

## Living By Faith Involves Action

By: Dan Jenkins

Comparing the translations is sometimes of great value in understanding the force of what God's message involves. An illustration of this is to compare the two ways [John 3:36](#) is brought into our language. The King James Version and the New King James version renders the words of Jesus in this way. "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life."

Now compare this verse with almost every other translation and there is an amazing difference. In various ways they add another dimension to what Jesus said. "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life." Take time to read the KJV and the NKJV in the first paragraph and then read the ESV in this paragraph. The first says he who does not believe and the second says does not obey.

The Greek does not simply state the opposite of belief by placing the words "not believe." It is a totally different word and indicates and emphasizes the persuasive action follows after faith. The opposite of faith is not simply the absence of faith, but the absence of action. The nature of true faith is taking persuasive action when walking by faith. The opposite of true faith is disobeying the message of the words of faith.

To see this difference look at the way faith is described in Hebrews chapter eleven. It was

by faith that Abel offered; Enoch walked; Noah built; Abraham went out; Abraham dwelt; Abraham waited; Sarah received strength; Abraham offered; Isaac blessed; Jacob blessed and worshiped; Joseph gave instructions about his bones; Moses was hidden; Moses chose; Moses forsook; Moses kept the Passover by placing blood on his door; Israel walked through the Red Sea; Jericho fell; Rahab hid the spies—the list is endless! True faith is more than words it always involves action.

The application is obvious faith in our relationship with God. It is more than words—it is action. We are purified by faith ([Acts 15:9](#)); sanctified by faith ([Acts 26:18](#)); justified by faith ([Rom. 5:1](#)); have access by faith ([Rom. 5:2](#)); stand by faith ([Rom. 11:20](#)); walk by faith ([2 Cor. 15:7](#)); live by faith ([Gal. 2:20](#))—this list is also almost endless. This paragraph emphasizes the rewards of faith. However, the blessing does not come by simply saying a sinner's prayer, but by the true definition of faith. True faith demands action! True faith demands obedience! True faith always involves more than words, it involves action!

Take time to reflect on your own salvation. Our relationship with Him is determined by our actions, not just by words. Does your life show true faith; if not it is not by faith!

---

# Spiritual Growth: Add Knowledge

By: Selected

Faith gives us conviction, and moral courage gives us the determination to do what is right. But without knowledge, we would not know what is right. That is why Peter says to “add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge” (2 Pet. 1:5).

Knowledge, in this context, is not merely information—it is understanding God’s will. The Greek suggests a seeking, an inquiry, a growing awareness through study and experience. It is the kind of knowledge that directs life and shapes decisions.

God has always expected His people to know His will. Under the Old Covenant, Israel was commanded to teach God’s Word diligently (Deut. 6:6-9). Under the New Covenant, knowing God is essential to belonging to Him (Jer. 31:31-34). A lack of knowledge has always been spiritually dangerous. God said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6). Zeal alone is not enough—Paul spoke of those who had zeal for God but not according to knowledge (Rom. 10:2).

That makes knowledge indispensable. Faith must be directed. Moral courage must be guided. Without knowledge, even sincere effort can be misdirected.

So how do we develop this knowledge? The source is clear: the Word of God. True knowledge of God and His will is found in Scripture. The New Testament reveals Christ and His will for our lives, while the Old Testament provides instruction, encouragement and examples (Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). If we want to grow, we must be people of the Book.

But knowledge requires true desire. Proverbs speaks of seeking wisdom as one would search for treasure (Prov. 2:3-6). We must value

knowledge more than material gain and cultivate a deep love for instruction. That means making Bible study a priority—personally and with others—and never taking those opportunities lightly.

At the same time, knowledge carries a danger. Paul warns that “knowledge puffs up, but love edifies” (1 Cor. 8:1). Knowledge can lead to pride if it is not balanced with humility and love. It can also harm others if used carelessly—especially when we disregard the consciences of weaker brethren (1 Cor. 8:9-13). Therefore, knowledge must always be governed by love and expressed with meekness (Jas. 3:13).

When properly developed, knowledge strengthens faith and directs moral courage. It gives clarity to our convictions and confidence to our actions. It helps us to grow, to avoid error and to live in a way that pleases God.

Are we growing in knowledge? If not, we are vulnerable. But if we are, we are building a life that is stable, fruitful and firmly rooted in the truth.



---

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 31: There will be a graduation fellowship after evening service for the graduating seniors. Please bring finger foods. There will be a cake and graduation boxes for cards and well wishes for each senior: Luke FitzSimmons, Kanin Jacobs, Jack Jobses, and Summer Siegel.

June 3: Summer Series begins for both Children and Adult classes. Flyers for the adult series is on the table in the foyer.

Sunday, June 7: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning services. There will be a 12:45pm afternoon service as well. Please bring a dish/dessert to share.

Area events:

\*Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.\*

## Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rieke Bass who will be scheduling surgery to remove cancer soon.

Rieke's sister, Patty Smith, who had her third knee surgery.

Joyce Faires' granddaughter, Savana, who is having pregnancy complications.

Letty Randle's sister, Mary Hernandez, who had a stroke.

Letty Randle's mother, Alicia Hernandez, who is in the hospital.

Elijah Pickens has expressed his desire to work under the oversight of the Elders of the Midtown congregation. Elijah is a friend of Jack Jobses. Please welcome him.

New Member Contact Information:

Genesis William's contact info is on the table in the foyer. Please pick up a sticker to add to your pocket directory.

## Service Roster

Week of May 24, 2026

### Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Lupe Escojido  
Song Leader..... Randy D'Herde

Opening Prayer..... Benny Horton  
Closing Prayer..... Bryant Siegel

### Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Kirk FitzSimmons  
Cup..... Jack Jobses  
Offering..... Jake Jacobs  
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs  
Assist..... Willie Fossati  
Assist..... Ferman Rosales

### Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Randy D'Herde  
Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Steve Randle/  
Clifton Rutherford

### Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy  
Song Leader..... Jack Jobses  
Devotional..... James Cammock

### Other

Prepare Communion..... Connie & Sandy

## Congregational News This Week

### Birthdays

Angy Hutt..... May 26  
Ferman Rosales..... May 28  
Bryant Siegel..... May 29  
Christi Jacobs..... May 30

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

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &  
Winter Youth Retreat  
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and  
Communication  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Minister

Cody McCoy

## Weekly Reading

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not  
fulfill the lust of the flesh.  
Galatians 5:16

## 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 May 17, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....63  
A.M. Worship.....100  
P.M. Worship.....55  
Wednesday Worship.....54

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

## Supported Works

*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

---

**midtown**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main  
Victoria, TX 77904  
361-573-0030

midtowncoc.org

**Weekly Communication!** To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email [events.midtowncoc@gmail.com](mailto:events.midtowncoc@gmail.com).