



A More Recent Inductee

Jerry Rice and Emmitt Smith highlighted the 2010 class of inductees into the NFL Hall of Fame. Each year since it opened its doors in Canton, Ohio, new persons are recognized for their careers in a sport. We have been studying Hebrews 11 and taking a tour of God's Hall of Faith. Since the writer of Hebrews opened the doors, there have been new individuals added because they demonstrated faith. I recently thought of a Biblical character who showed faith, but was not listed in Hebrews 11. He was in the class that would have been recognized shortly after Hebrews 11.

Nathaniel was a disciple of Jesus. In John 1:45-50, we read that Jesus spoke to Nathaniel when he came recognizing that he was a man of excellent character "an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile." Nathaniel questioned how Jesus could know him, to which Jesus responded "when you were under the fig tree I saw you". Nathaniel was so impressed with Jesus' knowledge of him that he makes this famous statement of faith "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God, thou art the King of Israel". What faith is demonstrated by this soon to be disciple based on Jesus' simply seeing him under a fig tree. It even took Jesus back as He promised Nathaniel would see greater things than this. Nathaniel's faith was based simply because Jesus saw him under a fig tree.

This certainly begs the question, "What is it that sparks faith in me?" Is the same small and insignificant event that stirs in me awe of the Son of God? Am I only impressed when I see something huge happen in my life? Does the Savior have to perform up to my expectations? Or, am I just impressed with who He is? Have we lost childlike faith? Does anything great or small about God generate faith in Him and leave me in awe? Do I just continue on in my daily routine doing what I do without little display of faith? Jesus loved Nathaniel's type of faith. We think God is only pleased with huge faith, but God smiles when we are thrilled with the small things He does. This month as school gets underway and we launch our fall programs, let's take "it all" in and be amazed about everything God is doing. Don't miss a thing. Let's see the hand of God in little fig tree experiences. Let's have a faith that can be kindled by every unexpected proof of His presence in



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our lives. While you are looking for the fig tree, don't be surprised if He just happens to show you "greater than these".

Patriot Day Ceremony

As a service to our community, our church will be sponsoring a Patriot Day Ceremony on September 11th on the Village Green. The patriotic service is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., the time in which the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York City. We will be remembering that day and honoring the fallen. We intend to pray for America and leave a witness of our trust in God. Invitation cards are available to be distributed and we are inviting our congregation to come with their lawn chairs and be a part of the ceremony that Saturday morning.



Fall Programs Get Started

School bells are ringing and soon all the kids will be back in school. September traditionally sees the start of the fall schedule. Awana will get underway on September 13th. We will be having the traditional Sparks program for kids K-2nd grades. This year we are having a new program for kids in 3rd -6th grades called CC4K (Creation Clues for Kids). We will be using Answers in Genesis material and teaching the Biblical account of creation. Please invite kids to attend!

Our Valley Classics program gets underway on September 14th. Pastor Maddox from Central Baptist will be the guest speaker and Bud and Bettie Woodcook will be the special music. The outreach luncheon that takes place at noon is our senior's opportunity for fellowship and to invite others to our church. Our friends from West Endicott will be joining us. Please sign up by September 8th and don't forget to share in the expenses of the program when you sign up.

Choir rehearsals for the Adult Choir will be starting on August 29th at 4:30 p.m. Please consider joining us as we lift our voices in praise to the Lord.



Visiting Missionaries

Joe Lee, our missionary among the American Indians in New Mexico, will be here to give a report of his work on Sunday morning, September 19th. He will speak during a combined Sunday School hour and preach in the morning service.

Ruth Rising, our missionary in South Africa will be with us the following Sunday, September 26th. She will be sharing about her work during the Sunday School hour and giving a testimony during the morning service.



Women Who Worship Yearning to Learn

“But grow in grace and knowledge...” II Peter 3:18

The renowned baseball player-philosopher Yogi Berra once said, “Ninety percent of baseball is mental; the other half is physical!” Huh? Well, you get the idea: attitude plays a key role in determining whether a baseball player will succeed or not. In the Christian life, mental attitude is crucial as well. God’s goal for us is maturity and Christ likeness, and our attitudes determine whether we will experience spiritual growth and success or stagnation and failure. Will we flourish or flop?

What kinds of attitudes keep us from growing? What mental obstacles hinder our spiritual potential? I could mention at least three.

First, we may be mentally **COMPLACENT**, satisfied with where we are in our relationship with the Lord. We may think that we have no need to grow any further or know any more. What we have is working fine for us. The writer of Hebrews chided certain believers about their indifference toward their spiritual growth and learning. He said bluntly, “You are dull of hearing.” The Greek word for “dull” means “slothful, sluggish”. These believers lacked a genuine desire to learn the deeper things of God’s Word. They were satisfied to attend church on Sunday, walk out unchallenged and unchanged, and go about their business for the rest of the week. And God rebuked them for it!

Second, we may be mentally **RELUCTANT**. Most of us want to avoid any kind of trial or testing. We like life to be smooth-sailing and comfortable. But the fact



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is that challenges are usually necessary for true learning to occur. Real spiritual growth often involves a testing and refining of our faith. James told us that we should “count it all joy” when we go through hardships. We should develop a mental attitude of embracing problems as opportunities to grow in Christ likeness. Maintaining such an attitude takes work but shows spiritual understanding.

Third, we may be mentally OBSTINATE. If we are stubborn when God is seeking to teach us, we stifle our spiritual growth. Perhaps we don’t want to confront the areas of sin in our lives, and we refuse to hear the convicting “voice” of the Holy Spirit. Hardness of heart is a dangerous spiritual condition. We will not really learn more until we submit to what God wants us to do right now.

So, are you spiritually stagnant because you are lazy toward God and His Word? Or, are you resisting trials rather than resting in God’s sovereign purpose for them? Perhaps you are stubbornly saying no to God’s conviction and promptings about things you need to do in your life. We all need to check out our attitudes and see if we are yearning to learn and grow. Get into the Word. Lean on the Lord in every situation. Obey Him in all things. With these attitudes, you’ll find yourself growing in grace and knowledge. That’s progress!

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Pastor’s Desk

Congratulations to Ben and Courtney Donnelly on their wedding. I was beginning to wonder if it would take place. Pastor got a big stick and wrote their names on it. He said it was for Courtney to get Ben’s attention. She was going to speak softly and carry a big stick.



We gave away bottled water again this year during Newark Valley Days. I think this is a good chance to meet people in our community. The Under 45 Meeting will be held on August 29th. I think I’m young enough to attend and give some ideas about 2020.

Pastor got a new job. I saw the name tag he had printed. It says he is the Official Guide for the Hall of Faith. I guess that since he is going “over the hill” this month, he wanted to try something different. Actually, the only time he wears the name tag is on Sunday mornings which tells me he is not giving up his day job!



In Tune With

Does God really answer prayer? As I began reading Habakkuk, I was immediately confronted with his cry, “O Lord, how long shall I cry and thou wilt not hear?” [1:2] I originally passed over these words but have been drawn back to them. Habakkuk=s question and God’s response to use the Chaldeans as His instrument of judgment upon Judah started me thinking about why so few people today attend their church’s mid-week prayer meeting.



As I pondered this question, I came up with four reasons why today’s prayer meetings are so sparsely attended. The first reason is that when people pray they, like Habakkuk, don’t feel God hears their prayers. They come to prayer meeting and never seem to have their prayers answered. Their response is to come away feeling God doesn’t hear them. Secondly, when God finally answers their prayers, His ways are so mysterious, so hard to comprehend. My third reason involves the question, “does God really love me?” This question arises out of the thought process that says, “If God really loved me, he would answer my prayers.” Finally, we often ask ourselves, “does prayer really make a difference?”

If by going to mid-week prayer service, or any other time for prayer, you prayed for the same thing over and over again without an indication of an answer to your prayers, wouldn’t you wonder if it is worth your time to pray or even to stop praying? This conclusion is the result of our lack of understanding of God and His ways. Does God answer prayer? Yes! There are three possible answers to prayer. Yes, no and wait. This highlights the difference between our timetable and God’s. Secondly, God’s ways are not our ways. In responding to our prayers, he will always work things according to the counsel of His own will. Even though we may not always comprehend God’s answer to our prayers, His response will always be for our ultimate good and His glory. These two concepts are not mutually exclusive but always work in harmony with each other. Finally, God never stops loving us. That is why He often answers our prayers on His timetable, not ours and in His way, not our way.

The problem we incur with the question, “does prayer make any difference?”, comes from our view of prayer. When we see prayer as a time for asking and receiving, our conclusion that prayer really doesn’t make a difference sounds reasonable. There is more to prayer than asking and receiving. Prayer is communicating with God, it’s a time for us to come to an understanding of His will



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and it becomes the instrument for changing us into the image of Christ. When we see prayer as more than asking and getting, we begin to realize that prayer does make a difference.

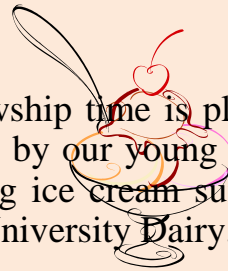
So what are we to do? Keep praying! In so doing, you are saying to God, while I don't understand, I am willing to trust you. Study God's Word! Your study of God's Word will give you a better understanding of the love and wisdom of God and that will keep you persistent in prayer. Remember that God hears our prayers and He does answer them. Get involved in a regular prayer meeting and learn to wait upon God for His timing, His ways and His purposes. That's the way I see it. How do you see it? Write me at hopenetriumphant@frontiernet.net with your viewpoint.

Final Singspiration

Our final Singspiration for this summer will take place on September 19th at West Endicott Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m. We have enjoyed this special time of singing and fellowship with our sister churches again this year. If you haven't been to one of the Singspirations, please consider joining us for the last one of the year!

Summer Sunday Sundaes Cease

Our last Sunday evening of fellowship time is planned for September 26th following the evening service conducted by our young people. We have enjoyed these informal fellowship times featuring ice cream sundaes. We appreciate the donation of ice cream from the Cornell University Dairy.



The Roof Project

In July, we voted to proceed with the replacement of the steel roof on the old building. The cost is estimated at \$18,500. We have borrowed \$9,000 from our line of credit and took the balance from our General Fund. Want to be involved in this project? Give your gift designated "Roof".



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Fall Missionary Conference

November 13-17

Mission Possible:

“To Every Man His Work”

Mark 13:34

Invited Missionaries:


David Totman – Ghana, W. Africa

Eric Moore – NY State

Dan Doyle – Nicaragua

Harvest Dinner on Saturday, November 13 at First Baptist Church of Newark Valley. Meet our missionaries and fellowship with our friends from Maine.




"You can always tell when he feeds a vacation."