

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

March, 2023

Faith Without Doubt

Unwavering...what comes to your mind when you hear this word?

A few of the synonyms I found for the word unwavering were "steady, unchanging, steadfast, undeviating, not moving". That makes sense to me as when I saw this word on the list of newsletter topics Pastor Pete gave the elders, the first thought that popped in my mind was the scripture verse found in Hebrews 13:8 "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*" (KJV)

Unlike the things we face in our day to day walk here on earth, the constant changes that take place around us we find ourselves making decision based on the facts or conditions that are available at that time only to find out later these things are about to change. So, we now have to change or revise the decision we made prior based on the previous facts. Unfortunately, sometimes that prior decision we made cannot be changed which is not always beneficial for us and can have a costly effect on us.

Looking at decisions we make in our spiritual walk we can have the wonderful assurance of no change from the scripture in Hebrews. Being the same yesterday and today and forever, means Jesus Christ is unchanging and unchangeable, steadfast, not deviating from the word of God or the promises we read in the Word. We can be and are "*confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*" Philippians 1:6 (KJV). I don't know about you, but for me this is a BIG THING, this is what it's all about, our walking by faith, in an **unwavering** faith.

The Bible is full of examples of people who walked before our time, some unwavering no matter what they were facing, some wavering...

The book of Job tells us of a righteous man who faithfully responded to difficult trials. Job's experience invites us to ponder difficult questions about the causes of suffering, and the reasons to trust in God, even when life seems unfair. The life of Job demonstrates that humans are often unaware of the many ways God is at work in the life of each believer. Job was a believer; he never lost his faith, he never wavered in his understanding that God was still in control. It's hard to imagine losing everything we own, property, possessions, health and even family. Perhaps the greatest lesson we learn from the book of Job is that God does not have to answer to anyone for what He does or does not do. Job's experience teaches us that we may never know the specific reason for suffering, but we must trust in our sovereign, holy, righteous God. Our responsibility to God is to obey Him, to trust Him, and to submit to His will, whether we understand it or not. When we do, we will find God in the midst of our trials.

As I write this, I'm thinking of my husband Nelson and what he's gone through since March of 2017 when we received the diagnosis of stage 4 cancer. He has not suffered anything like Job endured, "losing everything" like Job did, but was given a diagnosis with a six-letter word which people call a death sentence, "cancer". He has never questioned God, "Why me?". The one statement he made to the doctors upon learning this diagnosis was he wasn't afraid of his destination meaning death, because he knows his final destination is in eternity with the Lord. His concern was the pain he might face. I remember telling Nelson, we must ask God to take away the pain portion of his journey which we then prayed about, put it in God's hands, trusting Him. God is faithful, to this day Nelson has no pain except the arthritis in his right knee. PRAISE GOD! We clearly see the magnificence of our God, and we will say, with Job,

(Continued on next page)

UNWAVERING

"I (we) have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine (our) eye seeth thee." Job 42:5 (KJV)

Now on the other hand, there were and are times where we even as believers do waver which often times results in us faltering and stumbling just like the disciple Peter. Remember the story we've read about in Matthew 14 where Peter is walking on the water.

Jesus has just finished feeding a crowd of thousands with two fish and a few loaves of bread. It's evening, and Jesus has not yet had time to get alone with His Father, so he sends the multitudes away and sends his disciples on ahead of him in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. He then goes up on a mountain alone to pray.

As the disciples are in the midst of crossing the sea, a storm kicks up. Then out of nowhere Jesus is walking on the water towards them. Thinking He is a ghost, the disciples are terrified. Even though they have been with Christ for a long time, they don't recognize Jesus as He approaches in the storm. To his disciples, Jesus speaks these words of comfort: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid"

Peter, being enthusiastic and impulsive, replies, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water." The Lord invites Peter to come, and Peter steps out of the boat. Peter walks on water toward Jesus. His baby steps of faith last only a moment though and then he takes his eyes off of Jesus. With his physical sight, Peter sees the wind and waves surrounding him, and "he was afraid" and begins to sink. Peter cries out, "Lord, save me!", and Jesus instantly reaches out His hand to catch Peter. "You of little faith," Jesus says, "Why did you doubt?"

For us believers, the lesson here is unmistakable. If we take our eyes off Jesus and focus on our circumstances, we will fall under the weight of our trials. If we call to Jesus in faith, he will catch us and lift us above our seemingly impossible situation.

Peter's doubt caused him to veer from his faith. In all the time he had been with Jesus, even Peter, one of Christ's closest friends, was still learning to trust the Lord completely.

As Jesus and Peter climb into the boat, the storm ceases. The disciples respond to everything they've witnessed with awe and worship of the Lord. To Jesus they say, "Truly you are the Son of God". Beginning to grasp that Jesus is all-powerful, even over the forces of nature, the disciples take another step closer to possessing mature faith. Jesus uses this stormy experience to bring His followers into a fuller understanding of who He is.

He is the Lord of the winds and the waves, and when He is present with us in our lifeboat, we can trust Him to either calm the storm or calm us. A crucial lesson remains to be explored. when Peter jumps out of the boat, his heart is full of good intentions.

Sometimes we take a leap of faith with similarly good intentions, but, like Peter, our faith soon falters. Peter's exercise of faith does not end in failure. Although he is sinking in fear, he calls out to the Lord, "Save me!" God loves to hear our cry for help. It means we know we can't save ourselves. Peter's experience reminds us that a lapse of faith is merely a stumble and Jesus is truly the only one that can help us.

In closing, may we remember as James reminds us...James 1:6-8 (KJV):

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

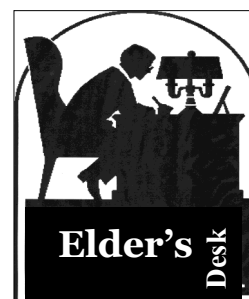
In His service,
Phyllis

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Published by:

Sunny Place Church of God
901 E Oak St, Addison IL 60101
Church Office (630) 530-1830
Editor: Lynn Drury

Senior Pastor: Peter Weber
Treasurer: Glenda Kasza
Elders: Tim Kasza, President
Phyllis Clark, Vice President
Nona Koivula, Secretary



TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group Thursday's at 7:00 p.m.

Grow in the Word!



Scripture of the Month:

1Peter 5:6-11

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen

Visit us at: ***www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org***



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held February 1, 2023

Attended by: Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Nona Koivula, and Glenda Kasza

Prayer and Devotion: Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-12, 15-17 “Be imitators of Christ, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity (redeeming the time), because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is”

Election of Officers: Tim Kasza was nominated and elected President, Phyllis Clark was nominated and elected as Vice President, Nona Koivula was nominated and elected as Treasurer. The election was approved by consensus.

Ministry Team Assignments:

The Worship, Missions, Outreach and Evangelism Ministries will be reported to the Elders by Phyllis. The Stewardship and Support Services Ministry will be reported by Tim Kasza, The Christian Education and Fellowship Ministries will be reported by Pastor Pete. The Prayer, Care and Encouragement Ministries will be reported by Nona.

New Business

Worship Service The Elders discussed the new Worship teams that will be participating. The format for service will be changed. There will be three medley songs not two. Other changes will happen in the near future.

Communication and Shepherding There was discussion about being attentive to the needs of our congregation. The Elders discussed the Evangelism, Shepherding, Prayer and Encouragement Ministry focus for this year. Pastor discussed a Church of God foundational class for newcomers or a refresher course for mature Christians. It was agreed to have an Elders Retreat at the end of March.

Ministry Reports

The Evangelism Ministry The team will be discussing the opportunity for reaching the Addison community with a program named Laundry Love. The team will be planning and assessing resources needed for this program.

Stewardship and Support Services There was an annual inspection on the fire panel, smoke and heat sensors. There were no issues reported. The fire alert system is fully operational.

CE & Fellowship There are ongoing discussions about classes and teachers. The Fellowship events were the Soup Contest and the Game Day on Feb. 12

Events in February: Second Saturday Senior Luncheon Feb. 11; Valentine’s Game Day Feb 12; Worship Wednesday Feb. 15 location to be announced ; Pray Together ...Time with Jesus Feb 19; Church Workday Feb 25.

Next Elders meeting March 1

Sunny Place Church - March Events

2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, March 11th, 11:30 am
Sunny Place Church

Come be our guest for food,
great speakers and activities.
Free for Seniors 55+

Register at 630/398-2314

WORSHIP WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 15th
6:00—8:30 p.m.
Location TBD



Coming together
is a beginning;
keeping together
is progress;
working together
is success. Henry Ford



Let's
Pray
Together

"Praying Together - Time with Jesus"

Sunday, March 19th

Stay in the Sanctuary after Worship Service
to pray together for our church family and
loved ones listed on the Church Bulletin



Potluck

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

THE SUNNY PLACE FAMILY & FRIENDS
SUNDAY POTLUCK!

SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH IMMEDIATELY
AFTER 'PRAYER TIME.'

PLEASE BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE
AND JOIN US FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP!
SEE LAURA G. FOR DETAILS.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

"Faith in Action"

A study of the Book of James
Led by Pastor Pete

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



**"The Holy Spirit -
His Fruit and Spiritual Gifts"**

Led by Pastor Pete
In Person and on Zoom

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times.
If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information
to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you.
You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on:
sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.