

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## “Faith Without Works is Dead”

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well; the devil also believes and trembles. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (James 2:17-20).

In the Bible “faith” is presented in two senses, an “objective” sense and a “subjective” sense. Saving faith requires both and they must be wedded together in agreement. Alone and without the other, neither “objective faith” nor “subjective faith” can save. To see this obvious fact, one must understand that “objective” faith does not come from within an individual. It comes from an external source (in this case, God/God’s Word). Jude uses the word “faith” in the “objective” sense when he instructs his readers to, “earnestly contend for the *faith* which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3, emphasis added). On the other hand, “subjective” faith is produced within an individual and it exists in his mind. It is what the individual thinks (in this case, what he thinks in reference to God’s Word). Jesus uses the word “faith” in the “subjective” sense the many times He says to individuals, “thy faith hath made thee whole” (Mt. 9:22; Mk. 5:34; 10:52; Lk. 8:48; 17:19), or “Thy faith hath saved thee” (Luke 7:50; 18:42).

Regarding “saving faith,” it must be understood that “subjective faith” comes as a result of hearing God’s “objective” Word. This is in keeping with the principle, “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). That same principle is apparent in John’s reason for writing the Book of John. Speaking of Christ’s miracles; He says, “these are written” - there is the “objective” Word of God—“that ye [subjectively] might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that [subjectively] believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:31). Paul refers to the “objective” Word of God as “the word of faith, which we preach” (Romans 10:8, emphasis added). When Paul preached that “objective” word in Corinth, “many of the Corinthians hearing, [subjectively] believed, and were baptized” (Acts 18:8). If one’s individual “subjective” faith is to save him, it must comply with, i.e., be obedient to God’s “objective” Word.

Noah’s “doing all that God [objectively] commanded him to do” was the obedience of his [subjective] faith (cf. Romans 16:26). Believing God’s Word relative to the coming destruction of the world, and what he must do in order that he and his family could be saved, Noah’s faith motivated him to obediently do the works God specified for him to do. Along this same line Christians are told; “be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22). Testing Abraham’s “subjective” faith, God “objectively” commanded him to sacrifice his son, Isaac (cf. Genesis 22:2). Had the angel of the Lord not told him, “Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him” (Gen. 22:12), Abraham would have obeyed God’s Word and sacrificed Isaac. Referring to that occasion, James asked, “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? “Seest thou how faith wrought with his works and by works was faith made perfect” (James 2:21-22). Faith is made perfect, i.e., “complete” when a person hears God’s Word, believes it, and then obeys it by doing the works it commands.

Only when “objective” faith and “subjective” faith are united together is faith made perfect (complete). Not united, where salvation is the issue, they are not complete. Christ’s “Great Commission,” recorded in Mark 16:15-16 illustrates this. There, Jesus said, “God ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Here, being from an objective source, the Gospel (God’s Word), this is “the faith which was once delivered.” As Christ continues the statement of His

“Great Commission,” He says, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be save; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Here is seen man’s “subjective” faith. Man’s “subjective” faith is seen only in his acceptance of the truth of God’s saving Gospel when he obeys what it commands. If a man’s “subjective” faith (which includes his obedience) does not unite with God’s “objective” faith, i.e., a man “believeth not,” the faith is not made complete and the man will not be saved (cf. Acts 6:7; Romans 1:5).

—Tommy J. Hicks

### ***Response***

Alex Rubalcado responded to the Lord’s invitation on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> after our evening service. Don Easlon took his good confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and then baptized him into Christ for the remission of his sins. Please get to know Alex if you haven’t already. He is Mary Anchondo’s son.

### ***Sympathy***

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Dex Dennard in the loss of his grandmother who passed away from a stroke last week. Keep this family in your prayers.

### ***Prayer Requests***

Trina Plyler (George and Jurlean Warren’s daughter) was transferred to a hospital in Ft. Worth, Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> to undergo hernia surgery and possibly another surgery to follow later on. The exact date for the second surgery is unknown. Please keep her in your daily prayers.

Since Parks Living is in a “Lockdown” mode no one can visit their loved ones. Janice Smith has requested prayers for her dad (**Winford Hambright**) because it is going to be hard on him not see anyone for a while. Please keep him in your daily prayers.

Maddie Clay (Devida’s great niece) is being tested for MS. So far she’s had a MRI and a spinal tap. Maddie was given steroid shots. They are awaiting the test results.

Conchida Williams (Devida’s sister) is being scheduled for a hip transplant in the future. She needs prayers.

### ***Concerns Update***

Jackie Wallace (Loyce Driver’s granddaughter) had a successful surgery to remove a tumor. She is recuperating from her surgery. Keep Jackie in your prayers.

### ***Prayer List***

Jack Aaron; Brian Basaldua; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Lavern Couch; Emma Craig; Kim Drake; Loyce Driver; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Kyle Foshee; Thomas Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Winford Hambright; Irene Hernandez; Leo Holloway; Letha Hooper; Vertie Howard; Liz Leach; Betty Leeth; Charles Lewis; Jed Martin; Alyssa May; Ora McAfee; Krysta McMullen; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Jr. Munoz; Maxine Newton; Tanya Nichols; Juanita Orosco; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Danna Robertson; Janelle Shirley; Charles & Susan Simmons; Teresa Simmons; Princess Tadashi; Mark Thompson; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Jackie Wallace; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Jay Wesson; Tom Wilcox; John Wood.

### ***Eisenhower’s Shut-ins***

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

## **Youth**

### **Bible Quiz Question (Multiple Choice)**

According to Jonah the population of Nineveh was more than: (a) 200,000 (b) 2,000 or (c) 120,000. (Jonah 4:11)

### **Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...**

The Apostle Paul was at the stoning of Stephen. He held the coats of those stoning him.

## **Events**

Watch *"In Search of the Lord's Way"* Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

The Lee Street Church of Christ in Midland, TX is hosting their **"61st Annual West Texas Lectureship"** - April 12th -16th, 2020. The Theme is: The Challenge of the Great Commission. All lessons will be taken from the book of Acts.

## Waiting for Heaven

A recent Bible study drew attention to scripture found in the letter of Jude. These scriptures point out important actions for Christians to do.

"But you beloved, building yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life" (Jude 20).

These four actions are so necessary for those in the body of Christ.

1. Build yourself up in your faith
2. Pray
3. Keep yourself in the love of God.
4. Wait anxiously for eternal life

This letter of Jude is very pointed about how we need to act as Christians. The number four point shows the necessary action that encourages the unity that Christ prayed for to the Father on the church's behalf. Consider the effect of this common goal for the church. Everyone in the body would be working toward the coming of Christ and eternal life. This would avoid the selfish actions of "what can the church do for me." Most of all the many "isms" that divide the church would begin to vanish.

Our obedience is to the word of God. Our hope for salvation depends on God. Our hope for unity is from the faith in the scriptures.

—Carrol Duncan

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* : Allen Weakland 254-8209—*Deacon*: Bill Ryan 352-4871 — *Pulpit*: Richard Siler 556-2151—*Table*: Cody Wesson 934-4646— *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons*: Trinidad Wood 559-1054 — *Collections*: Trinidad Wood 559-1054

**Temporarily services will not meet at the building but will be available streaming from the Eisenhower Facebook Page.**

