

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis

Our Deacons:

Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers

Our Preacher: T. Sean Sullivan

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

Faith: In a Modern World

Introduction:

What makes someone a person of faith? It is conviction to principles (Romans 10:17). It is willingness to be steadfast (Hebrews 10:23). It is trust in God more than man (1 Corinthians 1:20-25). It is enduring hardships with the knowledge of hope (Galatians 6:9).

Are we people of faith? It is clear that faith must be demonstrated to be real (James 2:14-17). Can it be said that we have taken on a full measure of faith and how would we prove such to be a proper description?

We are living in a critical time for faith. Our modern world hastens to criticize those who believe in God. This environment makes faith a daily challenge.

We Need Faith from the Source

Some believe that faith has no proof; that there is no evidence; just hope (wishful thinking). This is not true about our faith in God. Even though we are people of faith and “not sight” as we are described in 2 Corinthians 5:7, our faith is not without a foundation of proof.

There are two great sources of evidence for our faith. The created world around us (Psalm 19:1-6; Acts 17:24-27). Our world, functions in designed patterns (Genesis 8:22; Ecclesiastes 1:5-7) and this fact necessitates a Great Designer—God (Genesis 1:1). We also have a greater source of evidence that is the delivered word—the Bible (Psalm

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19:7-11; Hebrew 1:1-2). The Bible is a book of recorded proofs—evidences for our faith (John 20:30-31).

Because of the challenges that we will face we need more nourishment from the source:

Can you imagine a soldier who refuses take food for strength?

We know he wouldn't survive.

Now, can you imagine a Christian who refuses to partake of the word? We are soldiers in spiritual war (Ephesians 6:10-18). Every piece of God's armor is formed with the word. We need the knowledge of God's will, to stand against the wiles of the devil. We need to find strength from this source: reading and studying (1 Timothy 4:13, 15-16); rightly dividing and applying (2 Timothy 2:15); and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus (2 Peter 3:18)

Our Faith is under Fire

There is growing opposition to our faith in today's world. There has always been resistance (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2). Today we are facing: Increasing criticism from non-believers—who place their faith in evolution and ridicule us for our belief in God. We must not walk away from the clear evidence (Psalm 19:1-6). We must not depart from faith, for men's philosophies (Colossians 2:6-10). We also must be wary of those who attempt to find some middle-ground idea of "God started evolution"—Since the Bible clearly indicates God created in completion—not just seeds but a whole complete functional world.

We also face increasing criticism from world religions who attempt to discredit our faith by pointing out all of the "historic flaws" of Christianity from the centuries past. We need to know that our credibility does not come from what men have done over the centuries—we are founded on the first century principles. To make this claim concerning our faith we need to know what we are talking about. We need to know the pattern of sound words (2 Timothy 1:13). We need to test all things—in accordance to the word (1 Thessalonians 5:21). If we are going to claim truth we need to verify our claim (Acts 17:11).

Standing Firm on Faith

If we are going to be people of faith we are going to have to take on renewed interest in the things of faith. We must return to God's instructions: The more you know, the more it shows (1 Timothy 4:13, 15-16). We need God's instructions so

that we are not carried away with every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:11-16). We must seek the ancient paths because man's modern mindsets cannot be accepted against the old paths (Jeremiah 6:16) and God has not and will not change (James 1:17-22). God word is perfectly suited for all generations of mankind. We need the truth, with an understanding of the absolute nature of truth (John 17:17; Titus 1:2). We also need to have truth without apology: Like Jesus in Matthew 15:10-14; Like Paul in Galatians 4:16; and Like Timothy was told to have in 2 Timothy 1:7-8.

There are many strong winds in our modern days. There are lots of things trying to derail our faith. What the world needs is faith and they are trying to flee from it—let's not tag along.

Conclusion:

A person of faith: is convicted to principles (Romans 10:17); is steadfast (Hebrews 10:23); trusts God more than man (1 Corinthians 1:20-25); and endures with hope (Galatians 6:9). Today's world is challenging place for the faithful to stay faithful. Let's not fail to prepare for the fight--let's stand with God throughout the battle. God has provided many proofs on which we can rely.

Are you a person of faith? The world may continue to resist our faith but we must rely on things we know to be true. There is one hope of Heaven; that is faithfully doing the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21-23). Have you obeyed His plan? Are you faithful to Him today? Now is the time. ~tss
