

A REASONABLE EXPLANATION

A woman, hanging laundry in her backyard, sees a tired-looking dog wander into her yard. She could tell from his collar and well-fed stomach that he had an owner. Yet when she walked into the house, he followed her, sauntered down the hall and fell asleep in a corner. An hour later he went to the door and she let him out.



The next day he was back. He resumed his position in the hallway and slept for an hour. This continued for a couple of weeks. Curious, the woman pinned a note to his collar: "Every afternoon your dog has been coming to my house and taking a nap."

The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar: "Duke lives in a house with six children – he's trying to catch up on his sleep!"

POLICING IN A SMALL TOWN

In a small town, the chief of police was also the veterinarian. One night he was awakened by a frantic phone call. "Please come quick!" said the woman.

"Do you need the police or a vet?" he asked.

"Both," answered the woman. "We can't pry our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar's leg in it."



THE DIAGNOSIS

My arm started to hurt me so I made an appointment with the doctor who had me come in for an examination. After looking for some time at my arm, he pulled out a medical book.

Studying it for several minutes, followed by checking several others, he then turned back to me and asked, "Have you ever had this pain before?" I said, "Yes."

"Well," he said, "You've got it again!"

BLINDED BY BANANAS

Two men were taking the train for the first time. They had brought bananas for a snack during their journey. Just as one of them bit into his banana, the train entered a tunnel.

The first man asked his buddy, "Any chance you've taken a bite of your banana yet?"

His buddy responded, "No, I haven't yet, why?"

The first man replied, "Well, don't I did and went blind!"



First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

First Baptist Church Strathroy

Strathroy, Ontario N7G 1T5 519-245-0291 / 519-317-8659 (cell)

Email: firstbaptistchurchstrathroy@gmail.com

www.FirstBaptistChurchStrathroy.ca, Edited by Pastor Dave Adams

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"For by grace you have been saved through faith" ~ Ephesians 2:8

"Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the one who is leading." ~ Oswald Chambers.

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That's how we'll get through this, Lord,
Fixed on heaven above,
Assured of your protection, help,
And everlasting love.

By Joanna Fuchs



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Sunday, 11 a.m. Services

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it by the handle of anxiety, or by the handle of faith." ~ Henry Ward Beecher

A LITTLE GIRL'S BLESSING

A little girl had been misbehaving and as a punishment was sent to eat her dinner alone at a little table in the corner of the dining room. The rest of the family paid no attention to her presence until they heard her audibly praying to the Lord for her meal: "I thank Thee, Lord for preparing a table before me in the presence of my enemies."



THE WORK OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

"Daddy, I want to ask you a question," said young Bobby after his first day in Sunday School. "Yes, Bobby, what is it?" His father responded. "The teacher read from the Bible telling how all the children of Israel built the temple, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, the children of Israel made sacrifices. Why didn't the grown-ups do anything?"



Something to Think About...

'As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.' ~ Colossians 2:6-7

More than a century ago, Andrew Murray looked to this weighty lesson of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Colossians, reminding us it's not only by faith we first come to Christ, united to Him, but that it's by faith that we are rooted and established in our union with Christ on a daily basis.

Sadly, there are many well-meaning Christians today who have failed to grasp that beyond our first acceptance of Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, beyond a sinner being justified by faith, is the deeper truth that, as the Apostle Paul puts it, "The just shall *live* by faith" (Romans 1:17). What does it mean to 'live by faith', to establish a relationship between ourselves and our Lord? It comes from living a life of grace, the gift of God which is only, and always a life of faith, in relationship with Jesus Christ. As disciples of Christ, our first and foremost duty is to believe in the One from whom we have received all things, and in that belief, to surrender our fickle will to the perfect will and way of our God.

Such faith requires God's Spirit to flow in us, through us, and from us. As believers, our Christian life is never stagnant like a pond but moving like a flowing river. If we are not moving forward, we slip, perhaps gradually, imperceptibly, backward, snarled in the weeds of still waters, held captive by the wiles of the enemy, unable to make spiritual progress, open to attack by the enemy who seeks to destroy us.

Satan is always deceptive. He wants to lead believers astray. Jesus describes Satan well, saying, "*He...does not stand in the truth, because*

there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). Unlike Hollywood's portrayal of a benevolent demon, Satan has no place in the life of a believer of Jesus Christ. He will take you down the wrong path. He seeks only to destroy. It's important that we exercise spiritual discernment at all times, and that we continue to live in faith, growing in our knowledge of spiritual truth.

If we're to "*walk worthy of the Lord"* (Colossians 1:10), remaining steadfast and true, we must walk in Christ daily the same way we originally received Christ as our Lord and Saviour – *by faith!* Many false teachers today offer all sorts of 'new truths', blended humanistic precepts, or selfish mantras for Christian maturity. The Gospel dispels all of them. As the Apostle Paul clearly wrote, "*Rooted and built up in Him*" which means, "You started with Christ and you must continue with Christ". He continues, "*established in faith*" in essence saying, to stay with what got you into a right relationship with God. In other words, "You started with faith and you must continue with faith which is the only way to make spiritual progress. And remember, if you're not making progress, you're falling away.

Let me intersect here with a clear warning. The faith to which the Father has given to us is not blind faith. We're not called to stumble aimlessly forward without vision or understanding. Corrie Ten Boom wrote, "Faith is like radar that sees through the fog -- the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see." Nor are we to be 'tumbleweeds' that have no root and are blown about by "*every wind of doctrine"* (Ephesians 4:14). We're called to be rooted in Christ so that our roots, firmly planted in the rich soil of God's Word can draw nourishment, grow and find strength and stability. What a friend we have in Jesus! Because of His great love we live a life founded on God's amazing grace and in our perfect Saviour. In Jesus we live this life by faith having a relationship with Him so that on a daily, consistent basis, we, as His disciples, act and have our being in belief through which our hearts are changed and we're equipped to serve, and love, and reach out to all in need of the Saviour. There's nothing more or less that any of us can bring than our acceptance of faith through Jesus Christ.

The visible evidence that we can show to the world around us that we are walking by faith is our love. Jesus said, "*By this people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13:35). If such love is in us, we'll not go astray from the fullness we have in Christ; in Him always.

Mark Your Calendar!

May 7th – Communion

May 14th – Mother's Day

Wednesdays 1:30pm

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

Message Series

Stumbling Blocks to Experiencing God
(Lessons Jesus Taught)