

a giving

faith

**Now faith is the assurance of things
hoped for, the conviction
of things not seen.**

- Hebrews 11:1

thoughts on faithful giving

- by James Ingold, Wesley Stewardship Chairman

While the recent warm temperatures have fooled us into thinking it is still August, we have entered October which is the time of year we focus on the stewardship of our lives, including our time, talents, and resources. Recently, Pastors Hoffman and Iverson have been preaching a sermon series on examples of faith that Jesus noticed and prompted others to emulate. As this has been a compelling and convicting series of messages, it only made sense to base our annual stewardship appeal on this theme and give us all an opportunity to examine our faith as it pertains to our giving.

One of the most recognized verses in the bible is John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." To me, this verse is the key to understanding our God and proves that God is the greatest giver of all time. Imagine the greatest gift you have ever given someone and realize how it pales in comparison to the gift God gave us in Jesus, His perfect Son who, in turn, gave His life for sinners like us. God's Word is clear, encouraging us to be more like Christ, especially in terms of loving and giving.

So, in the next few weeks, it is my prayer that we all check our faith thermometer, especially as it pertains to our financial giving. When we give, we show God that we trust Him and believe His promises to provide our needs. In essence, giving tests, and subsequently strengthens, our faith. Please reflect on the "Faith Jesus Noticed" messages you have heard in the past several weeks, read the bulletin inserts the next few weeks, and read and meditate on the passages in these inserts. We will walk to the cross on Sunday, October 29th, bringing our financial faith commitment cards to the altar. This worshipful event will culminate this month's process of self-examining our faith and provides the opportunity for our giving to reflect this faith.

thoughts on faithful giving - continued

Faith is an intangible that is hard enough to describe, let alone measure. I find myself grasping for the best description of faith and find that one of my favorite Michael Card songs describes it about as well as possible when he says:

“To hear with my heart; to see with my soul; to be guided by a hand I cannot hold; to trust in a way that I cannot see; that’s what faith must be.”

- important dates -

Sundays throughout October

Sermon Series: Faith Jesus Noticed

Sunday, October 15

Wesley Budget Walk-through
10:15 AM - Wesley Hall

Sunday, October 29

Walk to the Cross

Sunday, November 26

a giving faith - the gift of time

It is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

- 1 Corinthians 4:2

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

- 2 Corinthians 5:7

stewardship 2018

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