



Calvert City Church of Christ

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Lost Faith or Stopped Believing?

Elders

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I don't want to appear "picky" or overly analytical, but there are times when I fear that Christians allow commonly used phrases to shape their way of thinking. One such phrase is "*I lost my faith.*"

As you may likely know, "faith" is a noun that represents the result of a verb, "believe." A person believes and the resulting condition as a matter of continuation of that action is "faith." As far as I can tell, the predominant use of the two concepts by the writers of the New Testament is to emphasize the action of the person in believing. For example, the book of John was "written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31, ESV). Almost one hundred times, John used a form of the Greek word for "believe" in that book. Note also that when the writer of the book of Hebrews commended Old Testament heroes such as Abel, Abraham, and Joseph for their faith, emphasis was placed on the action of the person involved (Hebrews 11:4, 8, 22, ESV).

On the other hand, "faith" is sometimes used as the system of faith which the person believes. For example, faith can be departed from (2 Timothy 4:1); contended for (Jude 3); and was said to dwell in Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5). However, I believe these concepts are in the minority and are used in accommodative ways to speak of something that is, in its essence, active. In other words, one departs from the faith by stopping believing one way and beginning to believe in another.

I think much of the confusion has been brought about by some incorrect teaching on Ephesians 2:8, 9. Those verses say, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not of your own doing; it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" (ESV). Some teach that "faith" itself is a gift from God. In other words, our action of belief was brought about by God, overruling our will. If you will examine this passage closely, however, you will see that the "gift" is the "have been saved" part. The "faith" is our act of believing and involves more than mere assent.

Now, stay with me just a little longer. If we think of faith as a passive thing, that has been given to us (maybe even "passed on"), it is much easier to say, "*I lost my faith.*" It is more accurate and descriptive to say, "*I chose to stop believing.*" We *choose* to believe based on a set of evidences presented to us. We also *choose* to stop believing based on another set of evidences. This principle applies to our children and anyone else who falls away (note the active words) from God. The responsibility rests on the shoulders of the believer who becomes an unbeliever. Let's make sure we don't evade it (or allow someone else to do so) by our misuse of language.

j—Lance Cordle

Dates to Remember:

July 5—NO MEN'S BREAKFAST
July 6—NO 1st Sunday Potluck
July 6-11—Ages 8-10 @ WKYC
July 8—SYS @ 9th Street
July 13—Youth Devo
July 14—MNftM
July 15—SYS @ Central (Paducah)
July 17-19—VBS

Ancient Truths for Modern Times

WCKK, FM—95.7

Sundays 9:00 a.m.

Speakers: Lance Cordle & Gary Knuckles

Sympathy

Deepest sympathy to **Jim** and **Joyce Dossett** for the death of their son, **Jeffery Dossett**.

A Pause . . . And Reflection

I mentioned our 100-year celebration last week. It is scheduled for September 7. One of the parts of that event was going to be a recounting of our history by **Kenneth Hoover**, who attended here as a teenager. Unfortunately, as most of you know by now, Kenneth passed away Monday, June 30th. He was well known in this area, having preached at the Benton church. He was also a friend to many here in this congregation. We are saddened by the news of his passing.

Kenneth had been living in Maryland and working with the Catocin church of Christ as director of their education program. The church here contributed significantly to the funds needed to help them complete a new church building in Thurmont, Maryland.

Funeral arrangements include a memorial service this coming Saturday, July 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the Benton church of Christ. Visitation will be conducted Friday, July 4, from 4:00 till 7:00 and Saturday, July 5, from 10:00 until just before the funeral.

I hope you have a great week. —Lance

Report from Angola

Shelby O'Bryan is finishing up her time in Angola and is scheduled to arrive at home this weekend! She asks that you pray for her and **Bonnie** as they travel during the next few days.

Because of the length of her last report, we will be sending it out to our email announcement list later.

Birthdays

- ♦ July 7—Dale Roberts, John Turner
- ♦ July 8—Ruth Davis
- ♦ July 10—Jeff Defew
- ♦ July 11—Hannah Barrett, Brianne Johnson, Kaitlyn McLeod

Those to Serve in July

Usher/Count

PM: Billy Walker, Don Whirley

Greeters

Lobby: Dennis & JoBeth Appleton
Bettie Bean, Emily Bean

Interior Doors:

D1: Gary & Mary Smith
D2: Nick & Wendy Darnell
D3: Billy & Ramona Walker
D4: David & Deena Whirley

Announcements/Scripture

Jeff Hall

Lord's Supper

Mike Dougherty	Don Thompson
Kyle Farris	Matt Hall
John D. Whirley	Casey Counce
Mike Marler	David Lineberry

Convalescent Center Devotional

- ♦ July 6—Larry Davis, Gary Smith
- ♦ July 13—Dennis Driver, Gary Smith
- ♦ July 20—David Whirley, John Harrington
- ♦ June 27—David Lineberry, Billy Walker

Remember in Prayer:

Jerry Kirk—home with shingles
Macy Ann Heaton (granddaughter of Davy & Ann Walker)—Kosairs in Louisville
Earl & Stephanie Atnip, Patsy Atnip, Nelda Beth, Winford Claiborne (Bettie Bean's uncle), **Brent Cope** (Nick Darnell's nephew), **Billy Hall, Ernestine Noles, Tony Pierce** (Mary Jane Sanderson's son-in-law), **Lexie Ray, Susan Sanderson, Joe Smith, Roy Vasseur, Todd Walker**
Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Calvert Convalescent Center:
Nell Dobesh, Eedra Dossett, Mamie Hamilton, Elizabeth Harrell, Sue Owen
Emeritus (formerly Culpepper Place)—Rm 208: **Mary Deane Swann**
Oakview Manor—Nancy Hall

Mission Trip—**Shelby O'Bryan in Huambo, Angola**

Summer Youth Series 2014

“Uprising”
Ephesians 5:14

UPRISING

“Rising Up Against Uselessness”

July 8

7:00 p.m. at 9th Street
Speaker: **Leo McKinley**

Record: Week of June 29, 2014

Mid-Week (June 25)	170
Bible Study	186
Sunday Morning Worship	245
Sunday Evening Worship	167
Contribution	\$8,916

The Gospel You Don't Wanna Hear

Did you know that Jesus said if you have something against a brother then you are supposed to go to that brother before you worship God? Matthew 5:23-24a says “*So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go.*” You may not want to hear this but if you are holding a grudge or have been hurt by a brother or sister, then Jesus said you need to seek reconciliation before worshiping God (Matthew 17:15-17).

Did you know that Jesus said that he did “*not come to bring peace, but a sword*” in Matthew 10:34? I would almost guarantee that the majority of Americans today would bet that verse is not in the Bible. But Jesus did in fact make this statement to his apostles just before he sent them out into the world to teach and preach. His point was that sometimes when preaching the gospel people will scoff, mock, or belittle us. How people choose to respond to the gospel is not up to us. What is up to us is if we present the gospel or not. You may not want to hear this, but Jesus made it our duty to preach and teach, even though people may respond negatively.

You probably know that Jesus said in Matthew 19:23 that “*only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven*” and that “*it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God*” in Matthew 19:24; but this is definitely something most of us do not want to hear. If Jesus said these words then why do we focus so much on money and earthly wealth? Yes we want to be comfortable and yes we want to take care of our families. But how much do we *really* need? We must be people who heed Jesus' words and work hard to become eternally wealthy through a right relationship with God. Only then will we be comfortable. Only then will our families truly be taken care of.

This may be a gospel you don't wanna hear but this is the gospel that Jesus preached. Are you ready to be a follower of this gospel?

—Austin Johnson

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study — 9:15 a.m.

Worship — 10:00 a.m.

Evening Worship — 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Mid-Week Bible Study—7:00 p.m.

Bible Classes For All Ages

****Please Note Time Change****

Sunday Morning: Bible Study—9:15

Worship—10:00

Those Who Are To Serve:

Sunday, July 6, 2014

9:15 A.M.

Song Leader: Gayle Hall

Opening Prayer: Austin Johnson

Closing Prayer: Pat Croley

Convalescent Ctr. Devo: Larry Davis

Gary Smith

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader: Daniel McNatt

Opening Prayer: Leslie Bean

Closing Prayer: Don Thompson

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Announcements: Ross Dougherty

Song Leader: Dale Roberts

Opening Prayer: Kevin Hunt

Closing Prayer: Evan Owen