



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

- **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**
- **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 with a non-believer?**
- **Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- **Did you spend some alone time with God this week?**

- **Last week as we looked at Ephesians 4 we see where the word of God challenges us to grow and mature in the faith.**
- **We were challenged in the message to identify what life stage (infant, toddler, childhood, adolescence, or adult) we find ourselves in our spiritual life.**
- **As we start off in life we are Sinners:**

1 Corinthians 15:22 “*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*”

- **We therefore have a natural tendency toward the wrong and must be taught the right!**
- **Most, if not all of us, have even been taught the right stuff wrong!!!**
- **I'm not talking about the moral right of humanity – which is also screwed up – but the right stuff about God!**
- **I'm not saying– I was taught right and you were taught wrong – I'm saying “WE” need to learn it again the right way... God's way!**

Luke 8

4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: 5 “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. 6 Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

- Do you have ears to hear what Jesus wants to say to you?**
- Will you hear His call to the New Life He has for you?**
- The disciples didn't understand!!**

11 “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

- **The message of the Good News of Jesus Christ!**
The Word of God has been preached, taught, proclaimed since the Day of Pentecost!

12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

- **Many have heard... but do not respond!!**

- **Many can quote the Word of God but still not believe! This is not a head thing – it's a life change!**

13 Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

- **I'm sure you have known people like this... on fire for Jesus but the first challenge that comes along - they drop out... maybe this is you?**

14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

- **These are a little different than the last group... these are they who don't fall out of the race but don't mature to their full potential!**

15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

- **Can we notice something that we tend to look past in the Church today?**
- **The first group simply did not believe... however, ALL 3 of the Believing groups Jesus talked about faced testing, trials, worries, challenges etc.**
- **The group that made it and matured were those who “*by persevering produce a crop*”**

- **Persevere**: “to persist in anything undertaken; maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty, obstacles, or discouragement; continue steadfastly.” (Webster, 2016)
- **When we receive the Good News of Jesus and are saved/born again... we have a New King in our heart... as peace comes internally to the war within... war comes in greater intensity in the external life in the world!**
- **Perseverance is required for the believer!!!**

- **I am not speaking this to discourage you but rather to encourage & challenge you - there are difficulties & trials in this world! Christianity DOES NOT stop you from living in this world of extreme challenge & temptation – what it DOES DO is give you the ability to rise above & live a life for Christ that gives you purpose, hope, & a peace within that you can't have any other way!**
- **The Christian life is contrary to the ways of the world! For sin reigns in this world!**

- **In the Church today we have this false idea that when we are saved everything just works out smoothly, we have better health, finances, & less challenges.**
- **This is not true ... we still live in a world of sin! We still have an enemy that now is focusing on us to destroy us! We are no longer going with the flow we are going against the current!**
- **If your belief's are aligning with culture you are probably not aligning with God's word!!!**

James 1:3-4

3 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- **The challenges will come – whether you have faith or not – SO why not face them with Faith rather than face them alone?!!!**

In Hebrews 11 we read of the great Faith of those who have gone on before us!

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became

powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35

Women received back their dead, raised to life again...

- **As we read that section I say “sign me up for that team!” The winners, mighty, strong, miracles, etc.!! But the chapter does not end there ...There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were put**

to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

PERSEVERENCE!!!

Life Application

- **Growing up (Maturing) is when we STOP running from the challenges! We have to face it to get through it!!**
- **What challenges are you facing?**
- **Are those challenges making your faith stronger or are you allowing the challenges to question your faith?**
- **Will you persevere in your faith no matter the challenges?**