

Where Does Faith Come From? (continued from previous page)

As a person *learns* God's word, he must then make a decision as to whether or not he believes what he has learned. Even if he *believes*, that does not necessarily indicate that he possesses true faith. A person with *true faith* will *obey* the teachings that he has *learned* and come to *believe* in God's word (John 14:15).

Obviously, the faith described in the Bible is not *instinctual*. It is not a *feeling*, nor does it just *happen* to some people. Neither is true faith a *gift* from God, in the sense that it is totally given by God and the recipient does nothing on his part toward its development within himself.

In a real sense, faith is a process. First, it must be developed. Then, it must be nurtured and strengthened. The nurturing and strengthening is essential for faith to grow and to be the directing and sustaining force within the true believer's life that God intends it to be. The nurturing and strengthening is itself a lifelong process that never comes to an end.

Knowing where faith comes from, it should be easy to recognize that the condition of your faith is up to you. Are you giving proper attention to the development and strengthening of your faith? The answer could determine your eternal destiny...

WELCOME

to the
Church of Christ
meeting at Mack Road

This morning's sermon:
How does faith in Christ come?
Joshua 2:1-24



Congregational Meeting Times:

Sunday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
Evening Service 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 10:00 am
Evening Bible Study 7:00 pm

For additions or corrections to the directory please contact Mike Mendez

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(916) 428-1956 / 428-1967 website: www.mackroadchurchofchrist.com

For corrections, suggestions, or to have something included in the bulletins, please contact Ryan or Jennifer Stiltz at 924-0435 or email at stiltz_family@sbcglobal.net

Visitors

The members here would like to offer a special welcome to our visitors today. Please allow us to shake your hand and talk with you, as we take great joy in getting to know you. Visitor cards are available at the pews for you to provide us with a record of your attendance. We appreciate you taking the time to fill these out.

Important dates to remember:

August:

Sun. 16th - Teachers meeting at the building, 5:00pm

Sun. 30th—last Sunday of the month song service, evening services

Fellowship Opportunities:

Sun 16th - Group 2 meets after evening services

Fri. 28th - Family Night Potluck at the Uptegrove's home, 6:30pm

9/24-9/26 - Rancho Seco



Ladies House to House Fellowship

Lesson Book: "Developing Inner Strength, Living in the Joy of God's Love"

Next class: Next Class Lesson 6 at Tina Pitt's home in September; Date TBD.

If you would like to host a class, please let Jennifer know

Classes

Young Adults Class: Fridays at Caleb's (Steve Sarff's) home. See Caleb for details.

Singing Practice: Monday's at 1:00 pm at the building

Where Does Faith Come From?

By: Gary L. Hutchens

How does a person *get faith*? Why does one person have stronger faith than someone else? Why is the faith of some people so weak as compared to the faith of others? Where does faith come from?

It'd be interesting to hear the answers given by many on such a fundamental question. I'd not be surprised if a good number of people would actually be at something of a loss to give a definitive answer. I'm not sure that some really know where faith comes from, and almost certainly, a great many people who think they know, really do not.

Some people may think that faith is *instinctual*, something with which we are naturally born. For some, faith may well be more of a *feeling*. Others may think that faith just sort of *happens* to some people, whether they seek it, or want it, or not. This is almost akin to catching a cold, or picking up a viral or bacterial infection, like an *accident!* Still other people believe that faith is a gift from God. The obvious question is, "*If faith is a gift from God, then why does God not give that gift to everyone?*"

Faith, in truth, is a product of a person's learning, believing, and living by the teachings of God's word. The apostle Paul states, "*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*" (Romans 10:17). Basically, a person has to apply himself in order to develop faith. In some way, he has to go about the exercise of *learning* God's word. That can be done through personal reading, through study with someone else, or through listening to God's word being taught by someone else.

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Birthdays this week:

Lavern Chesshire August 18

Carmen Sanchez

August 20

Anniversaries this week:

Ryan and Jennifer Stiltz

August 22