

Consider Jesus: Living by Faith Hebrews 11:1-40

I'm convinced everyone lives by faith! The only real question concerns the object(s) of our faith - who or what will I authorize to tell me what is ultimately real? Our Hebrews writer describes faith as a personal conviction and assurance of what is actually trustworthy, reliable... substantial enough to "bank" our lives on (Heb 11:1).

Christian faith "banks" our life on Jesus Christ as our connection to everything that ultimately matters. Through faith in Him we are eternally tied to unseen reality and empowered to live with His life as our "source" for all we need. Faith in Christ transfers the source of my life from the seen to the Unseen, from the material to the Spiritual, from my "self" to God's "Self"! (Heb 11:3,6)

It is faith in Christ that opens the door to understanding - "by faith we understand..." (11:3) - what is eternally true, absolutely real, and ultimately meaningful. Understanding rarely precedes, but rather, most often follows faith in the God that Jesus reveals Him to be (Heb 1:1-3). There are two aspects to such faith: Divine initiative and human response (see Ro 10:17). God initiates - He "stirs up the pot" (perhaps through the Scriptures, adversity, daily trials, felt needs...) so that we might "diligently seek Him" (11:6) - daring to trust that He is a "rewarder" of such seeking. The reward? The revelation of Himself, self-disclosure! For it is "who" we believe God to be that changes the way we live. The way we live... changes us.

Faith chooses. It chooses to trust in and act upon what it dares to believe. It chooses to say what God says - "it's going to rain" - and acts upon it - "we better build an ark" (11:7). Like Moses, we refuse to be named by the world, preferring to say about us what God says about us (11:24-25). Faith chooses to live by the "unseen" (11:27). We take our "cues" from the eternal, holy constants with or without physical validation (11:1,8,13,27). Faith chooses to simply "obey" without demanding an explanation - and waters part, walls fall, armies defeated (11:29-34). Faith chooses to pay the price even though it may be costly. Abel was killed in a jealous rage (11:4), Moses endured "ill-treatment" (11:25)... some "mockings, scourges, torture, imprisonment, put to death" (11:35-38)... some all the way to death on a cross (Phil 2:8).

Everything the saints pointed to, Jesus fulfilled perfectly. He said what God said, lived by unseen realities, and obeyed... all the way to death... choosing to pay the price so we may go free. Now, He lives in us - in all of His faithfulness. Consider Jesus - not as an example to follow - but as the means to faithfulness. This is why we "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of faith." (Heb 12:2)

✂

- **Tax-deductible contributions** -
may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*
by mailing your gifts to the address above
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** -
www.stevepettitmessages.com
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** -
can be arranged by calling Steve at
386-418-0913 or 352-672-1275
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** -
email your request to OICnewsletter@gmail.com

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



Please inform us of any changes to your address



Greetings

Did you know there is a Well-Being Index measurement? It measures well-being in multiple areas: financial, social, purposefulness, connectedness to name a few. Did you also know that, according to this index, last year was the worst year for "well being" (in the U.S.) since it began 10 years ago?

The biggest factor last year? A "crisis of connection" - fewer personal resources to ride out the financial volatility, social disruption, loss of energy, etc. (Life expectancy in the U.S. also declined for the third straight year!)

Meaning what? Meaning we were made for personal connections - friendships, family, community. Why did Christ come for us? We were estranged and needed His personal way into God's family. Why were we immediately baptized into the church? We were without a safe place to be - to be loved into being and to love others into being. Why is there such a "failure to thrive" (not just in infants, but in adults also!)? We were meant to live and move and have our being in the Family of God the Father, Son, and Spirit and to share His life in common with others.

Get invested this year in your family - God's family - in some way, shape, or form! Your wellness, your wholeness, your "shalom" depends upon it. You were made for it. Contribute to the well-beingness of others as you release the fruit of His Spirit. It is what we feed others to keep them alive and well!

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

3,10,17

CCF

8-10

FLORIDA RETREAT (*see info below)

12

Alachua Study

22-24

San Antonio, TX (210-478-0618)

26

Ocala Study

MARCH

2-6

Anderson, SC (864-226-1789)

MAY

3-5

Waymart, PA (607-239-5006)



2019 Florida Retreat



"Not I, But Christ"

February 8 - 10, 2019 - Gainesville, Florida

\$50 deposit (per person) due by January 14, 2019

\$325 per Couple (meals, room & retreat fee)

\$275 - per person, single room (meals, room & retreat fee)

\$170 - per person, 2 to a room (meals, room & retreat fee)

\$75 per person (meals & retreat fee - no room)

(for further details call 386-418-0913(h), 352-672-1275(c)

OR email OICnewsletter@gmail.com)

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
ALACHUA, FL
PERMIT NO. 11

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

One In Christ, Inc.
13820 NW 172nd Avenue
Alachua, FL 32615