



Union Park Church of the Nazarene
Volume 7 Newsletter Issue 263
July 15 - 21, 2018

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www.unionparkchurch.com
<https://www.facebook.com/UnionParkChurchOfTheNazarene>

July's Theme: "Be Bold: Be Outspoken...Live it Daily."

Church Services	
Sunday School (classes for all ages) (Sunday School Closing Exercise)	9:30 am – 10:20 am 10:20 am – 10:30 am
Snack Shack / Meet & Greet	10:30 am – 10:40 am
Sunday Service	10:45 am – 12:30 pm
Fellowship - Coffee Hour	12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Time	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Youth Night (Every other Sunday)	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

²⁰ But he did not doubt *or* waver in unbelief concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong *and* empowered by faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God had the power to do what He had promised. Romans 4:20-21

Welcome Guests, please take a moment during service to fill out a visitor card with your name and contact information. *Children can attend nursery ages 0-5, or Children's Church 6-10 years.*

SUNDAY, July 15, 2018

Vision Statement
 "Commitment to His Work and Will to Make Disciples"

 Online Giving is so easy
www.unionparkchurch.com
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 Wi-Fi available
 bm-548

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Sunday's Messenger: Sr. Pastor Dennis Jones

Message Text: Romans 4:17-21

Title: "Characteristics of Abraham's Faith"

Text: Romans 4:17-20

17 As it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, Who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised.

Introduction: "What is faith?"

According to David McNally, *True Christian faith is not just an abstract, theoretical, thing but something which affects our thoughts, words and actions, and not just on Sundays, but every day of the week.*

- Faith or faithfulness is a part of the fruit of the Spirit.
- It means a firm persuasion that has totally, radically affected my behavior.
- Faith is that which is believed.
- Faith means to bow down and surrender to that which you now understand.
- Therefore, faithfulness is demonstrated when a person lives consistently and dependable.
- When I choose to walk by faith, I believe that a divine thing just happened.
- A person of faith does not fear the present or future.
- Disobedience is an enemy to faith!

In our Scripture text, the apostle Paul outlines some characteristics of Abraham's faith which may help us in our Christian walk:

1. Abraham's Faith is Theistic v. 17

- He believes in a God "*Who gives life to the dead*" (resurrection).
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:25) "*Jesus said, I Am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*"
- A God who "*calls into existence things that do not exist*" (creation). This speaks loudly of the doctrine of creation *ex nihilo* "out of nothing."
- God formed man from the dust of the ground!
- What God did to both Sarah and Abraham, both of which have lost their capacity to bear children. God created new life in Sarah's womb at the age of 90 years old.
- What is your relationship with God? Have you received the resurrected life? The new creation?

- If you are a Christian, His Spirit lives in you because of the same faith you exercised like Abraham.
- God is waiting for you and me to empty ourselves of our own agenda, to die to our pride, to die to our selfishness, to die to our desire to control and direct, to die to our doubt.
To realize we are as good as dead without Him.

2. Abraham's Faith is Purposeful.

"In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations as he had been told"
v.17

- Abraham's desire was not a normal urge for a child, but to realize the implementation of God's plan for his life.
- Do you really understand God's plan for your life? How about the life of your children?
- How are you as a parent communicating to your children about God's plan, his promises, and his purpose for your children?
- How are we as a church fulfilling this role in our children's lives?
- Think about how many times Abraham must have spoken to his son Isaac about faith in God.
- Think of how Abraham might have demonstrated his faith in God in the presence of his son Isaac. (Genesis 22)
- If our faith must be purposeful like Abraham, how are we going about that?
- For what purpose has God put you here on planet earth?

Let's talk about Abraham *"hoping against hope that he should become the father of many nations."*

Many of us relate to sports. We get excited about a team or player making a comeback or achieving a victory when it seems all hope is lost.

- What happens when real life meets you head on?
- What happens when you are faced with a challenge for which you are not prepared?
- What happens when you are powerless to do anything about the situation you are in?
- What happens when all you have left is hope?

These are real situations, where, "against all hope" we must continue to believe in our powerful God, that no matter what happens, HE WILL win in the end.

3. Abraham's Faith is Intelligent and Realistic Verse 19

"He did not weaken in his faith when he considered his own body."

- Abraham squarely faced the fact that he and Sarah were too old to have children.
- God's activity often defies both biological and scientific reasoning.
- Think of how many people, receiving a death sentence from doctors, only to live years beyond expectation.
- The God who created our bodies still has much control where life and death is concerned.

God spoke to Abraham and reassured him that indeed he and Sarah would be parents of a special child, a miracle child:

- One who would spark the beginning of a great nation.
- A nation that would grow to bring into the world the promised Messiah, the Savior, for all the world.

But this would be a miracle birth...just like another miracle birth that took place in Bethlehem with a young virgin named Mary. And when Mary asked the angel how she could possibly have a child, being a virgin, the angels said: *For with God nothing shall be impossible.* (Luke 1:37)

And that's the point!

- That's what God was trying to tell Abraham and Sarah.
- That's what God was trying to tell Elizabeth and Zechariah.
- That's what God was trying to tell Joseph and Mary.
- That's what God was trying to tell Jonah as he spent 3 nights in the belly of that big fish.
- That's what God was trying to tell Peter, James and John as they began to follow Jesus.
- That's what God was trying to tell Satan when he felt victorious at the death of Jesus at the cross.

God says at every turn: *With Me, nothing is impossible!*

4. Abraham's Faith is Unwavering

- Abraham did not hold faith. Faith held him.
- How well is faith holding you this morning?
- Are you being held by a rope or a slim piece of thread?
- Satan has an idea about your faith, and he stands by to mock you when you mess up!
- He also knows when your faith is unwavering and he feels defeated.

5. Abraham's Faith is Well-grounded

- It was well-grounded "concerning the promise of God." It was faith in God's promise. Verse 20
- A well-grounded house withstands all lightning bolts.
- The storms of life have many lightning bolts to shake our faith.
- How well are you grounded this morning, and what makes you stay grounded?

6. Abraham's Faith is Strengthening (Verse 20)

- "He grew strong in his faith..."
- Faith allowed him to develop character.

7. Abraham's Faith is Worshiping (Verse 20)

"...as he gave glory to God."

When you realized that God has strengthened you and guided you and loved you through the most difficult of situations you can't help but give Him glory and praise Him and talk about Him.

Others may not understand, but you know when your life has been changed.

8. Abraham's Faith is Assuring (Verse 21)

- He was "fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised."
- You and I don't have the power.
- God has the power.

- God can fulfill what He has promised.
- His power is infinite. His power is limitless!

CONCLUSION:

This Scripture text this morning is not just telling you the story of Abraham.

- They are written for each of us!
- The promises of God are for us as well.
- Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right. But it's not just Abraham; it's us as well.
- The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us right with God!
- When Jesus is Lord of your life, your attitude is different, your outlook is different, your perspective is different; your whole life is different.
- There are no more hopeless days, instead there is an endless hope in everyday.

If you would like to share your testimony; update (add) to the praise or prayer lists, let us know your birthday or anniversary, please contact Min. Terri Underwood, 407-454-3315 or email terriunderwood@AllAboutMyFathersBusiness.com.

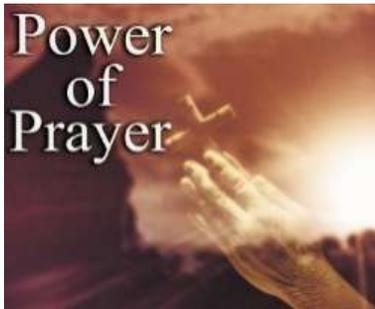
CHURCH NEWS

- **June's Theme: "Be Bold: Be Outspoken....Live it Daily."**
- **Combined Bible study and prayer continue on Wednesday nights. Focus: "The Fruit of the Spirit". Please join us for this intensely refreshing study!**
- **We would like as many volunteers as possible to meet at the church this evening at 5:00 pm to prepare the sanctuary for Vacation Bible School as well as assisting with campaign by passing out flyers in the Union Park community.**
- **We are so grateful to Bro. Walt and Bro. Bill for the professional jobs they are doing in and around our church.**

Online giving is so easy at www.unionparkchurch.com
 Wi-Fi is available (bm-548).
 We are on Facebook: facebook.com/unionparkchurchofthenazarene
 YouTube channel: UPCN

Prayer and Praise

James 5:13-15 Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out. (Message Bible)



Pastor Dennis, First Lady Christiana and family
(Ephesians 4:11-13)

Rev. Hires Rehab *(medical)*
Bro. Andee Jones *(unspoken)*
Annjanelle & Dylan *(on vacation, Canada)*
Charles Alexandre *(unspoken)*
Bro. Charles & Sis. Sharita Gaither's bereaving family
Bro. Charles Gaither's Mom, Daisy *(medical)*
Mary Stermer's bereaving family
Sis. Debbie's granddaughter, Aria *(medical)*

June Birthday/Anniversary

1 – Sis. Christine Mauriello
 11 – Kiara Rivera
 15 – Emily Rodriguez
 16 – Sterling Powell, Jr.
 22 – Leslie Lugo
 29 – Luis
 30 – Charles Gaither




July Birthday/Anniversary

1 – Leon & Katrina Norris Gaither (7/1/01)
 5 – Andee Jones
 5 – Ismael Rodriguez
 6 – Sterling & Rose Powell (25 years in 2016)
 12–Sahayra Abraham
 18–Jonas Small
 23– Riedasrel Lugo
 27– Crystal Dones
 29– Jordan Norris Gaither
 31– Min. Scheralda Brown-Small




The Church

In the Bible the word *church* is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning “a calling out.” It never refers to a building or meeting place, but always to people, the ones “called out” of the world’s society by God calling them into His service. The *Church* of the Bible is not a cold, stone building, but a group of warm and loving people specially chosen by God.



Pastor and Sis. Christiana “suppose Sis. Christiana could be like Sarah and have a baby?” (Pastor would love that.)



We have an anointed Praise & Worship team. Join us every Sunday.



Sis. Jenna and her children will be baptized this Sunday at 10:30 am. Come, be a blessing.

The Month Ahead

- Vacation Bible School – July 16-20, 9:30 – 12:30 daily
- Men’s Breakfast Fellowship – July 21, 7:30 am
- Church Board Meeting – July 21, 9:00 am
- Baptism Service – Sunday, July 22, 10:30 am
- Teen Camp – July 23 – 27
- Women’s Breakfast Fellowship – July 28, 8:15 am
- Food Distribution Outreach – Sunday, July 29, 6:00 pm
- Back-to-School Supply Distribution / Movie Night – Friday, August 3, 6:00 pm

Our Fellowship Hour is so Important – It’s not just the food – it’s the FELLOWSHIP. (If you want to share your favorite dish or snacks, Sis. Debbie has a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.)

Come Share the Joy and Love at Union Park Church!



Sr. Pastor Dennis & Sis. Christiana Jones

Union Park Church of the Nazarene

Our Mission Statement

- ❖ **Seeking** the lost through evangelistic outreach
- ❖ **Providing** for the spiritual needs of our congregation through prayer, Bible study, fellowship and united worship
- ❖ **Commitment** to the work of the local church
- ❖ **Encouragement** to each other in the work of Christ
- ❖ **Benevolence** towards those in need