

**How To Keep Your Faith Intact** by Steven Cannon via sermoncentral.com

Hebrews 12:2-12:2

Every day our faith is attacked. The evil one knows the power of faith and he is constantly attacking us so that we do not experience more power in our lives. Every day we have problems. We experience financial problems, problems at work, in relationships, with our health, with our children. As Jesus said in John "In this life you will have trouble." There's a lot of trouble we are facing everyday! So how do you keep your faith intact. Well as always with God there's good news! I'm going to give you a practical today that you can use to train yourself so that whenever you are hit with some trouble you will be more apt to keep your faith intact and if anything increase in your faith rather than decrease.

I want you to think about a problem you have right now and pay attention to how you feel. Close your eyes and focus on it. As part of the lesson stop and do this. What did you feel? Did you feel discouraged, anxious, scared, stressed. Did you start to feel doubtful as a result of how you feel. Many times we literally feel ourselves sinking in our faith as a result of how we feel. We start panicking and cry out to the Lord for help.

Now take that same problem that you were focused on, think about God and notice how you feel. Seriously do it. Close your eyes and focus on God and your problem. How do you feel now? Did you feel the opposite emotions. Joy, courage etc. You see I did this the other day but not on purpose. I was having a conversation with God and a problem in the ministry surfaced in my mind. I immediately felt discouraged and down in my spirit. Then doubt started creeping in and then in the next moment (because I was talking with God) my mind shifted to Him and I started smiling. At that moment God said to me Steven that's why you need to see me and not just your problem. So how do you keep your faith intact? What does the bible say?

**FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS** (See God then your problem)

Heb 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

God tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus. Why? So that you will not lose heart. When we fix our eyes on the problems of this life we begin to lose. And it's very easy to begin losing everything. We lose courage, we lose joy, we lose faith, we lose trust. We lose, we lose, we lose! What we have a tendency to do is fix our eyes on the problem, then we get upset about the problem or stressed out about the problem and it goes downhill from there. Somewhere down the line after we have sinned God comes back in the picture. No we must fix our eyes on Jesus so that we don't lose faith. If you are going to face your troubles with faith you must keep your eyes fixed on the author of your faith! Peter learned this lesson when he asked Jesus to tell him to come to him on the water.

Mt 14:25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Problem #1 (To them) Jesus was walking on water. They had never done this or seen anybody do it so this scared the living daylights out of them. Fear, panic, doubt took over immediately. Jesus tried to help them take courage by telling them that it was Him and not a ghost. Peter focused on the Lord and had enough courage to ask Jesus if he could come to Him and he did! He actually walked on the water. Something his friends could never say they did. He did it. But,

Problem # 2: Wind. He was doing fine until he saw the wind. He took his eyes off Jesus focused on the wind for a split second and it was all downhill from there. His faith was intact until he took his eyes off of Jesus. That's how it will be for all of us every time. If we take our eyes off of Jesus we will begin to sink in our faith. We will lose heart, lose courage you name it. Where are you right now? If you have been focusing on the trouble more than Jesus repent immediately and get your eyes back on Him. He's able. He can fix it. And from now on when you have a problem discipline yourself to focus on Jesus and you will keep your faith intact for the glory of God. Amen.

**NEWSLETTER**

**August 28, 2016**

Mark Dailey, evangelist  
(716) 754-2752

Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Class	9:45 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
* Sunday PM Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday PM Bible Class	7:00 PM

*La Salle*  
**church of Christ**

1121 N. Military Rd.  
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*\* There is no PM service on the 5th Sunday of the month.*



**We welcome all who are here today.**

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are obviously not expected to give but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

*There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.*

**Please silence cell phones and any other noise making devices during worship.**

*La Salle*  
**church of Christ**

**A Place of Worship and Healing**

2016 Theme

**How To**

- Love
- Let Go
- Live
- Learn
- Lead
- Laugh

Speaker  
**Phil Sanders**  
 Time Warner Cable  
 Channel 20  
 Thursdays 11:00 AM

**SEARCH**  
IN  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

**Prayer List** *In our prayers let's praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

**Let's Keep These Folks In Our Prayers:** Joe Pitts, Mildred Lynum, Bill Flanagan, Anna Brink, Red & Goldie Crow, Frank Marsden, Bill Kinney, Tony and Eglia Grana, Pat Hazlett, David Alcorn, Willow, Darlene Reed, Leo & Jeanne Johns, Butts & Edie Sumner, Rick & Fran Fees, Chris Highway, Keith & Glory Marten, Bev McArthur, Candi Butcher, Cheryl Mellott, Ron & Jean Cameron, and Jodie Kelly.

**Updates:**

**Darlene Reed** was taken to St. Mary's Wednesday. She had abdominal pain and unable to hold anything down. They ran tests. She was released Friday to go home. She is on medication..

**Joyce Cameron** continues to recuperate at home.

**Carol Jones** has been dealing with pain in her right shoulder and is now dealing with trying to get approval for surgery. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Glory Marten** She can have visitors at this time. It was good to see her at worship last Sunday.

**Charles Bennett** had surgery on his neck Friday Aug. 19 for an enlarged lymph node. The pathology report is good news. An Aug. 23 doctors appointment concerning his leg indicates no surgery at this time.

**Brenda Nelson** is asking for prayers to help her deal with struggles in her life.

**Jennifer Walters**, daughter of Jeff & Debbie SeEVERS in VA (friends of Mark & Audrey), is still dealing with health issues.

**Renee Kinney** continues to deal with cancer. At this time she is holding her own - not getting better and not getting worse.

**Diane Fritton**, a friend of Diane Mellott, had a double mastectomy recently. Please continue prayers as she undergoes chemo and radiation.

**Billy Stine**, Sonny & Linda's son, has some major heart issues. He is scheduled for surgery Sept. 12.

**Wednesday Rahelich**, George and Peggy Golias' granddaughter, is having stomach issues and is at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester. She may be moved to a hospital in Boston.

**Congressman Ted Poe**, (from Texas, a member of the Lord's church, father in law to Grana's grandson Anthony), has leukemia. He is being treated at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

**Doreen Woods**, a co-worker of Glory Marten, need prayers for health problems she is having.

Denise Garlitz's daughter's mother-in-law **Betty Leistner** .... Her cancer has spread to her lungs. Chemo is not working. They are going to try radiation again. Prayers for her are needed and appreciated.

**J. P.** , a good friend of Wayne Carter's youngest brother Ralph in VA had surgery July 8 for a brain tumor the size of a baseball. They were not able to get it all. He is undergoing therapy. The doctors are pleased with his progress.

**T.J.** , Anna Brink's nephew in Pittsburg had surgery Monday to have a tube removed from his chest and a wire vein put in his arm for dialysis. He is diabetic and his kidneys are failing.

**Connie Stewart**

(in Fairmont, WV, sister in law to former member here Janet Smith who is now living in Charlottesville, VA) Please see posted email from Janet Smith to Wayne & Sherry Carter. Connie and her family need our prayers.

**Sermon Topic Today:** How To Laugh....  
When The Weight Is Too Great

**Trays Today:** *Jessica Alcorn*

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 6:20-22

**Thanks to**

Marvis Garrett for conducting the Adult Bible Class and to Rodney Jones for preaching last Sunday.

**Upcoming Events** *(Lord willing)*

**Sep. 04** Potluck (Groups 1, 2, & 3 to setup & cleanup)

**Sep. 17** Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM

**Sep. 18** Men's Business Meeting

**Ongoing Events**

Personal care items for the vets at the V.A. Hospital in Buffalo and also non-perishable food items for Casey House on Cedar Ave. in N.F. are being collected. If you can help in this matter it is greatly appreciated.

Zambia Baby Fund - Several members are contributing to this.



Candy Butcher is in need of an electric lift chair.

**Tim Nelsen and Family**

Their address is posted on the back message board.  
Please send cards of encouragement as Tim attends preaching school.

**Sept. Birthdays**

08 Marissa Stine  
09 Brittany White  
12 Deloris Burns  
13 Joan Nair  
16 Ron Cameron  
22 Yolanda Davis  
24 Matt Nichols

**Sept. Anniversaries**

02 Charles & Heather Bennett  
03 Tony & Eglia Grana  
29 Leo & Jeanne Johns

