



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church

-We are not a perfect people

**-We are here because we know we need
God's help and He has provided this help
through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**CFF exists to Know Christ and to make Him
Known!**

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?**

Bible Trivia from last week

-What did the angel Gabriel say to Mary would not fail?

“For no word from God will ever fail.” (Luke 1:37)

-What was Jesus called BEFORE He came as a baby to Bethlehem?

The Word (John 1:1)

-Where do you find the Golden Text of the Bible?

John 3:16

- “But whoever lives by the _____ comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.” (John 3:21)

Truth

Luke 2:15-18 (Bethlehem)

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” **16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger...

Luke 2:15-18 (Bethlehem)

17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

- An undeniable God thing was taking place**
- Not everyone had seen the angels the Shepherds saw but they were told what had happened and it was the talk of the town!**

Luke 2:21-32 (8 days later in Jerusalem)

21 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts...

When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:...

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

-Another witness of a God thing happening among them! This time it wasn't Shepherds from the fields but a known spiritual man at the Temple!

-This is immediately followed up with another prophetic message from a lady prophet!

Luke 2:36-38

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying...

38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

-As we view these first witnesses of the Promise of God fulfilled we find a common thread.

-A personal God experience shared by word of mouth!

-Remember this is the Temple that Zachariah (only 1 year before) had seen the angel and come out of the Temple unable to talk because of the promise of the birth of a son to he and Elizabeth (John the Baptist)!

-This vision was the first sign/revelation of God in nearly 400 years!

-The birth of John the Baptist was a miracle as Zachariah and Elizabeth were very old!

- In these instances – there were opportunities for others to find out for themselves if what was being said was true or if it was just another story!

- God was doing something but as God often does, it's in more small ways rather than big showy ways!

- God was not done yet.

- **Within 2 years the Magi show up in the capitol city of Jerusalem “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:2)**
- **This visitation and question impacts the entire city!**

Matthew 2:3-6

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

-This witness is another verbal witness but with Scripture to affirm it as truth!

-They heard the story – checked the scriptures and found the prophets words to affirm where the Savior would be born and..?

- They sent the visitors with the questions on to find THEIR KING!

- Amazing that they would not personally seek to know the truth...

-What about us?

-Have you heard any God stories? Everyone wants to hear a good story – and then look for opportunities to share it with others but how has our life changed as a result?

-Have you personally checked out in scripture the truth of the God stories of Jesus?

-Are you too busy to stop what you are doing to find out for yourself?

-How has your life changed as a result of Jesus?

-Is He someone you talk about or is He someone you personally know?

- God is moving - stirring in the heart of His people just as He did at the birth of Jesus – just as He has throughout history in awakenings/revivals... will we be a part of it?

- Or, will we simply share the stories that we hear about what God has done and revealed to others?

-Let's STOP... and simply ask God how we can be a part of what He is going to do in 2016?

- I don't want to hear about it ... I don't want to read about it... I want to be part of it!! I want to be a firsthand witness that is sharing the amazing story of the God who loves us and has the power to transform lives ... how about you?