

Let's Visit

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Believing In God

What would you say if I asked you to tell me why you believe in God? How would you answer that question? At first blush it seems an easy question to answer. There are numerous books in my library that can give me a reason to believe in God. These books provide arguments for the existence of God. Reading those books serves to strengthen my faith. But their reasons are not necessarily our reasons.

Truthfully, I believed in God before I ever studied or read any of those books. In fact, I believed in God before I knew the reasons. After going to school, I know it is necessary for me to breathe. I know that without air I would die. Yet, before I knew that, I just breathed.

I must admit, I was extremely fortunate. I was born into a home where prayer was heard regularly. I never questioned that there was a God to hear those prayers. I just accepted that as a fact. I was taken to church regularly. That has always seemed to be normal and right. Long before I knew how the church came to be, before I knew the reasons for its existence, I felt at home in the church.

I am a Christian, and every day Bill Gaither's song is more applicable. Truly, "The Longer I Serve Him the Sweeter He Grows". The more I learn about Jesus, the more I love Him. The more I learn, the more I praise Him for my salvation.

In America, in a court of law, a person is presumed innocent. That is until they are proven guilty. That is the way it is with my own faith in God. I never said, I will not believe until God's existence is proved. Rather, I believe and will continue to believe until it is proved that there is not God. You see, the Bible feels no necessity for proving God. The Bible assumes the existence of God. The very first words of the Bible are, "In the beginning God. . ."

From there it goes on to give us a progressive revelation of God. Moses teaches us the laws of God, Amos reveals the Justice of God, Hosea shows us the love of God. The Psalms lead us to communion with Him, Micah tells of His ethical standards and then Jesus comes and shows us the Father. Do you remember what Jesus said to His disciples in John chapter 14? It was the night he ate the Passover with them. He told them He was going away. He said, "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God". Have you ever looked, really looked at that passage? Jesus did not say, if you believe. He did not say you should believe. He simply said, ye believe. Then he told them about the Father's house and the way to it.

Our faith in God does not depend on reasons or arguments. God took care of that in our creation. You can call it instinct, insight or intuition. But whatever you call it, we were born believing. As we study and learn, as we live and experience, our belief can be strengthened and enlarged. Conversely, our belief can be perverted and misdirected. Therein lies the danger.

We do not have to understand God to believe in Him. If we really look at it honestly, we understand very few things that we do. Sir Arthur Eddington was an English Physicist of the early 20th century who wrote a book entitled The Nature of the Physical World in 1928. Here is a quote from the

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In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

"I Know Something Good About You !"

We need to look for the best in
others and not the worst.

For The Pantry. . . Cup Noodles

Believing In God - continued from page 1

book: "I am standing on the threshold about to enter a room. It is a complicated business. In the first place, I must shove against an atmosphere pressing with a force of 14 pounds on every square inch of my body. I must make sure of landing on a plank traveling at twenty miles a second around the sun. I must do this while hanging from a round planet, head outward into space." Only a few scientists understand what is involved in the process of walking into a room. The rest of us just walk in.

Most of us do not understand the composition of water, but we drink it. We don't know what electricity is, but we use it. Who can understand the process of love and yet many have sacrificed their lives because of love. To say "I believe in God" is more than an intellectual assent. It means to trust in Him, to commit our lives to His will. We trust in God because we realize our own inadequacies. No person ever really finds God until there is a felt need in their life that only God can fill.

How do we believe in God? There is a plain and straightforward answer in Mark chapter 9. Jesus and three disciples had been on the mountain. Jesus had been transfigured before their eyes, Elijah and Moses appeared and they talked together. It was

such a wonderful experience that Peter suggested they stay there.

However, Jesus knew there was work to be done in the valley. At the foot of the mountain was a father. He had brought his epileptic son. The father had asked the apostles to heal the boy. They were unable to heal him and now the father asked Jesus. Jesus told him, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth"

You see, many want to believe in God, but find it hard. Faith never comes easy. The father said to Jesus, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief". Lord I believe, help me to believe more.

So, I believe in God. God is so great I can never know all about Him. He is so near I cannot help but know Him. The Bible tells us that God is love., I have loved and I have been loved. Seeing and feeling love, I have come to believe in it. Believing in love is believing in God. A small part of God to be sure, but still God. Every day we can know a little more of God. Lord I believe, help me to believe more should be the prayer on our lips every day.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



Each One Bring One!
52 in '22
Invite Someone Each Week!

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Sunday,

December 4th will be our next covered dish luncheon. We will then celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for December, January and February. Circle the date on your calendar and make your plans to be here!

BIBLE STUDY - It is still our desire to have as

many "Bodies in Benches" as possible for our Sunday Morning Bible Class at 9:45 and our mid-week Bible Study on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. If you can be here please make your plans to do so.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL - Remember

we are planning to have a meal before our services the last Wednesday of each month so make your plans now to join us on Wednesday, October 26th. If you want to come for Wednesday night Bible Class before that however, you are welcome to do so!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING - There will

be a men's business meeting today, October 9th immediately following the morning worship in the church offices. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

SUNNY GLEN TRUCK - The truck from

Sunny Glen Children's Home will be here the week of November 15th - 17th. They have requested Pancake Mix, Cup Noodles, Crackers and Orange Juice. These will be our pantry items for the next several weeks and will be listed on the back of the calendar.

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*If people fought sin as hard as they do middle age,
earth would be a moral paradise.*

*The only person who listens to both sides of a
family argument is the woman next door.*

*Don't worry if you start losing your memory,
Just forget about it!*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden,
Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Tiffanee Klein,
Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother) Ana Blair
(friend of Debra Pate) Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick)
Suzie Hogan (Roxie Bostick's sister) Lamar McCormick
(friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Calvin Smith
(Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues;
Tina Vaughn - cancer

"INTERNET FRIENDS"

(These are people who have become acquainted with the
Center Church of Christ either through Facebook or our
Website and have requested to be put on our prayer list)

Mason McConnell, Frankie & Mandy McConnell,
Wayne Minter, Courtney Workman

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw Jeremiah Soape,
Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill
out a card and put it in the offering plate.

Think About This. . .

A bright young boy of seven took the large, dusty Bible from the table in the living room. After looking through its dusty pages a while he asked his mother, "Isn't this God's book?" His mother of course replied that it was. "Well, we'd better send it back, hadn't we, we never use it" said the lad.

The young boy's father might have been the man who was being chastised by the good sister who ran into him at Wal-Mart shopping on a Monday morning. She said to him, "I heard you went to a ballgame instead of coming to Worship Sunday." He indignantly replied, "That's a lie, and I've got the fish to prove it".

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*Sometimes tolerance is nothing more than a
suspicion that the other person may be right.*



Across The Preacher's Desk

If you remember reading Paul's letter to the church at Rome, he had a burning desire to preach the gospel in the Capital city,. In Acts chapter 27, we find Paul on his way to Rome, yet he is going as a prisoner. While there, he would have a great success and members of Caesar's household would be converted.

However, the voyage to Rome was not without incident. A great storm occurred which threatened to tear the ship in pieces. The crew struggled to keep the ship afloat. They lightened the load by throwing everything overboard that was expendable. They went for days upon days not being able to eat.

Yet, in the midst of it all, Paul stood upon the deck of the ship and told them to be of good cheer. He did not tell them to be of good cheer because of the seaworthiness of the vessel. They were not to be of good cheer because of the experience and dedication of the crew. They were to be of good cheer because the Lord had promised Paul that there would be no loss of life. Paul said, "Be of good cheer, for I believe God."

The faith that sustained Paul on that voyage and in that storm can sustain us in the storms of life. Whatever storm may be blowing through our lives, we can be of good cheer, for "we believe God". Like the words of that old familiar song, "Be not dismayed, what-er be tide, God will take care of you", and He will.

it's something to think about. . . .tbp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
52 in '22!
53 in '23!**