### GREAT FAITH

“Now when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him pleading with Him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” And Jesus said to him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, “Lord I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard it, He marveled. and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel.” (Matthew 8: 5-10). The centurion who spoke to Jesus was a person who understood the power of the spoken word. The chain of authority in the Roman army was carried through the ranks from the highest to the very lowest by verbal commands. As he said, “What I say goes.” Based on his own experience he was confident that all Jesus had to do was speak and the healing would happen. The faith that was evident was hard to believe in that Jesus marveled that a person, not a Jew, could believe to the extent that all He had to do was say the word. One wonders how a Roman officer could obtain this kind of faith, yet the explanation is that he had heard Jesus speak about God and the wonderful powers bestowed on His Son. He believed what he had heard. What Jesus said was very wonderful in that He *marveled* that a Gentile could possess such faith. The place and the people where He had a right to expect great faith, he found only unbelief, and where even the Jews did not believe anything good could come from Gentiles. The faith of this gentile officer, was enough to show that there are possibilities in places where none are believed to exist. It is a characteristic of man to under estimate the power of God and to give up before trying. The power of the Word of God is likened to the sharpness of a two-edged sword and it is beyond imagination to predict what preaching can do. “And I say to you that many shall come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 8: 11). 🕮 Joe Clapp



**Sunday Wednesday**

Bible Class: 10am Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Worship: 11am

Evening: 6pm

**April 9th, 2017**

**Visitors Always Welcome; Members expected**



“the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation” Romans 1:16

***God’s Plan of Salvation***

* Hear………………………….…………Romans 10:17
* Believe…...…………..Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:1-6
* Repent………..……..Acts 2:38; II Corinthians 7:10
* Confess……………..Romans 10:9, 10; Mt. 10:32,33
* Be Baptized………………...Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16
* Arise & walk in newness of life…….…Romans 6:4
* **Elders Phone Email:**
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**WHERE FAITH IS LIVED**

We would all like the Divine experiences of certain people of the Old Testament. We would like to have God ask us to count the stars as He did Abraham and be told that such will be our descendants. We would like to witness a miraculous dream like Jacob and see a ladder between earth and heaven with angels ascending and descending. We would like to come upon a burning bush in the wilderness and hear the voice of God, "Take off your shoes for the ground upon which you stand is holy.” Can you imagine the excitement such Divine experiences generated for these patriarchs and many others to whom God granted such special favors? Their hearts surely pounded for days. Don't however get the wrong idea.

These special God-connecting experiences did not happen every day. Not even for men and women who are our models of faith today. Other than these few times, the clear majority of the lives of these great men was no different than everyone else who lived like they did in those days. Their experiences, significant enough to be recorded in the Bible, happened only a few times in their entire life. Probably 99.9% of their lives were boringly ordinary.

As I was driving to the office early this morning, I pondered how unexceptional my day was likely to be. There was no use holding out for a face to face meeting with God. I was not even expecting the glimpse of an angel. I wasn't anticipating the sun to stop and reverse its course or to be lifted-up to the third heaven. And, as it turned out, now at nearly the end of the day, there have been no surprises. This day was just what I expected it to be. This is an important insight which is easy to overlook when we read the Bible. In between the few occasions of the spiritually uncommon, men and women of faith led lives not any different than everyone else. They still had to make a living, patch roofs, draw water, feed the livestock, prepare a meal and wash the dishes. They lived common lives just like the faithful still do today. This morning as I pondered this realization, I suddenly understood that common lives are how faith is supposed to be lived. If we daily jumped from one miraculous or, even, exceptional event to the next, what would be so great about faith? In the trenches of common life is where faith shines! 🕮 Floyd Kaiser

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**Communicating with Others**

 We all speak from our own “place” and we all use different words with our own definition. What means one thing to someone might mean something entirely different to another. Always ask “what do you mean by….?” for it saves many arguments. And don’t react until you are sure you know what the other person is Really saying.

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 **Our Family News**

***Pray For:*** Cassie Douthitt, Logan’s grandpa

***Traveling/Working***: Christian Larson, the Churchill’s

**Youth Forum:** Forms for the Anchorage Youth Forum are on the bookshelf in the back. The forum will be April 21-23 at Debarr, and the registration deadline is the 17th.

**Youth Gathering:** There will be a gathering about relationships on April 22nd at 10am. Breakfast ealier

***Radio Program:*** Listen to “Searching the Scriptures”, our weekly radio program, Sundays at 9am, on 99.7 FM.

***Today’s Scripture:*** “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, *the faith* which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.” Gal. 2:21 (1901 ASV)

***Today’s*** ***Proverb:*** “A worthless person, a man of iniquity, Is he that walketh with a perverse mouth;” 6:12 (1901 ASV)

***Attendance last Sunday***: 63