

When An Unwavering Faith Wavers (Part 3—Peter)

Over the last two weeks we have considered two different struggles that so many of us face from time to time that can cause even the most unwavering of faiths to waver. **Doubt**, as seen in the life of Abraham, can cause us to question the presence and promises of God during the trying times of our lives and lead us to attempt to take control of our own lives instead of trusting in God's perfect plan. **Discouragement**, as seen in the life of Elijah, can cause us to feel defeated and hopeless and want to simply give up in our fight against Satan and his attacks. In the final installment of this short series, I would like to mention one more obstacle to our faith and see an example of how this struggle can affect our faith.

When we consider the life of the apostle Peter, we see some moments of greatness concerning his faith in Jesus. It was Peter who declared, on at least two occasions, his confident belief in Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 16:16; John 6:69). It was also Peter who swore his undying devotion to Christ shortly before Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:31-35). It may have been the overconfidence of Peter in his own strength and courage that led him into temptation that night, for shortly after making that claim, he found himself in a precarious situation doing the very thing that he had said he would never do: denying his Lord. What was it that caused Peter's faith to waver? **Fear**. The fear of being all alone in the crowd; the fear of facing the wrath of an angry mob. The fear of the possibility of meeting the same fate that Jesus seemed destined for. In the face of these fears, Peter's unwavering faith wavered, his confidence waned, and his strength wilted. In that moment, a battle raged in Peter's heart between fear and faith, and fear was victorious.

Fear continues to be a powerful obstacle to the faith of God's people. We may fear the consequences of standing up for our faith, the negative opinions of others, the disappointment of failure, or the sting of ridicule. Whatever our fears, those things can have a profound effect on even the strongest of faiths, causing us to shrink from responsibility and avoid opportunity. Maintaining and living out an unwavering faith is not an easy task. There are enemies and obstacles that threaten to derail it at every turn. May God help us to be strong and to continually grow in our faith.

Rusty

To Our Guests

We are so pleased and honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Chase Park is a wonderful Christian family, devoted to serving God through our lives and work. We are excited to share our love for Christ with others and we are thankful to have the opportunity to meet you and to have you join us for worship.

As we worship together today, our desire is to worship God according to the New Testament pattern and in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to Him. It is also our prayer that our time together is uplifting to those who are here including you, our guest. If you have any questions about anything that you see or hear today, please ask us. We would love to speak with you about those things and help you in any way that we can.



Chase Park Church of Christ

Ministers

Rusty Hills Pulpit

Andrew Lamica..... Youth Minister

Elders

John Denney

Curtis Hill

Sam Kachelman

Dennis Lawson

Greg Parker

Barry Todd

Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza Chalco, Mexico

Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico

Slava Savkovsky Ukraine

Barton Kizer..... Peru

Dewayne Tapscott..... Southwest

Lamications—*Andrew Lamica*

Do you believe it? Do you really believe it? You likely do it regularly, but do you believe in its power? Has it become a matter of routine or obligation or do you still believe in its purpose?

The power of prayer is absolutely amazing. Prayer is our avenue of communication with God the Father. It is in prayer we make our requests, our needs, and our desires known to Him (Philippians 4:6).

One of the difficulties we often face in our prayer lives is our lack of belief in its power. The lack of belief does not always manifest itself in the same way. We can struggle to believe that God can answer our prayers. We can struggle to believe that God will answer our prayers. We can

struggle to believe that God hears our prayers. There are many ways our lack of belief in the power of prayer can rear its ugly head.

When our faith in our prayer life struggles, we must be like the father whose son had a demon found in Mark chapter 9. Jesus told him, *"Everything is possible for one who believes"* (Mark 9:23). Do you remember the father's answer? The father said to Jesus, *"I believe; help my unbelief"* (Mark 9:24)!

If our faith is struggling, ask God to help! It seems like when our faith struggles, we often do exactly the opposite of asking God to help. When our faith is struggling, our prayer life is usually the first thing to suffer. We don't spend time with God in

prayer like we know that we should. If we do spend time in prayer when our faith is struggling, it is often brief or somewhat empty. When we find ourselves facing a faltering faith, that's one of the times when we should be praying the hardest!

Please do not allow your prayer life to become one of obligation or routine. If our prayer lives suffer, our relationship with God suffers. Guard against the temptations of Satan of allowing yourself to become too busy or too tired to pray. If life gets too busy to pray, it's time to slow down.

Do you believe in its power? Do you believe in God's ability to hear you? Do you believe in God's ability to answer? Don't give up, keep praying.

Do Things Which Make For A Caring Congregation

As we continue looking to increase opportunities to share the Gospel, this suggestion is important if our efforts in evangelism are going to be fruitful in the long run. First, because it helps to confirm our claim to be true disciples of Jesus Christ (notice John 13:35). Correct doctrine and worship, etc., are certainly important; but it is our love for one another that the Lord intended to convince the world that we are truly His disciples!

Second, our love makes us useful to the Lord! From Revelation 3:7-8, we learn that the Lord knows the true condition of His churches, and that He will "open doors" for those that can be useful to Him. We are assured that if we are a church that can be used by Him to reach others with the gospel and nurture them in their spiritual growth, then He will

"open doors" for us as well!

But suppose we are not a place where new Christians can grow spiritually in an atmosphere of love? Do we think that the Lord will use His providence to lead us to souls who are seeking for the truth? Even if we did reach souls for Christ, would they receive the spiritual nourishment necessary to remain faithful and strong in the Lord's service?

And finally, it is important to practice hospitality toward Christians because it prepares us for the kind of personal work that is the most effective in leading others to Christ. I am referring to "friendship" or "relationship" evangelism, which requires a willingness to be hospitable and giving to those we are trying to reach. If we are unable (or unwilling) to practice hospitality towards our brethren, what makes

us think we will practice it toward the lost?

So the first thing to do is make sure that as a church we provide the right kind of loving and caring spiritual environment. Here are some "action steps" that one can take: Make it a point to get to know ALL the members and regular visitors by name; practice "hospitality" toward the members and regular visitors (1Peter 4:8-9), invite them into your home, or out to eat, visit other Christians each week (especially the sick, shut-ins, new members, absent members). When a congregation is filled with loving members who care for its own, then I believe it is ready to be used by the Lord to reach out and care for others!

Your Elders

News Of Interest

Sick

HealthSouth Rehab

Steve Bradford

Home

Sheila Landman

Bridal Shower

Ladies are invited to a come-and-go bridal shower honoring **Haileigh Stiegler**, and **Grant Purvis**, Sunday, July 23, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., dining room. Registered at Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, and Amazon.

5th Sunday Special Contribution

July 30 (5th Sunday) is our second planned Special Contribution for 2017. It will be for our Mortgage Reduction Plan. Our Goal is \$25,000. There will be two collections that Sunday, one for our regular weekly contribution, and a separate one for the Mortgage Reduction. For those who use the envelope system, please use your envelopes for both contributions.

Fall 2017 Financial Peace Class

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday nights starting September 12, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. Class will be limited to the first 20 families that register and pay \$95.00. For more information, please see **Ken McGee**.

Pantry Item

Self-rising corn meal and flour.

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Family Care Program

Teams **F** and **H** will meet today for potluck lunch. Team **F** Leaders: **Justin Gransky**, **Joel Heady**, **Greg McCreless**, **Jared Olbricht**. Team **H** Leaders: **Randal Jennings**, **Mark Lambrecht**, **Ron McCall**.

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Gregg Crabtree**

Song Leader: **Stephen Trammell**

Balance Class

Tues., July 18; Thurs., July 20; 1:30 p.m.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, July 19. Potluck lunch.

Regency Retirement Village Singing

Thursday, July 20, 6:00 p.m.

Chase Park Singing

Sunday p.m., July 23.

Children's Ministry Devotional

Sunday, July 23, after p.m. service, dining room/fellowship hall.

Back-To-School Prayer Devotional

Sunday p.m., July 30.

Thank You

"Dear Chase friends,
Thank you so much for all the cards and notes. They made my 90th birthday very special. I enjoy receiving the weekly Messenger also. Thanks for remembering me. Love,"

Jean McBride

"Chase Park Family,
It is such a wonderful blessing to have a caring church family like you. Thank you for all the cards, calls, prayers, and kindness you brought us during the deaths of my mother and grandmother. We appreciate it all so much and love you."

The Gransky family

August Birthdays

2	Janice Jennings	17	Rebecca Brothers
	Gabie Luna	19	Carol Belles
	Leigh Todd	21	Jamie Clark
3	Mindy Sims		Tom Pond
5	Breanna Lance	22	June Steelman
	Sarah Fulks		Mildred Smelser
6	Gayla Suddarth	23	Bob Thibeault
7	Morris Bridges		Mary Jones
	Ray Brown		Betty King
8	Kaylee Rosenblum	24	Greg Parker
9	Grayson Stiegler		John Campbell
	Jared Olbricht	27	Keith Mentz
11	Jim Gray	28	Gregg Crabtree
	Candy Lamica		Jerry Johnston
	Amanda Cantrell	30	Rachel Lawrence
15	Derek Horst	31	Elaine Gotvald
	Joe Parker		Bob Trammell
16	Mike Baran		

Questions from the Master Teacher

2017 Midweek Summer Series

July 19

“Why do you not understand what I say?”

John 8:43

A question about the reasons for unbelief

Guest Speaker:
Steve Hale



Plainview Church of Christ
Hazel Green, Alabama

Jesus poses this question to the religious leaders of His day—those who believed in God and were, at least outwardly, committed to keeping the law. However, they had fallen victim to their own envy, greed, and hard-heartedness and had rejected Jesus and His teaching. Their unbelief had caused them to close their ears, their minds, and their hearts to the Son of God. We see this same kind of unbelief all around us in the world today. Many have rejected Jesus altogether because they have been convinced that He is a fraud or, at least, of no consequence to their lives. Others, because of fear, pride, greed, or worldliness, have refused to allow Jesus to be their Lord. Unbelief is a problem of epidemic proportions in our world today and the causes of that unbelief are many. If we, as ambassadors for Christ, hope to reach those who have succumbed to unbelief, it is helpful for us to understand the reasons behind that unbelief. I hope that you will be here this Wednesday as Steve Hale leads us in a study of this important question and topic.

Statistics

Sunday, July 9, 2017

AM Worship	368
Month Average	357
Bible Class	302
PM Worship	246
Wed., July 12, Bible Classes	270
Regency Ret. Worship	40
Offering	\$19,007.69
Budget	\$18,000
Average '17	\$17,922
Under Budget for year	-\$2,179
Building Fund	\$250.00

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Services

Sunday

Worship	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class	10:15 a.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Super Seniors	10:00 a.m.
Bible Class	6:30 p.m.

Web Site Home Bible Studies

<https://www.epcfc.org/home-bible-studies>

(Lesson 1 Link)

The Bible—God's Holy Word