

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD



SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

Living Faith Chapel, Calgary (Solution Center)

WORD FOR THE WEEK

FUNDAMENTAL UNDERSTANDING OF GROWING FAITH AND ABOUNDING LOVE

It is a new month and God is giving us a new vision and direction! Therefore, the theme for the month of September is “Growing Faith and Abounding Love.” It is in the light of this theme that we are considering the above topic of today’s sermon.

Text: *2 Thes 1:1-5; Heb 10:22-24; 2 Peter 1:3-10*

Introduction

In a simple practical term, **(i)** Faith is an unshakable belief in God and in the promises of God. Faith also involves putting such confidence in everything God tells us to do that we actually do it! **(ii)** Love is a strong feeling of affection and concern toward another person. It means putting other people's needs equal to — or before — your own.

What is a Growing Faith?

The Christian life begins with faith (i.e. saving faith) *Tit 2:11-13*. It is like a germinating seed, growing its root down and its shoot up. As it grows, it becomes stronger. At the beginning, it can easily be uprooted and killed. A point is reached when it becomes difficult to be uprooted by wind or humans. At some stage, it will grow to the extent that it can withstand the storm. Growing faith is like that.

What is Abounding Love?

It is constant/unwavering affection and concern for something or someone regardless of the situation or circumstances around the thing or the person. It is what makes you stand by/continue to love something or someone regardless of the new developments in/surrounding the thing/in the life of the person. It is what makes you steadfast and continue to support a course of action or your commitment towards something or a person despite the challenges in doing so.

Steps to Achieving Growth in Faith and to Abounding in Love

1. Set aside time to read and meditate on the Bible every day;
2. Fast and pray regularly/often. Particularly pray for others, specific people, before you pray for yourself;
3. Engage in regular personal evangelism/witnessing and visitation;
4. With love, serve others. Choose to meet the need of people even without them asking for help: *Gal 5:13; Mt 20:25-27*

Evidence of a Growing Faith and Abounding Love

Many Christians are aware that their faith should be growing and their love for others should be unwavering. It is the Holy Spirit that helps to facilitate this. However, a great number of Christians aren't sure how to tell if their faith is growing and if they are abounding in love. There are some key pieces of evidence you can look for to chart your spiritual growth/abounding love and to improve on it. The following are some of the ways we can know whether our faith is growing or our love is abounding or otherwise: **(1)** Becoming like Christ in character i.e. increasing manifestation of the fruit of the Holy Spirit: *Jn 14:30; Phil 2:15*. When the principle of *1 Peter 1:3-9* is a reality in our lives, we experience nothing less than the behavior of Christ Himself; **(2)** Living a life of obedience to the word of God and reliance on divine direction: *Jos 1:8; Jam 1:22-27; Rom 8:14*; and **(3)** Living out what you profess to be, especially when no one is watching you: *Jam 1:27*

Benefits of a Growing Faith and Abounding Love

- (i)** Growing faith and abounding love leads to practical results in life and service: *Jam 2:14-22; 2 Pet 1:8*
- (ii)** People who have this kind of Christian experience are not likely to fall prey to apostate false teachers: *Eph 4:14-15*
- (iii)** It gives you good name/reputation and makes people to truly glorify God for your life: *Mt 5:15-16*

Conclusion

Beloveth, faith in God is a life-saving power. It's a belief in the power of God to save us to the uttermost from sin that we must fight to get a hold of, and then fight to hold onto for our entire life. When we lay hold of faith, we experience the tremendous power it has to change our life completely. The more we grow in faith and love people genuinely, the more exploits we do for Christ and the more victorious Christian life we are able to live. That is what makes us the light of the world. That is what makes us the salt of the earth. Holy Ghost helping us, we can do it and we will accomplish it in Jesus' name. Amen!

CARRY YOUR BOOKS?

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

- 1 PETER 5:7 NIV

NB. If you have been blessed by our Word for the Week or inspired in any way by them, please let us know by sending an email to The Pastor at pastor@rccglfc.org