September 24, 2023



Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Christmas Cantata Practice

The Adult Choir will begin rehearsing for *All Is Well: A Christmas Musical* tonight, **September 24**, at 6:00 p.m. Please talk to Robert if you plan to join the fun!! We have part specific rehearsal CDs for you to use.

Joy Class

The Joy Class will not meet this Tuesday, **September 26**, but will meet again on **October 3**.

Wednesday Night

This Wednesday, **September 20**, the menu is **Chicken Stir Fry**. Supper is at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club is at 6:20 p.m., Youth is at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Bible Study is at 6:45 p.m. Sign up in the hall for the meal!

Young Adult Bible Study

The Young Adults will meet this Thursday, September 28.

New Women's Sunday School Class!

Tamera Smith is starting a new women's Sunday school class on Rahab beginning Sunday, **October 1**. Contact Tamera if you would like a copy of the study book.

Ghost Pirates Tickets

If you would like tickets to the **November 16** hockey game, sign the list in the hall! We need a final count by **Wednesday**, **October 11**. Tickets are \$22. By the way, the Ghost Pirates are an affiliate of the Vegas Golden Knights, the 2023 Stanley Cup Champions. The Golden Knights will be honored at this game.

Senior Saints Christmas Trip

Tom has planned the **Fall Christmas Trip to Myrtle Beach**. The trip is **December 4-6**, and includes two nights, two breakfasts, two dinners, and two shows. The cost is \$315 if you want a single room, otherwise, it is \$226 per person. Sign up in the hall by **November 5** so Tom knows how many rooms to reserve.

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone: 912-355-0949 office@fabchurch.com www.fabchurch.com

September 24, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Psalm 148:11-14 Pew Bible p. 526

Hymn #31, bulletin p. 5

"All Creatures of our God and King"

Prayer of General Confession

Tom Keller Isaiah 1:16-18 Pew Bible p. 566

Hymn, bulletin pp. 6-8

"By Faith"

Scripture Reading Psalm 98 John Humphrey Pew Bible p. 500

Hymn, bulletin p. 9

"O Church, Arise"

Message
Bob Dimmitt
Lessons from His Temptation
Matthew #12
Matthew 4:1-11, Pew Bible p. 809

Hymn, below

"Doxology"
Owens tune

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

A.M. Notes

Lessons From His Temptation Matthew #12 Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus quotes the scripture in response to the devil's temptations all His quotes are from the Book of Deuteronomy. More narrowly Deuteronomy chapters 6-8.

Jesus 40 days in the wilderness and temptation recall Israel's wilderness experience-Jesus will succeed where Israel failed.

Deuteronomy 8:1-2 Satan has God's permission to tempt Jesus

Satan is attempting to manipulate Jesus

Turning stone into bread Deuteronomy 8:3

God allowed His people to go hungry so that He could feed them with manna and

Related question: Why? Why would it have been wrong for Jesus to turn those stones into bread?

The next temptation Jesus is taken to the pinnacle of the Temple. Psalm 91:11-12 - Deuteronomy 6:16

Massah is a reference to an event recorded in Exodus 17

superficial faith-the faith that trusts God only when he provides miraculous rescue

2 Corinthians 13:5

In examining our faith, we often find that it is much too dependent on circumstances.

Psalm 103:7



Important Upcoming Dates

October:

11	Last day to sign up for Hockey Tickets		
15	Quarterly Members' Meeting	TBA	
15	Ice Cream Social	7:00 p.m.	
25	Fall Festival		
28	Homecoming Work Day	8:00 a.m.	
Nove	mber:		
5	Homecoming		
10-11	Women's Retreat		
16	Ghost Pirates hockey game		
26	Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, & Carols	6:00 p.m.	
December:			
6	Adventure Club Christmas Party		
6	Youth Christmas Party		
13	Christmas Banquet	6:30 p.m.	
15	Young Adult Christmas Party		
18, 19	Caroling		
24	Christmas Eve Service	5:00 p.m.	



Annual NYE Cookoff: Chili

Please help us restock our Food Pantry! Remember, we are just helping people get through to their next paycheck. Keep it simple and please limit your contributions to the items on this list. No out of date foods, please.

7:00 p.m.

Canned meats - such as tuna, chicken, spam, ham
Canned or boxed meals like beef stew, chicken 'n'
dumplings, ravioli, canned spaghetti
Meal-type soups
Spaghetti sauce and pasta
Canned fruit
Canned vegetables

31

All Creatures Of Our God and King



By Faith

Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend



eyes on Him, our soul's

Till the

re - ward;

prom - ise;

We will fix

our

2 By Faith



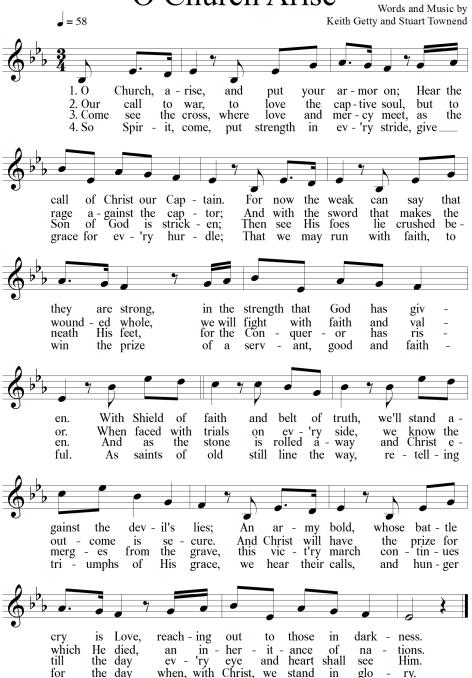
7

By Faith 3



We'll walk by faith and not

O Church Arise



Articles

How to Know if One is Abiding in Christ

by Mike Ratliff

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. John 15:4-10 (NASB)

For the first 20 or so years of my walk I was in a very immature spiritual state. I was utterly convinced during that time that my worth as a disciple depended upon my performance, my learning, my obedience. With that mind-set it was a very horrible experience at times since I was on a roller coaster ride of obedience and backsliding. What amazed me during that period was that I was looked at as one of the more mature believers at our church. I knew better. That all changed as God drew me into the light and drastically changed that 'mind-set.' It was as I learned and held to the truth that our salvation is all according to God's will not ours that I began to have peace and freedom. He chose us according to the good pleasure of His will, not according to our abilities or any other inherent attribute we may have. With this remaking of my mind-set came the ending of that cycle of obedience and backsliding. It was as if it had been put to death.

During that immature period of my Christian walk I thought that I was abiding in Christ while I was obedient, but not abiding while I was backsliding. That was a misconception on my part for those who abide in Christ are those who remain in Him. All genuine believers abide. The Greek word translated as "abide" in John 15 and 1 John 4 is menõ." It means "to remain" or "to dwell." In John 15 the command to abide in Christ is in aorist tense, imperative mood, and active voice, however, the description of our abiding such as in v5 (he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.) is a present active participle. This means it is describing continual repeated action. However, present participles are used to signify action that is contemporaneous with the leading verb in the phrase. What is the leading verb in this passage? There is only one verb in this passage and it is translated as "bears" in the NASB. The KJV translates this verb as "bringeth forth." This Greek word is pherõ." It means "to bear" or "to bring" or "to sustain" or "to uphold." It is used in the NT several ways, but in this context it is referring to bearing the fruit that is "the fruit" of abiding in Christ.

We are commanded to abide in Christ. Those who do remain in Him because Christ abides in them do bear much fruit. The believer does not produce this fruit. The believer abides and bears the fruit that comes from abiding. Remember the

vine is Christ. We are the branches. The branches bear the fruit that the vine produces. How do we know that this fruit is not our doing? How do we know if we are really abiding in Christ? Remember, those who abide are genuine Christians while those who are not genuine do not abide. There are three proofs that we can look at that show if we are truly abiding in Him.

13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 1 John 4:13 (NASB)

The first proof is that we have the Holy Spirit. How do we know if we have the Holy Spirit? Notice that John does not say that it is our experience of the Spirit, but the objective reality of the presence of the Spirit in our lives. Also notice that John says Jesus "has given us of his Spirit". Jesus does not give us an impersonal force, or another spirit like His. He gives us a share in His very own Spirit. We belong to Him because we share in His spirit—the very same Spirit that He has. So our assurance comes from who God is and what He has done, not from what we do or have done. Do you see how imperative it is for our assurance to be based on what God has done and who He is rather than in ourselves and what we have done? 14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 1 John 4:14-15 (NASB)

We know if we are abiding in Christ by the objective reality of our confession that we believe in the Apostolic testimony of Christ. Again, do you see how our genuineness is not based in what we have produced, but in the fact that we believe the veracity of the Gospel? We must never forget that the unregenerate DO NOT believe this. None of us did until God regenerated us, giving us living faith so that we were able to believe. Those who believe confess that Jesus is the Son of God. This is more than just saying one believes it. This is actually believing and confessing it, which is a product of abiding in Christ through the supernatural work of the living faith given to us at salvation.

16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 1 John 4:16 (NASB)

We know if we are abiding in Christ if we have an active love, which stems from faith in God. Again, this is that saving faith, that supernatural faith that was a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9) at our salvation. All who have this faith abide in love. This is $agap\bar{e}$, which is not a form of love that any human can produce. This comes from God alone. He produces it in those who abide in Christ.

The effects of walking in these truths are truly liberating my brethren. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us. 1 John 4:17-19 (NASB)

When we walk in these truths we have confidence in the Day of Judgment. We no longer fear what is coming. We look forward to being with our Lord forever. We know that our sins are forgiven because of what God has done through the cross. All who are in Christ have been saved from the penalty for their sins. We are free from fear of God as judge. We see Him as our Father in Heaven, our Savior, and

our helper who walks with us day by day. Yes, we must still walk in that reverential awe in the understanding that we are to be obedient to all of our Lord's commands. We learn to rejoice in His love and because we have the Holy Spirit we also are being conformed unto the image of Christ and so are able to love with the same love of the one who loved us while we were unlovable.

My brethren let us turn from any notion that our salvation and our abiding come from our own abilities and actions. We are in God's hands so let us simply love one another in obedience as we bear the fruit He produces through us. Yes, the world will never understand this and many professing Christians will scoff and sneer, but that is okay. Our focus must be on Christ and His will as we walk in these truths. ❖

How to Get Up When You'd Rather Not

A Book Review: 'On Getting Out of Bed' by Alan Noble

Alan Noble describes an experience many of us have but don't want to talk about: the struggle to go on living life amid deep suffering. Some of us experience quiet anguish simply from the demands of continuing to exist.

That's not to say all of us, each and every day, have to drag ourselves out of bed to keep moving forward. But we all go through seasons of what Noble calls "mental affliction": the deep, powerful weight that calls into question life itself and dampens the drive to keep on living.

Noble is associate professor of English at Oklahoma Baptist University. He has previously written on ways modernity distorts our understanding of the world. *On Getting Out of Bed: The Burden and Gift of Living* draws from his own experience with depression and anxiety to help readers find a way to continue to be faithful despite their struggles.

Noble points out, we often assume when we see a smiling face or a productive adult that all must be right with his or her life. I'd venture that many of us could say of ourselves: on the outside everything looks fine, but inside it's a different story.

For some, the struggle is due to an underlying illness or inexplicable chronic pain. For others, it's more generally due to the ups and downs of life in a broken world. But no struggle is simple.

Choices in Mental Suffering

At the beginning of the book, Noble reveals he used to believe anyone who struggled with mental affliction, in its many forms, did something to bring it about. They made choices and were reaping consequences. Before I entered my own season of suffering several years back, I operated out of the same framework. I may not have articulated it in that way, but, even as a counselor, that was my view of suffering.

Experience has taught him, as it has me, that this belief isn't true. Usually, those who suffer mental anguish did absolutely nothing to bring it about. If they did, their actions are often only loosely connected to the result. Or the suffering is disproportionate to whatever started it.

Regardless of our mental state, Noble argues, each of us has a choice to make. Whether we're debilitated by such extreme anxiety that we can barely function or we're simply tired, each day brings with it a choice. Each and every day, we have

to *choose* to live. For those with mental affliction, making that choice can be grueling.

Helpful Truths for Sufferers

Noble's book highlights five key truths all of us need to hear, particularly those who are struggling.

1. Knowing the reason doesn't mean knowing the cure.

As a counselor, I've sat with suffering brothers and sisters from all walks of life, going through all sorts of difficult times. Even when we find a "reason," which may be a formal diagnosis, that doesn't equate to a cure. We can work hard to solve the presenting problem, walking in obedience and praying for the Lord to do the work only he can do, but it's not a simple solution.

2. To exist in the world is a witness that matters.

Though we can't always control what happens to us, the pain we feel, or who witnesses our suffering, simply *being* matters. It matters to those who see what we do and don't do. It matters that we press on and continue to do the next right thing. As Noble puts it, your courage speaks loudly.

3. Mental affliction does not excuse sin.

<u>Suffering is a heavy burden</u>, one that deserves great compassion from those walking alongside the sufferer. **However, it does not give the right to hurt, neglect, or abuse others.** Nor does it provide permission for self-harm. Sufferers must be careful not to overlook their own sin while undergoing mental anguish. Persevering matters, even when suicide feels like the only way out. Continuing to live serves as an example that may save the life of others who are suffering.

4. Sometimes we press on simply because we have to.

We may have to go to work even when we don't feel right. Parents still have to care for their children amid

suffering. Such examples come back to the truth that there are times we keep going because we have no other viable option. Is this the greatest reason? Of course not. But sometimes it has to be enough.

5. God's Word has much to say to the suffering saint.

Noble ends by reminding the reader of necessary truths from Scripture: You're seen. You're loved. God desires your good. He sent his Spirit and his people to walk beside you. You are not your own and you are not alone.

Hopeful Resource

As I read Noble's book, I tabbed pages to come back to. By the end, easily a third of the pages were marked. This speaks to the poetic power of Noble's writing.

Anyone walking through a season of suffering, particularly mental affliction, will benefit from this book. Noble puts into words what many of us already know but desperately need to be reminded of. The book is both a comfort in trials and an encouragement to choose to go on living. •

Missionary of the Week

Cham Chuen Gospelink - Cambodia

Warmest greetings to the sponsors and your families in Christ's name!

Grace and peace from the Lord to you and all! My family and I thank God for you who are supporting and praying for our ministry. Truly, our ministry could not have been as it was without your co-operation. We treasure your love and care for our people's salvation. My family and I are doing well. Our children are growing in physically and studying well. Our favorite time of day is to gather for reading Scripture and pray together every night.



For our daily living, we raise some chickens, and plant beds of vegetables around our house to assist our daily food. We don't work for rice field because it is dry season now. Finally, may God bless you all with good health and strength, peace in life.

In my training work, I provided two courses to evangelists and leaders at the Tathaiv Church of Hope. All people desired to reach both adults and children with the wonderful Good news message. Our church members worship service remained on every Sunday mornings. All members are faithful to worship the Lord who saved them from sin. In the afternoon, leaders and I continued to teach Words to the youth and children through pictures, coloring, stories, songs and out door activities. All the kids wanted to learn more about Jesus.

The second part of the training is to strengthen our evangelists such as Mok Kim Sean, Chhuon Vet Yat, Hoeur Sol. All of them enjoyed practicing evangelism on every Saturdays and Sunday afternoons. By participating in workshops on various methods such as learning to ask questions, learning to answer questions and to know how to tell testimonies.

Third, training teachers who can teach God's Words to young people and children. Sister Sok Samnang, 23 years old, Mr. Mok Kim Sean, both of them loved teaching the Words to group of 32-35 children or a few kids different in places.

Teacher Sok Samnang teaches the hymnal songs, gestures and stories telling of Jesus. Mok Kim Sean teaches the Word of God and verses, memorization and hygiene to kids. Through these activities, His Words rooted in hearts. Most of kids have good characters with love, care, generosity, help and joy since they have come to us.

Nothing can compare to the joy of leading people to the new life journey with Jesus who so loved us and died for us. Christ rose again from death and to give hope to all who place faith in Him. Therefore, I am so excited to preach the urgent message to people who God has placed on my paths.

In January 2023, my leaders and I proclaimed the Good news message to 60 people at TRONUP MAKAK and MO HOR villages. The message is about Jesus is the SAL-VATION (John 14: 6). The message touched and 4 individuals (2 men and 2 ladies) made confession. One of these 4 people is Mrs. Phay Ra, 35 years old, and her husband were surprised about Jesus' wonderful love. She was moved to learn the free gift

of salvation of God. Then her husband and she decided to remove statues away from their house. God set them free from sin and worshiping idols. She was happy to welcome Jesus in her heart and she felt peace. Other two men are: Mr. Moeun Long, 50 years old; Mrs. Ming At, 45 years old; and Mr. Tha Theav.

Strategies that we evangelize Method 1: Gathering a group of people to do an evangelistic campaign.

How to evangelize Second: Visit one house at a time, using a sticker and a picture (a sticker called Evangelism Aid) The target villages for doing evangelism: Ta Theav and Moh or villages and Tronup Makak village. We have been successful in doing evangelism because church members helped me. We are so proud of doing the Lord's Work among our brothers and sisters at villages.

When we preached the gospel, there was a tendency from the demons, such as the sick or the afflicted, the noise from roosters, dogs' bark, telephone ringing ... So before every battle/sharing, we asked the Lord's hand upon us and we have kept sharing the message with people. Please pray for us to abide in Christ and to preach patiently. Thanks!

Prayer Requests:

- -We will help plan for fellowship all new believers once a month, to teach the sound doctrine to them
- -Will reach more non-believers families and start a new cell each year
- -Will continue to teach Words to families and small groups during the week
- -Please pray for the family (name Talong Yeay Ra) to have a place to stay, the Vet Ming Trong to have well water to use
- -Please pray for our outreach work at Tranup and Ya Theav villages because not many people hear about Jesus
- -Please pray for all the members of Ta Chiav Church to have strong faith and to meditate on His Words

Thank you so much!

Nursery September 24 Babies:

Jay & Lisa Rowe
Toddlers:

Sona Bailey, Debra Denney **Preschoolers:**

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter

Nursery October I Babies:

Carolyn Blanton, Sonja Clements, Cindy Wise Toddlers:

Jan DeLoach, Rebekah Helmick **Preschoolers:**

Rachel Beatty, Amy Keller

Right Now Media

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service,

drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week at FABC			
Today			
Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.		
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.		
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.		
Tuesday			
Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.		
Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.		
Wednesday			
Supper:	5:30 p.m.		
Adventure Club	6:20 p.m.		
Youth	6:30 p.m.		
Bible Study	6:45 p.m.		
Thursday			
Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.		
Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.		
Young Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.		

Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for September Joe Morris, Jim Schraeder Lockup Deacons for October Michael Walker, Ric Zittrouer

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

"Young Marrieds" Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
"Young Marrieds" Gym Overhang: Tom Keller
"Malachi" Piano Overflow: Steve Posner

Children and Students

Babies Room 3: Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges Toddlers Room 24: Eleanor Bowden, Linnea Posner Pre-K Room 25: Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter K, 1st and 2nd Grade Room 28: John and Pam Humphrey 3rd-6th Grade Boys Room 202: Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills 3rd-6th Grade Girls Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton Room 204: Youth Guys Room 206: Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion Youth Girls Room 206: Jessica Dimmitt, Avalon DeLoach