

## "INCREASE OUR FAITH"

Do we ever need an increase in faith? The disciples did! On more than one occasion their faith was inadequate.

In **Matthew 8:23-27**, while Jesus slept on a ship, a great storm arose. The disciples awakened Jesus and asked Him to save them. His question to them was, "*Why are ye so fearful, O ye of little faith?*"

In **Matthew 14:25-32**, the disciples are again in a boat in the midst of the sea, and Jesus comes walking to them on the water. Peter leaves the boat to walk toward Jesus. Peter begins to sink and cries for the Lord to save him. Jesus asks him, "*O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*"

In **Matthew 17:14-20**, a man brings his demon-possessed son to Jesus, saying that Jesus' disciples had tried but could not cast out the devils. Jesus later tells His disciples it was because of their unbelief they could not do this miracle.

Then in **Luke 17:1-5**, Jesus gives His disciples instructions concerning forgiveness. To this, they say to Jesus, "*...increase our faith.*"

In each of the instances above, the problem never was that the disciples were apathetic, lazy, or didn't try hard enough; in each instance what was needed was more faith! "*Faith is the victory that overcomes the world,*" we sing. Indeed!

Now back to our original question: Do we ever need more faith? Some quit the church because of little faith; some fail to do some needed work for the Lord because of little faith; some never become Christians at all because of little faith. Faith is essential! We come to God, and please Him, by faith (**Hebrews 11:6**), we become His children by faith (**Galatians 3:26-27**), and we live the Christian life, step by step, walking by faith (**2 Corinthians 5:7**).

If we are to increase our faith (and who among us has "too much faith"?), three things are necessary:

1. We must desire more faith ("*Increase our faith*").
2. We must resort to the source of faith (the Word of God, **Romans 10:17**).
3. We must put our faith into practice (by being a doer of the Word, **James 1:22**).

An increase in faith will translate into an increase in brotherly love, prayer, Bible study, commitment, soul-winning, giving, zeal — all these are grounded in faith, and all these are enhanced when faith is increased.

In times of joy and gladness, sorrow or sadness, temptation or duty, let us recognize our need of faith, go to the source from whence faith comes, and put our faith into action.

- John M. Brown, Flatwoods Church of Christ, Flatwoods, KY - via *Bulletin Digest*

*Worry looks around, faith looks up.*

### News & Notes

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies in making stuffed bears.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Saturday, May 2nd, 8:00 a.m. at Crockery City Café (formerly Traveler's Hotel) in East Liverpool. All the men are invited. Sign-up sheet on the desk in the foyer.

**NURSING HOME VISIT:** Saturday, May 2nd, 2:30 p.m. at Fox.

**PANTRY:** Canned vegetables.

**REMEMBER & ENCOURAGE:** Jack Board.

**THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS:** In Cleveland: Dan (Clinic) & Sharon Williams. At Home: Jack Board, Wade & Marilyn Sprout (at her parents' in Irondale, OH), Michelle Hanlon, Mary Nelson, Bob Cyphers, Bette Gentry, Crystal Baker, Docie Moore, Randy Beagle, Barb Shafer is at her son's [Zane Cook] in New Cumberland, Ruth Brewer, Harry & Imogene Nice. Remember others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. Check the bulletin board.

### MEETINGS

Hanoverton .....	Apr. 26-30 .....	Jeremy Main
Carrollton .....	Apr. 26-30 .....	Rick Tincher
Belle .....	May 3- 6 .....	F. Higginbotham
East Liverpool .....	May 3- 6 .....	Roger Rush



### What Is The Church?

"The kingdom of heaven is like unto..." Matthew 22:2



- A fellowship against loneliness.
- A hospital for healing souls.
- A time-out corner.
- A resting place.
- A bath for washing guilt away.
- A reflecting pool.
- A kneeling bench.
- A classroom of truth.
- A laboratory of life.
- A hospitable door.
- A school instructing those who would fear God.
- A track for walkers in the Way of Christ.
- A practice field for patience and compassion.
- An internship for minister-members.
- A herald of Good News, joyful news, hopeful news, helpful news.
- A cafeteria where God feeds us.
- A garden where God comes looking for us.
- A rescue mission where God finds us.

- House to House -

### ~ Three Essentials ~

1 - A faith to live by. 2 - A self to live with. 3 - A purpose to live for.