop faith in him. He has demonstrated that he can be trusted. Each time I return to him for work on my car (it’s an old car in need of much work), and he continues the same level of excellence, my faith in him grows.

Faith in God and His word operates on the same principles; there are no special rules. We may be searching for something to fill a nagging void in our lives. Someone tells us about God and His word. Since Jesus died about 2,000 years ago, we do not have the same privilege of seeing His works or hearing His words as those who walked with Him; we “see” and “hear” them through the faithful records of the gospel writers. We evaluate what they say and investigate it ourselves. In their writings, we hear Jesus’ wonderful words of love and hope. In them, we see Jesus affirm His words by His marvelous deeds. Through them, we develop the faith that Jesus is who He says He is: the Son of God. We have arrived to a point of having faith in God, just as Paul states, “Faith comes by hearing... the word of God” (Romans 10:17). We build our faith in God by building our relationship with Him through study, prayer, and meditation.

OK, so we have acquired faith in God. Now what? Nowhere in the Scriptures is there contemplated a stagnate or inactive

faith. Faith leads you to action. In the passage from James mentioned above, James begins a contrast between simple belief and living, active faith. He continues in verses 20-22 to give the example of Abraham, “Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works.” In the Genesis account of this, after the angel of the Lord prevented Abraham from harming Isaac, he said, “for now I know that you fear God...” Active, saving faith, then, is not simply a matter of acknowledging something that you accept to be true, it is doing something with it. Faith involves the entire person – body, soul, and spirit – embracing the truth with the mind, heart, and will.

This concept is often illustrated with a story drawn from the exploit of the 19th Century daredevil Clifford Calverley. In 1992, Calverley pushed a wheelbarrow over a tightrope stretched across Niagara Falls. He turned to the audience gathered there and asked, “Now that you’ve seen what I can do, do you believe I can do it again?” The crowd enthusiastically answered, “Yes!” “Do you think I can do it with another person in the wheelbarrow?” “YES!” Calverley then issued a challenge, “Well then. Who wants to climb in?”

What is faith? It is trust, assurance, and confidence in God and Jesus Christ. A living, active, saving faith is not just believing God exists; sometimes it means getting into the wheelbarrow

Jim Alverson

Who Did What?

1.) Who married his half-sister?

- ☐ Lot ☐ Nahor ☐ Terah ☐ Abraham

2.) Who dreamed the sun and the moon and 11 stars bowed down to him?

- ☐ Abraham ☐ Isaac ☐ Jacob ☐ Joseph

3.) To whom did God give the covenant of circumcision?

- ☐ Adam ☐ Noah ☐ Moses ☐ Abraham

4.) Who led the Israelites into Canaan?

- ☐ Moses ☐ Caleb ☐ Jephunneh ☐ Joshua

5.) Who wrongly thought Abraham's and Isaac's wives were their sisters?

- ☐ Abimelech ☐ Ishmael ☐ Ben-Ammi ☐ Pharaoh

6.) Who sold his birthright for a bowl of stew?

- ☐ Jacob ☐ Esau ☐ Judah ☐ Ishmael

7.) Who tricked Jacob into marrying his daughter?

- ☐ Lot ☐ Nahor ☐ Terah ☐ Laban

8.) Who stole the household gods of her father?

- ☐ Rachel ☐ Leah ☐ Zilpah ☐ Bilhah

9.) Who violated Jacob's daughter, the sister of Simeon and Levi?

- ☐ Lamech ☐ Hamor ☐ Esau ☐ Shechem

10.) Who violated Absalom's sister Tamar?

- ☐ Amnon ☐ Nathan ☐ Nepheg ☐ Ibhar