

Those Who Are Weak in the Faith

By: David Sproule

The Christian life can certainly be difficult, and maintaining a strong faith in our service to the Lord is often challenging. For some children of God, it is more challenging than for others. This is not intended as a derogatory characterization, but the reality is that there are many Christians around us who are “weak”—not physically, but spiritually.

The Greek word that is used in the New Testament for “weak” is used for both a physical condition (i.e., sickness, as in **Acts 5:15**), as well as a spiritual condition. The word itself literally means “no strength” or “without strength.” Do you know any Christians around you who are “without strength” in their effort to serve the Lord? In all likelihood, you know several. What is your responsibility to such?

God wants us to “receive” the weak (Rom. 14:1). “As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him” (ESV) or “accept” him (NASB). The Greek word emphasizes “to take to oneself” and “to grant one access to one’s heart.” Sometimes one who is weak in faith feels isolated and alone, which further exasperates his spiritual condition. Step one: Let us seek out one who is weak and receive him into a Christian friendship.

God wants us to “hold” the weak (1 Thess. 5:14). “We exhort you, brethren... uphold the weak” (NJKV) or “help” him (NASB). The Greek word emphasizes “to hold to oneself firmly, to cleave to, to cling

to.” Think about this. Sometimes one who is weak in the faith is discouraged and troubled. Step two: Let us reach out to one who is weak and bring him in, cling to him and encourage him as a dear brother in Christ.

God wants us to “help” the weak (Acts 20:35). “You must support the weak” (NKJV) or “partake with” (Young’s Literal). The Greek word indicates not only “to take to oneself” and “to embrace,” but also “to take hold yourself to the other end” of something that needs to be carried or a task that needs to be completed. Sometimes one who is weak in the faith is struggling with a decision or with how to walk the walk. Step three: Let us seek opportunities where we can walk alongside a weak brother and “take up” the other side of a burden he is trying to bear and help to relieve it.

God wants us to “restore” the weak (Gal. 6:1). “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.” The Greek word was used for “mending nets” (**Matt. 4:10**), emphasizing the need to strengthen and help one to be brought back into the right way. Sometimes one who is weak in the faith strays away from the strait and narrow. Step four: Let us search out for brethren who are no longer among us and gently work to mend them and bring them back into the fold.

Who Is God to You?

By: Selected

There is a sign in front of you. On it are seven concentric circles. Each circle slightly smaller than the next and evenly layered in descending order to the centermost circle labeled “you.” This sign represents the people in your life and their level of importance to you.

The “you” in the center is not the you in the mirror or the you that everyone sees. It is the you mentioned in **Jeremiah 1:5**, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew YOU.” It is the most intimate and real you. No pretense or false bravado. No makeup or designer clothes. Just you. Each circle outside of you represents groups of people in your life. The closer to the center, the more important it is to you.

Let’s go through the levels. Level seven is perfect strangers. Someone you met on the street and of whom you have zero knowledge. Level six is acquaintances. You’ve met them, forgotten their name and know very little about them beyond that. Level 5 is co-workers and neighbors, people you are paid to be around or paid to live next to. Some of them are nice, but if it wasn’t for the money, you wouldn’t be around them. For some of them you question if the money is enough. Level four is friends. They are people you choose to be around. They are beyond just nice people. You actually enjoy their company. Level three is family. We are back to not getting to choose this group, but you are obligated to do your best. These are people you are related to by birth, and they probably have some embarrassing stories to share about you. Level 2 is saved for immediate family. They do know you, and you know them. You may get cross from time to time, but there is nothing you wouldn’t do for them. Level one is you—your favorite person. It is important to note that some people can be in more than one circle.

For example, you may have a friend that is closer than immediate family, or you may have family members that are just acquaintances.

Where does God fit in your sign of circles? Who is God to you? For many people, the answer is different. If you know nothing about God, then He is a stranger. If you think He exists but know nothing about Him, then He is merely an acquaintance. You can see where this is going. The more mature and deep the relationship, the closer you are to God and the closer He is to you. You have friends that you could spend hours with and never knew time passed. But sometimes, in worship or prayer, every moment is an eternity. When, where or how we worship will not change how close you are or are not to God. Spend time getting to know God in His word. I promise that your worship will deepen, prayer will come alive and your time spent in worship with the saints will not be a burden but a blessing.



Upcoming Events

TODAY!: Evangelism training at 3:40pm in the fellowship hall.

Summer Series Wednesday Bible classes are here! The adult class is studying “Restoring New Testament—Christianity’s Personality Traits.” The kids summer series is studying “The Journey of Noah.”

Sun. Aug. 6: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 12:45 afternoon service. Please bring a dish to share.

Sun. Aug. 13: Youth Devotional after evening services.

Area Events: Please refer to the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

James Allen Husak will be having a biopsy by the end of July to see if he has lung cancer.

Joyce Faires’ oldest son had surgery on a blocked artery on his leg. She will be with him in Corpus while he recovers.

Pedro Manzano Family—Pedro died from a fall at work. He was 31 years old. Please pray for his family.

Georgie Savoie who continues to have health issues.

Letty Randle who will be having surgery on July 27th.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Volunteers Needed

Sign up sheets for hosting Youth Devos, preparing communion, and opening & closing the building for 2023 are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Service Roster

Week of July 23, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer.....Rick Bass

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Doug Jobes
Cup.....James Cammock
Offering..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Desmon Flonnory
Assist.....Kanin Jacobs
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song LeaderFred Scherffius

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobes
Closing Prayer.....Bryce Dolan

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Will Burleson/
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Bryant Siegel
Song Leader Rick Bass
Devotional Bryant Siegel

Other

Prepare Communion for July.....Sheeran

Congregational News

Birthdays

Eddie Serenil.....July 24
James Allen Husak.....July 25
Mike Atkinson.....July 26
Bryce Dolan.....July 31

Anniversaries

Tam & Pam Archer.....July 28

Food Helpers for the month of July - Team A

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

If I have walked with falsehood, or if my foot has
hastened to deceit, let me be weighed on honest
scales, that God may know my integrity.

Job 31: 5-6

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of July 16, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....63
A.M. Worship.....93
P.M. Worship.....62
Wednesday Bible Class.....72

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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