

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Ray Sturgill is staying with his daughter, Jennifer, in Mooresville. He is scheduled to have two stints inserted on January 20th to address his coronary artery blockage. Tim Burdsall is recovering from knee replacement surgery but has experienced pain and nausea.

Liz Burdsall injured her shoulder and bicep working outside.

Elena Hawkins has been dealing with conjunctivitis and ear problems.

Cindy Murray's husband Randy is dealing with an irregular heartbeat, dizziness and shortness of breath.

Delores Hendrickson is still struggling with a bad cough and is having some vision issues caused by dry macular degeneration in her eyes but is feeling some better.

Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer.

Karen Sproles is still dealing with pain in her knee. She recently had wires inserted for a device to help her with the pain.

Karen Sproles' son, Chet, is being scheduled for knee surgery.

Dick Wade is recovering from a concussion and bruising resulting from a fall.

Alice Wade is recovering from hand surgery for carpal tunnel.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

Benevolent Opportunity:

We will be collecting spaghetti and pasta sauces during the month of January. These items will be donated to the Martinsville school food pantry.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, February 2nd, following the AM services. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, February 5th at 5:00 PM.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

January 19, 2025

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

HOW MUCH DO WE BELIEVE WITHOUT HAVING ANY EVIDENCE?

Roger D. Campbell

“Daddy, why do we believe that Jesus is God’s Son? And, Daddy, how come all of our elders are men instead of women?” If our answer is, “Honey, that’s just the way we believe,” such an answer is not going to get the job done! It may “work” when the child is seven years old, but it will not work when he is seventeen or twenty-seven! Young people need proof, proof, and more proof. Parents, grandparents, and Bible class teachers need to get with it and give children real evidence for what we believe and practice, or else somewhere down the road we will be weeping together over their choices!

What Christians believe to be true has nothing to do with one’s personal feelings. To declare to my cousin that I believe in God because I can feel Him at work in my life may just cause him to respond by saying, “That’s funny. The reason that I do not believe in God is because I cannot feel Him at work in my life.” In this case, whose “feeling” would be more convincing? The truth is, my feeling would not prove that God exists, and at the same time, my cousin’s feeling of God’s non-existence would not be evidence that there is no God. God’s people need to learn this truth, and learn it well: convictions that are based merely on feelings do not jive with what the Bible says about genuine faith. Faith and feelings are not the same.

See if the following concept sounds familiar: “Faith is when you believe in something when you do not have any proof for it. If there is evidence, then it is not faith.” This distorted idea about faith and evidence is that when you have one, you cannot have the other. Thus, faith and proof are supposedly mutually exclusive. The Bible says, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*” (Heb. 11:1). Did you notice “faith” and “evidence” used together, and that evidence is the basis of faith?! The Book of John was written that its readers might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30,31). Is that faith without evidence? Not at all. Rather, it is faith produced by the proof of Jesus’ Deity that is provided in John’s account.

Some say, “If you can know something is true, then there is no faith. Faith means you believe even though you are not really sure it is right.” Again, this false notion is that knowledge and faith are mutually exclusive: you supposedly cannot have knowledge and faith at the same time on the same subject. Wait a minute. Notice what some Samaritans said about Jesus: “Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and *know* that this is indeed the Christ...” (John 4:42; emphasis in all quotes mine, rdc). Did those folks believe in Jesus, or know that He was

the Christ? Both! Later, Jesus prayed for believers to be united in order that “the world may *believe*” that the Father sent Him. Then He turned around and prayed for unity in order that “the world may *know*” that the Father sent Him (John 17:21,23). It is clear that in Bible language one can both believe and know at the same time. In fact, as we have emphasized, genuine faith is based on proof —on evidence.

Some say, “If you can see it, then it’s not faith. Faith is believing in something when you can’t see it.” Some folks need to stop parroting what they have heard others say and investigate what the Bible says. Some of Jesus’ earliest disciples accompanied Him to a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee where He performed His first earthly miracle. When His disciples, who already believed in Him, saw His water-to-wine miracle, they “believed on Him” (John 2:11), meaning that their faith was strengthened. Did those disciples: 1) see Jesus, 2) see Jesus’ miracle, or 3) “believe” on Him? They did all three, proving that “seeing it” and “believing it” can go hand in hand.

There were also Samaritans who came to where Jesus was, they saw Him, heard Him teach, and saw His action. Then, based on what they saw and heard, they said, “Now we believe...” (John 4:40-42). Did they see our Lord, or did they believe in Him? Again, they did both. Later, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, “Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had *seen* the things which Jesus did, *believed* on him” (John 11:45). The fact that they saw Him did not eliminate the possibility of believing in Him, and, as always, their true faith was based on the evidence they were presented.

Some say, “Okay. But if those people did not believe until they saw Jesus, how can a person really believe in heaven if he has not seen it?” Great question. First, consider this. Not every first-century believer in the Christ saw him with his/her own eyes. In 1 Peter 1:8, we read of Christians that had not seen Jesus, yet they believed in Him and loved Him. If they did it then, then we can do it in our generation also. How? Our faith is based on the evidence that the Bible provides (John 20:30,31).

Believing in heaven is really an evidence question. Here is our reasoning. We may not always say it or think it through like this in every instance, but proper reasoning goes like this: 1) The evidence proves that God exists (Psa. 19:1-3); 2) The evidence proves that the Bible is the word of God (2 Tim. 3:16,17); 3) Because the Bible is from the always-truthful God (Titus 1:2), then everything God tells us in His word, including what He says about heaven, is true. Question, Why do we believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Because of the Bible’s reliability and the evidence it provides.

“How much do you and I believe without having any evidence?” The answer is, biblically speaking, we accept and believe only those things for which there is adequate evidence. Genuine faith is always based on reliable proof.