



New Life Christian Community

Join Us As We
Celebrate Only Jesus

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024

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"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Pastoral Pondering

FAITH LIKE ABRAHAM

Have you ever wondered how people use the word faith? It seems like it means many different things to different people. We sometimes use the word faith so loosely, it's difficult to reconcile to the Biblical understanding of faith.

For me, I always think of Abraham when it comes to an example of faith. I believe it's the greatest example of faith in the Old Testament. God told Abraham that he would be a father of many nations and that his wife Sarah would bear him a child even though they were very old. Indeed Sara was 90, and Abraham was around 100 when Isaac was finally born to them. Then God told Abraham to do the unthinkable, to sacrifice his son Isaac ([Genesis 22:1-19](#)). Upon receiving the order, Abraham did not question God. He followed God's order in obedience and traveled quite a distance with the intention of killing his son. In the end, God stopped him and said, *"Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son"* ([Genesis 22:12](#)) The offering of Isaac was a foreshadowing of the death of Christ. Abraham took Isaac to Mount Moriah, the very same place where 2000 years later God's own Son was sacrificed for us.

[Hebrew 11:19](#) makes it clear that Abraham was willing to slay Isaac because he was certain (trusted) that God would raise him from the dead if necessary to keep His promise. Abraham was willing to commit absolutely everything to God and to trust Him, no matter how great the demand and how devastating the sacrifice, because God would be faithful. God did not require either father or son to carry out the intended sacrifice. Both men already had offered the real sacrifice that God wanted - their willingness to give to Him everything they held dear. Abraham knew God's nature as a faithful God, and he remembered God's promise regarding Isaac and he trusted God and walked by faith.

We are expected to act in faith on God's promises just as Abraham did, but we do that from a position of trust based on all the knowledge and promises we have of God found in His Word, Sola Scriptura. Abraham followed God's order based on his faith that God would keep His promise to raise up a nation through Isaac. Abraham had learned that God would keep His promises through a lifetime of walking with God, so this was a reasoned and informed faith, far from blind faith.

There will be times in our walk with God that we will act purely on faith because we do not have the whole picture, which is most of the time, as in the case of Abraham. However this faith is not blind; it is based on knowledge of God's nature, attributes, character, and His promises found in Scriptures as well as our personal experience walking with God every day.

You may ask why God chose faith as the means by which we receive justification. Faith is the one attitude of the heart that is the exact opposite of depending on ourselves.

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Pastoral Pondering

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When we come to saving faith in Christ we essentially say, "I give up! I will not depend on myself or my own good works any longer. I know that I can never make myself righteous before God. Therefore, Jesus, I trust you and depend on you completely to give me a righteous standing before God." In this way, faith is the exact opposite of trusting in ourselves, like Abraham, and therefore it is the attitude that perfectly fits salvation that depends not at all on our own merit but entirely on God's free gift of grace, Sola Gratia.

Paul explains this well in [Romans 4:16](#), "*That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring - not only to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.*" And, in [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God - not because of works, lest any man should boast.*" Paul repeatedly says that "*no human being will be justified in his sight by works of the law*" [Romans 3:20](#).

The gospel tells us that Jesus accomplished the necessary work; Jesus paid the price, and it is through Jesus that the Christian has freedom and power to live a sanctified life. The Christian is justified by faith ([Galatians 3:10-14](#); [Romans 4:3](#); [Titus 3:5](#)), progressively made holy by faith in Jesus ([Titus 2:11-15](#)) and glorified because of faith in Jesus. All praise, honor, and glory are given to Christ Jesus alone, Sola Christus.

Abraham shows us clearly that faith is the root of obedience. And Peter tells us that "faith is greater than gold". Sola Fide.

Your brother In-Christ, jim nelson



welcome

If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months, we are glad you are joining with us! If you would like to learn more about New Life, be sure to stop by the Resource Center in the front foyer to pick up a welcome bag we have for you. Please join us for fellowship and a meal after service today where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Building & Grounds Ministry

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Brian Nelson	651.323.4253
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Jay Swisher	763.587.3472

This Week's Scheduled Events:

Mon	Prayer Night/Barton's– 6:30 pm
Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Precept Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

May Memory Verse:

Psalms 46:1 (ESV)

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

May Fellowship Tip:

Are you an avid outdoor person? Next time you go fishing, hiking, running, gardening, etc. invite someone to join you and consider how you might spur them on in Christ.

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

May 19	Meal Team 2 ~ Salads
May 26	Meal Team 3 ~ Italian

Contact *Barbara Judkins* if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

Check Out New Life Online
newlifechristiancommunity.org

- **Preaching Guild:** New Life Preaching Guild meets **tonight 6:30pm.**
- **TRI-COUNTY Options for Women:** Please consider supporting our local Options for Women |TRI-COUNTY. During this time of year they drop off a basket of empty plastic baby bottles to local churches for individuals or families to take home and fill with change or dollars starting Mother's Day and then collect them after Sunday Service on Father's Day. This fundraiser usually brings in half of the total operating expenses for the year, so it's a really important fundraiser! Your support will help provide free pregnancy tests, counseling, ultrasound services, clothing, and baby supplies for the mothers who are most in need from our community. You can pick-up a bottle after service today from the welcome counter.
- **2024 Graduates:** Are you graduating this year? We want to celebrate with you! Please let us know when and where a celebration will occur. Just swing over to the welcome table and jot down your name, party information and a mailing address for cards. Thank you!
- **Topical Study on Marriage:** Looking to invest in your marriage, perhaps pursuing future marriage, or just want to learn how to better support marriages in the church? If so, you are invited to join an 8-week topical study using the book Gospel-Shaped Marriage. Location is at the Linzmeier home in Osceola on **Thursday evenings from 6:00pm-7:30pm starting on June 13th.** Childcare will be provided. Space is limited, so please contact Pastor Paul or Amy to sign up and to receive your book.

nlcc resourcecenter

Are you looking for a good book to give as a gift or thinking of starting a bible study? Check out our resource center and ask the resource ministry team for some good suggestions. In addition to good books for both adults and children, there are also music CD's, DVD documentaries, bible concordance, systematic theology books, and much more. We have many choices, so be sure to take a look today after service.

New Life Directory

If you would like to be included in our directory or have additions or changes, please send your information to:
nlccdirectory@gmail.com



Greeting Card Ministry

Did you know we have a Greeting Card Ministry? If you know someone that needs encouragement, support, or celebration, please remember that New Life has a ministry just for that! Contact Lynn with your request via email: lynnjimnelson@gmail.com or call 651-373-1426.



Jesus

According to Samuel

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

Pastor Tony's message is from the
Old Testament book,

1 SAMUEL 23:29-24:7

SERMON NOTES: