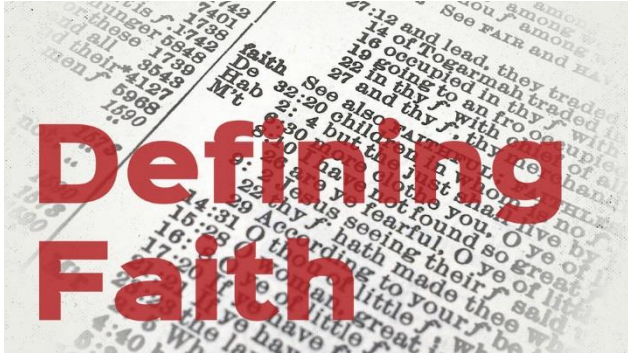


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Pastor David Gardner

Adapted and condensed from an unnamed source on www.newcreations.org:

Defining Faith

Sometimes folks understand faith to be a purely religious term that involves sort of a “checking your brain at the door.” Some people misunderstand faith to mean “disregarding all the evidence,” which is not the case. And while it’s true that faith is an important aspect to most religion, faith is exercised in many aspects of our lives outside of religion.

Here is the Biblical definition of faith found in Hebrews:

“Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.” — Hebrews 11:1

Faith is closely related to belief. The two are so close in fact that they often get confused even though they are different.

Faith vs. Belief

Belief is what we hold on to. For the most part, our beliefs are evidence based. Some people even go so far as to say, “seeing is believing.”

Faith, on the other hand, kicks in when we get to the end of the evidence. It is the how behind the things we believe before we have concrete evidence for them.

Take skydiving for example. We may believe that a parachute will get us to the ground safely when we jump out of an airplane. That belief might be based on talking with folks who have done it. Maybe we’ve studied aerodynamics to know the theory behind how parachutes work. We might have even jumped out of planes before and experienced floating safely to the ground with a parachute.

However, the moment we jump out of the plane we have faith that our parachute will open when we pull the ripcord. It hasn't happened yet, but we sure hope it will!

Faith is what connects the evidence to our beliefs when the evidence doesn't quite get us all the way there, like in that moment when we're free falling before the parachute canopy has deployed above us.

Opposite of Faith

The opposite of belief is unbelief. You might dispute facts like skydiving being statistically safer than driving a car. Perhaps you look at the evidence and decide that it's nuts to jump out of a perfectly good airplane. Then you wouldn't believe that skydiving is for you.

However, the opposite of faith is not unfaith. The opposite of faith is fear.

Maybe you look at all the evidence and truly believe that skydiving is safe. You know that parachutes get people to the ground without incident every day and that it is more dangerous to drive your car. But in spite of all the facts, all the evidence, there is no way you are ever going to jump out of an airplane because the thought of free falling thousands of feet above the ground terrifies you.

You can believe all the right things about skydiving but never actually do it because you lack faith. If you had faith, it would overcome your fear.

In Spite of the Evidence

Faith can even cause us to believe things in spite of the evidence.

This causes problems for some because sometimes people believe goofy things that are simply untrue.

However we all know stories about people who believed and persevered in the face of overwhelming odds when everyone around them thought they were nuts. Yet in the end, they were shown to be right.

We tend to say that people like that have great faith.

On a small scale, all the evidence seems to be saying that you are going to die when you jump out of that airplane. However you jump anyway because you have faith that the parachute will open in time to save you.

Object of Faith

The key then is the object that faith is placed in. You could say that faith is only worth the object it is placed in.

If your parachute is in good working order, then you have placed your faith in a worthy object and all will be well when you pull that ripcord.

However, if your parachute is defective or was packed by someone incompetent, then you'll have problems. Your faith in that case is misplaced because that parachute isn't going to save you. (Hopefully your backup chute will!)

If the object of your faith is worthy then all is well. If it isn't, then best case scenario – you end up looking pretty silly. Worst case you end up doing lots of harm to yourself and others.

Is Faith a Good Thing?

The real answer is that sometimes it's not. Faith placed in something that is not true is not a good thing at all. If you go through life believing lies that others have told you and you assume are true, deceived because you never looked at the evidence for yourself, then you are going to have trouble.

Or maybe you did look at some of the evidence yourself but the evidence you saw was incomplete or not really true. Then you'll end up reaching the wrong conclusions. And that's not a good thing at all.

However, when our faith is placed in something that is worthy and true, then it's a very good thing.

When your faith is rooted in unshakable truth then you can live without fear and be so peaceful that it might not even make sense to folks around you. Jesus said it this way, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." — John 8:32

Deep down we all long for true freedom.

Wired for Faith

Human beings are wired for faith. We all have core sets of beliefs. Some are based on more evidence than others.

And sometimes new evidence may come to light. When that happens, some folks change their beliefs.

Others exercise faith and cling to their beliefs despite the new evidence.

Pick most any controversial topic and you'll find passionate people on both sides of the debate who have followed the evidence as far as it will go and then have faith to get the rest of the way to their conclusions.

To me it seems that faith is inescapable. We all have faith in something.

What makes faith good or evil is where that faith is placed.

James 2:21-24 The Voice (VOICE)

21 Wasn't our father Abraham made right with God by laying his son Isaac on the altar? 22 The faith in his heart was made known in his behavior. In fact, his commitment was perfected by his obedience. 23 That's what Scripture means when it says, "Abraham entrusted himself to God, and God credited him with righteousness." And living a faithful life earned Abraham the title of "God's friend." 24 Just like our father in the faith, we are made right with God through good works, not simply by what we believe or think.

Here is a beautiful prayer from Worship and Song - Worship Resources:

Make our lives like libations poured out like oil, diffused through air like perfume, blessing multitudes. Make us libations poured out to You, God, not Mother Church, or someone else's agendas; we then become emissaries of Christ, both lighthouses and cattle-prods, bringing tidings of peace and warnings of the wrath to come. Let us not be sacrificed on the altar of the church's indifference, nor let us not confuse sacrifice with suffering for selfish gain. At the end of our days, when our lives on this globe is over, let it truthfully be said, "our lives were poured out for You." Amen

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Breakfast will be next Sunday June 2nd at 8:00 am.

Volunteers are needed to ride in the van on Sunday Mornings to pick up the kids.

Fellowship Meal will be June 16th at Noon. It will be Potluck. Saint Paul's will provide the meat so please bring sides and desserts.

On June 16th we will take up a special offering for Peace with Justice Ministries.

The Leadership Table will meet June 18th at 6:30 pm.

2019 Apportionments

	Conference	District
Total:	\$16,560.00	\$1,155.00
Paid to Date:	\$3,119.00	\$418.25
Still Due:	\$12,441.00	\$673.75

Book Study – Sundays 6 pm

Bible Study – Mondays 6 pm


Ladies Night –

Mondays 7 pm

Keno Group –

2nd Tuesdays 5:30 pm



 *Celebration for
Reverend Randy Mitchell*

First United Methodist Church Enid
announces the retirement of
Reverend Randy Mitchell,
after nearly 40 years of ministry.

On Sunday, June 23
you are invited to join us for
Traditional Worship at 9:00 or
Modern Worship at 11:10.
A reception will be held to honor Randy & Helen
at 10:00 a.m.

*Cards would also be much appreciated:
Randy & Helen Mitchell
c/o First UMC Enid
401 W. Randolph, Enid, OK 73703*

MORE NEWS



The Kairos Prison Ministry programs are lay-led, interdenominational Christian Ministries. Kairos Prison Ministry has three programs, Kairos inside, Kairos Outside and Kairos Torch. Kairos Inside serves men and women who are incarcerated. Kairos Outside serves women who have friend or relatives who are or have been incarcerated and Kairos Torch serves youth that are incarcerated. As a ministry, Kairos embraces a diverse group of volunteers working together to fulfill Christ's call to action in Matthew 25:36. Kairos Outside feels that many times women "serve time" right along with their loved ones. Kairos Outside provides a special weekend retreat designed to support the female relatives of men and women who are or have been incarcerated or women who were incarcerated who were unable to attend Kairos Inside while in prison. The weekend is followed by a continuing ministry of small group communities. Contact Gerry if you are interested in helping or know someone who is interested in attending a Kairos weekend.



- 9 - Cheryl Johnson
- 12 - John Freese
- 12 - Amy Blevins
- 21 - Kathy Allred



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



Handing bottled water out at the Cemeteries on Memorial Weekend.

Annual Conference

Trish will have a new grandbaby in February



Lakyn Anderson – Newborn with Breathing Issues

Flooding

Tornado victims

Keith Crain – Surgery

Jonathan Pipkin – to remember God is always with him, step by step, even when he forgets it

Parker Bowles – Renewed Strength

Lisa Berscheidt's Friend's Son in a serious motorcycle accident

Lisa Berscheidt's Cousin had a premature baby

Addie McMurrin

Tarah Frye – Travel Mercies as she goes to Italy to study for a Month

Tanner Tanaka – still in NICU

Addie's brother after Heart Surgery

Beth Horn – On Hospice

Allred's Granddaughters Kirsten and Courtney

Ann Starrett – Dementia and broken Hip. In Memory Care.

James Crow – Cancer

Kay Martin – Dementia and Fell and Broke a Bone

Sara Riggs – Divorce

Thomas Bradburry – Healing from Cancer

Carla Johnson – Fracture in her Shoulder

Della Henry – Heart Surgery

Kathy Allred – Continued prayers for healing and to be healthy

Marcia Haskins – On going foot sores

Drew Cole - Cancer

Junior Brown - Cancer

Connie Green – Cancer

Stacy Mettler – Cancer

Ann Johnson – Continued prayers for healing on her hip

Jason Poorman – (Edith Suiters nephew) Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Karen Gibson – Cancer

Gary Gibson – Cancer

Kathy Bridges – Cancer

Margaret Averre – Throat cancer

Daniel Whittney – Cancer

Jennifer Allred – Spinal pain and fibromyalgia

Melinda Douglas – Lung Cancer