



SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

**Living Faith Chapel, Calgary
(Solution Center)**

WORD FOR THE WEEK

EVIDENCE AND DANGERS OF WEAKENING OR FAILING FAITH

Text: Hebrew 11: 1, 5-6

We thank our heavenly father for His grace and mercy upon us and our households. Since the dawn of the year, the Lord has shown us great mercy! This is the reason you are still among the living today. Is it not a miracle that you have survived 253 days and have only 112 left in the year 2017? Every day of your life is a miracle. Therefore, it is incumbent on us that we live each day with thanksgiving in our hearts. Make out some time today to appreciate your maker for the life you have in you and for all His faithfulness in your life.

In continuation of our theme for the month of September – “Growing Faith and Abounding Love”, today, we shall be considering the topic: “*Evidence and Dangers of Weakening or Failing Faith.*” We were told last week that faith in God is an unshakeable belief (trust) in God and His promises even when it doesn’t make sense to human reasoning. Faith on its own is not complete without works. One of the works of faith is Love. Interestingly, these two words are from the same parent, the Holy Spirit. While faith is named as one of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, love was also a fruit of the Holy Spirit that activates the gift of faith. Our Lord told us in **Mark 12:30** to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our might and with all our strength which is the first law. God first loved us, and we also need to reciprocate this gesture by loving Him in return. The love we have for God determines our level of faith. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him - **Hebrew 11: 5-6**. But when we are short of loving God (affectionate, friendly, loving feeling) our faith is bound to diminish.

What are the pieces of evidence that indicate a weakening faith?

Romans 14: 1-3 addresses this question in a practical way. It largely assumes that the reader already understands what is meant by weak faith, but the chapter still gives insight into what Paul meant by "weak faith". Paul mentions the specific case of dietary laws, but a generalization of his view presented here is that the person with weaker faith has a bigger tendency to be legalistic and the person with stronger faith is comfortable with a larger variety of activities. The bottom line though is that neither brother should allow difference in faith to affect their view of the other.

Sometimes you feel weak spiritually. And when you do, you probably feel like you’re the only one. You’re not alone. Every Christian experiences a time of weakness. What does weak faith feel like? Sometimes it manifests itself in:

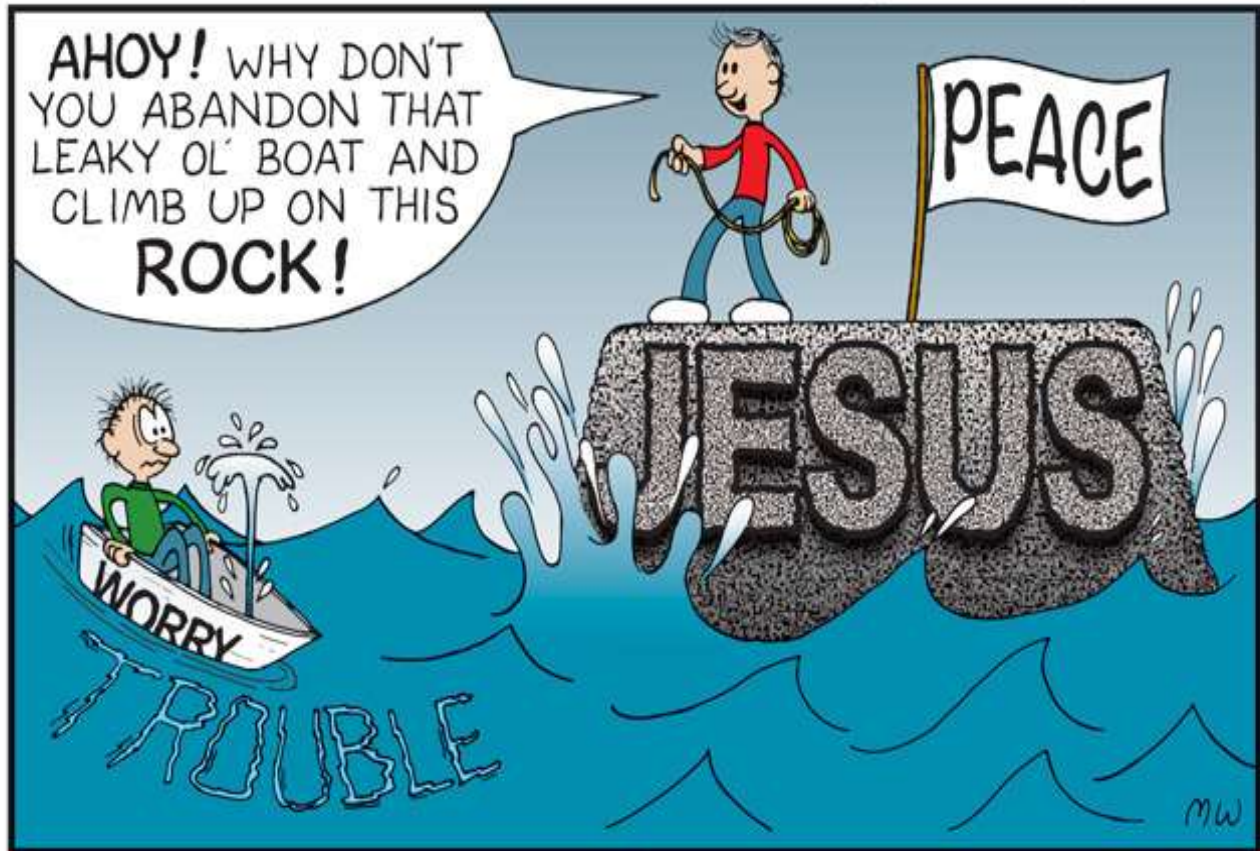
- Wondering if God is in control.
- Questioning whether God really loves you.
- Doubting God’s forgiveness.
- Lacking the motivation to engage in spiritual things.
- Worrying about the future.
- Feeling discouragement or being downcast.

Such a shallow view of your relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit can put you in grave spiritual danger. Graham says, referencing **James 2:14-17**, which reads: “**What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**” When our faith is weak, we are more likely to fall into sins.

May the Lord strengthen your faith in Him as you meditate on these words and commit them to heart in Jesus’ name!

PEACE ROCK

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

- JOHN 16:33 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