

Living the Faith

- Are you spending at least 5 minutes a day at least 5 days a week reading your Bible?**
- Have you shared your conversion story/or a God story?**
- Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- Did you spend some alone time with God this week?**

- Last week's message was from **Ephesians 4:11-16**

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every

wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- **As we further look at this section of verses there is a challenge to the believer to GROW and become grounded in the faith to keep us from going back and forth with each new teaching we hear or experience (v14)!**
- **As we become mature - we must work together as a body with Christ being the head (v15-16)!**
- **EVERYTHING revolves around Jesus Christ who is the head of the church!!!**

- **I believe we can agree the Christian faith is clearly taught in the Bible as ‘it’s all about Jesus’**
- **So, most of the challenges we face are not about Christ - but with the body, the family, each other, fellow believers!**
- ***(v16) From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.***

- **We are called to work together but the ONLY way this can happen is if it is grounded in that Love we were learning about a few weeks ago..... The unconditional, forgiving, all about them kind!!**
- **We are called to serve, love, forgive, to be the body of Christ to a lost and dying world around us!**

- **This requires each of us to serve together as the whole to fully mature in the faith!**
- **We are reminded several times in the New Testament that we are a body! Hands, feet, ears, nose, etc.**
- **The body NEEDS everyone! You matter! And we can't function correctly without you!**

1 Corinthians 12:12-20, 24b-27

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part

of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

24...But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

- We ALL have a part to play in the bigger picture but it requires us to function together!

- **We ALL have a part to play in the bigger picture but it requires us to function together!**
- **There are too many independent contractors in the body of Christ who think it has to be done their way and if someone doesn't line up with them they simply go off on their own!**
- **The body of Christ is to function in UNITY!**
- **Together as a whole... it's not about you it's about Him and therefore it's about us doing the work of Christ! God's O.T. design too!**

Exodus 36:1 So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded.” Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work.

- God has given the ability... we must be willing!

Action Steps

- **Have you believed the enemies lie to you that you don't matter, you can't do anything?**
- **What is your place in the body?**
- **Do you work well with others? If your answer is NO you need to check yourself!**
- **Are you willing to do what God asks you to do in becoming part of the body?**