

How Important Is Your Faith to You?

Dedication to a task is one of the most important elements one must have to complete it. In any athletic event, the people who play must be dedicated to succeeding. Athletes will dedicate their time, money, and efforts to be at the top of their game. Many athletes can say that they dedicate their lives to becoming the best at their sport. Their success is of great importance in their lives.

The preacher said, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Ecc. 9:10). When people have a job to do, their response should be diligent labor to finish the job. This is true in every aspect of that person's life, but more so in their walk as a Christian. How hard they work on this job will reflect how important they view it. All will see how dedicated this person is to their Christianity. Please look at these questions and honestly search your own heart for the answers:

- How dedicated are you to being a Christian?
- How important is your faith to you?
- Do you want to go to Heaven?

These questions can sometimes be quickly and easily answered. Perhaps the most crucial question to ask then would be, "does my life show my dedication to the Lord?"

When people are dedicated to being a Christian, they will be active and busy serving the Lord. The days of their lives begin and end with a prayer. Throughout the day, they are looking for and taking advantage of the multiple opportunities that come their way. They understand that dedication demands hard work, and they are willing to do it.

When Christians place great importance on their faith, they cherish every opportunity for it to grow. They are studying daily. They seek to improve their knowledge of why they believe what they do. They rely on their faith and not the faith of their parents or grandparents. Their faith is valuable to them because it is their own.

When Christians want to go to Heaven, they strive to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. This is a daily walk that will take them to many places. They must be excited to be around other Christians, looking for every opportunity. They enjoy times spent in songs of praise and in talking to God. They do this because they are dedicated and because their faith is important to them.

Sometimes, you may see a young person in their little red hot rod as you are driving down the road. As this young person pulls out of a driveway or parking lot, you may hear tires screeching, smell the rubber burning, and see the white smoke flying. When people encounter this scene, the statement is often made, "his daddy must buy his tires." That statement is made because we understand that we sometimes take better care of what we save our own money for and buy.

When our faith is our own, the same principle applies. We are going to take better care of it. We will cultivate it and help it grow because we genuinely want to go to Heaven, and we have dedicated our lives to that end. When our faith is not our own, we have not taken the time to cultivate it, and it is not growing.

How important is your faith to you? Is it your own? Are you dedicated to watching it grow?

- Author Unknown

-via Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

Faith brings trust which conquers fear.

News & Notes

CONFESSION: Pat Allison. Remember Pat in prayer.

NEW CONVERT'S CLASS: Beginning this **Thursday, Feb. 1st at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** This class is open to all and each session will be for one hour. You may choose either the morning or evening class.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next **Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 8:00 a.m.** at EJ's.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next **Sunday, Feb. 4th, about noon** at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** the church building.

HOUSE FIRE VICTIMS: **Joyce Vantilberg and son, Donald** [last name is not McKinnon] (Scharlotte Jones' daughter).

PANTRY: Vegetable soup.

SICK & SHUT-IN: City Hospital: Janice Hutchins (Marilyn Hadley's cousin) Home address: 130 N. Surry, East Liverpool, OH 43920. **Veteran's Hospital, Pittsburgh:** Harry Huff. **At Home:** Randy Beagle, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **Calcutta Health Care:** Linda Parkes **Elsewhere:** **Todd Grimes** (Cindy Miskimen's nephew), 3827 Gibson St, New Castle, PA 16101. **Craig Sayers** (Twila Adamson's son), 63 Old Overlook Trail, Hendersonville, NC 28739. **Lori Stocks** (Karen Strum's niece), 115 Springbrook Drive, Findlay, OH 45840. **Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

The Heart is Where Home Is

It was Paul's wish for all Christians "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" (Eph. 3:17).

The word "dwell" in this verse brings forth a powerful concept concerning our relationship with Christ. According to Robertson's *New Testament Word Pictures* the root of the word in the Greek means "to make one's home, to be at home." Isn't that interesting! Jesus is not only to make His home in our hearts, He is to be at home there, as well.

The question to ask ourselves in light of this is: "Is Jesus 'at home' in my heart?" Some people only want Jesus in their hearts as a visitor. But Jesus wants to dwell in our hearts and "be at home" with all we feel, say, and do. This brings a whole different perspective into the picture.

Our whole lives extend from what our heart desires. We must keep our hearts pure and sincere. Jesus will then "be at home there" and many good things will come to our lives as a result. How do we make our heart so that Jesus feels at home? The text tells us: "through faith."

- Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." - Proverbs 4:23