

CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION CENTER CHURCH

CAYA

February 24, 2013

Pastor Staley Chase

“Faith: What Is It Good For?”

Sermonic Text: Romans 5: 1-8

Many have had encounters with people who question your faith or are faithless:

- Some have not had prayers answered
 - 4 secrets of answered prayer
 - Please God (I Jn. 3:21-22)
 - Come to God in the right attitude and with right motives (Mt. 6: 5-15)
 - Believe that he is (Jn. 16:23)
 - Believe he is a rewarded of them that diligently seek him...If one believes firmly in His existence and doubts His word, He makes Him a liar and God is under no obligation to answer prayer (Jas. 1: 8-8)
- Some lack faith because they see loved ones getting sick or dying, children starving , can't find a job, car problems, no car, can't pay bills, kids born deformed, innocent children being murdered, and preachers being assassinated .
- Faith > You can't see it, you can't hold it, you can't feel it' you can't taste it, you can't touch it, you can't smell it, you can't spend it, and you can't package it (though some have tried..."Buy this miracle prayer cloth and you prayers will be answered").

Logic versus Illogic:

- When a man/woman/child receives a new standing in God's sight they discover that a new life opens before him/her, life marked by an increasing appropriation of what God's mercy brings...FAITH!!!
- *Faith- is complete acceptance of a truth which cannot be demonstrated or proved by the process of logical thought!*
- What we see as logical (scriptural miracles)... others see as illogical:

- God creating the earth in six days, God speaking and the light shone, God speaking and the firmament was established in the midst of the waters. God spoke and stars shined; the moon lit the night and the sun warmed the day. He spoke and living creatures abundantly filled the seas, the land and the skies.
- Do you completely accept this today...is it logical to believe this happened?
- There are scientist and professors that go to church each Sunday; but go to their jobs and teach or believe that man comes from monkeys!
- Some believe the idea of a “Supreme Being” speaking and all this happening is illogical.
- There are those that believe this gospel we believe and preach is illogical.
- There are those today who believe our coming to church Sunday after Sunday is illogical.
- Many today when something unexplained (a miracle) happens send for scientist, doctors, or philosophers because there has to be some logical explanation of what occurred!
- When Mother Hicks testified about her deliverance from her accident; some said she was “lucky”.

Believers there is a logical explanation...**GOD!!! (Matt. 17:20 –Read)**

- We are justified... **(Rm. 5:1-2 –Read)**
 - Justification is the act of God declaring men free from guilt and acceptable to Him and counting man righteous. (Rm. 3:25; 5:18)
 - The man/woman that receives a new standing in God’s sight discovers that a new life opens before him/her, a life marked by an increasing appropriation of God’s mercy.
 - We are not merely introduced to God by Jesus Christ for an interview; but we are to remain with Him as part His family **(Ephesians 2: 18-22 –Read -AMP)**
 - Paul’s says the immediate result of being justified... we have peace with God.
 - Men have a kind of peace without satisfying any conditions which govern the **gift of the peace of God- (Jn. 14:27 –Read)**
- We have been given grace to endure trials without sustaining loss or deterioration...we are like silver and gold when refined.
 - **Grace and Devine Favor have conditions... (Ps: 84:11-Read)**
(Hebrews 11: 6 – Read)
 - **Be a God chaser!!!**

“Faith: What Is It Good For”...a few examples

- Noah ---“**Prepared**” - (**Hebrews11:7 - Read**)
- Abraham--- “**Obeyed**” – (**Hebrews 11:8- Read**)
- Abel--- “**Offered**”---- (**Hebrews 11:4 –Read**)
- Enoch--- “**Faith Walk**”--- (**Hebrews 11: 5 –Read**)
- Sara --- “**Through Faith**” ---(**Hebrew11:11-Read**)

By Faith you and I have a testimony; but no matter what occurs there are still those that are faithless...that judge their faith based upon material rewards or the degree of pain and suffering they experience:

- The scriptures don’t say we will not have tribulation
- It says that tribulation will occur in our lives for a purpose
- We should not rebuke tribulations or curse our crisis; but rejoice in it as in the hope of the Glory of God... (**Rm. 5: 3-5 –Read**)

Jesus suffered for us;

- Jesus endured all... He did not just get us an interview with the Father; but an invitation into His family!
 - In which God made and protects us,
 - Jesus saved and intercedes for us,
 - The Holy Spirit indwells and directs us.

Conclusion:

No matter how illogical His acts may seem to others I have complete confidence and acceptance ...FAITH that it’s God and He’s God all by Himself

“Faith: What Is It Good For”?

- When I begin to sink...faith keeps me afloat
- When I am sad...my faith in God holds me until God works it out ...so I become happy.
- When I am down...faith lifts me up.
- When I face a difficult problem...faith/prayer reveals a formula to solve it.
- When I am distressed...faith comes in and replaces it.
- When I am worried...peace/faith removes it.

When I am _____!!!!

You Fill In The Blank

Blessings and Love/ Pastor Stan