

Faithfulness First Demands Faith

By: Dan Jenkins

The Bible shows in many ways the truth affirmed by Paul when he said, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scripture might have hope” (Rom. 15:4). He uses the word “before” to call our attention to the Old Testament scriptures, for it was almost three decades before there were New Testament scriptures.

Look carefully at this verse and focus on each word. The word “whatever” emphasizes that no part of that old law should be overlooked. The word “learning” affirms that we can understand it and heaven’s expectation if for us to know it. You would be wise to meditate on how those scriptures are related to patience, comfort and hope.

The Jews of Jesus’ day failed to see one vital truth, and this resulted in the religion of the Pharisees. That truth was simply stated by Habakkuk. “The just shall live by his faith” (Hab. 2:4). If you want overwhelming proof of this read Hebrews chapter 11—it is a summation of the place of faith in the lives of the Old Testament saints.

The Pharisees developed a religion that did not involve faith in the heart. Instead, they focused on another verse and ignored their need for the blood of Jesus. Paul said, “The law is not of faith, but the man who does them shall live by them” (Gal. 3:12). They turned their attention away from faith and turned to

the external laws of the Old Testament. They counted them and decided there were 613 commandments, and their religion centered around these commandments. They ever added their own interpretation and added more external laws like the sabbath day journey, washing hands before eating and so many “truths” created in their hearts.

God never intended for the Old Testament to be a system of the knowledge of external rules and perfectly keeping them. When Moses gave the law to the Jews, He plainly said, “These words which I command you today shall be in your heart” (Deut. 6:6). It was not His plan for them to remain on the tablets of stone, or even to just memorize or number them and make a list to be used to see if one is righteous. The commands were to become part of the soul of His people who first engraved them in their hearts.

Remove faith from the commandments and you develop a religion like the Jews. You find no joy in Christianity because you will never be good enough to enter heaven. When you make Christianity only external you live in guilt because you are not keeping every commandment you have numbered to be in your life. When you love Him, you will obey Him and you will find the joy of living faith!

Spiritual Growth: Add Self-Control

By: Selected

Once we know what is right, the next challenge is doing it consistently. That is why Peter says to “add...to knowledge self-control” (2 Pet. 1:6). Self-control is the ability to govern oneself—to master desires, impulses and appetites rather than be mastered by them. The Greek word carries the idea of “holding oneself in,” having power over one’s passions. It is strength that is directed inward.

This quality is essential because knowledge alone is not enough. It is possible to know what is right and still fail to do it. Without self-control, knowledge becomes little more than unused information—which is useless. Self-control is what enables us to put knowledge into practice.

Jesus made self-denial a requirement for being His disciple: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself” (Luke 9:23). Paul recognized the same necessity, when he compared the Christian life to an athlete who disciplines his body in order to win (1 Cor. 9:24-27). Without self-control, spiritual failure is inevitable.

The struggle for self-control is real. Scripture describes the conflict between the flesh and the spirit (Gal. 5:16-17). Even Paul spoke of the internal battle between knowing what is right and struggling to do it (Rom. 7:15-19). Left to ourselves, we are often overpowered by our own desires.

But there is hope. Self-control begins with a transformed life in Christ. In baptism, we are set free from the dominion of sin and raised to walk a new life (Rom. 6:3-6, 12-14). While temptation remains, sin no longer has to rule over us.

From there, self-control grows as we are guided by the Word of God. When we fill our minds with Scripture and walk according to its truth, we are able to resist the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16; Psa. 119:11). God’s Word reshapes our thinking and strengthens our resolve. It also grows as we rely on God’s strength. We are not left to fight alone—God works in us and strengthens us (Phil. 2:12-13; 4:13). Through prayer and dependence on Him, we gain the strength to overcome. We cannot do it without HIM!

Self-control is demonstrated in everyday decisions—controlling the body, the tongue and even the ego. It is choosing holiness over indulgence, humility over pride, and service over selfishness. It also involves proper balance. True self-control is not based on human rules or outward restrictions that appear spiritual but lack real power (Col. 2:20-23). It is a heart-driven discipline that is rooted in God’s truth.

If we are to grow as Christians, we must learn to master ourselves. Faith begins the process. Knowledge directs it. But self-control makes it real in daily life.



Upcoming Events

Tonight: 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 Jobes, and Summer Siegel.

Wed. June 3: Summer Series begins for both Children and Adult classes. Flyers for the adult and children's series are 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:

Philippe Castro, who is the son of Virginia Escojido's friend, Ida. Ida asked for prayers on her son's physical and mental health.

Rieke Bass who had surgery to remove cancer last week.

Rieke's sister, Patty Smith, who had her third knee surgery and is recovering well.

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

Letty Randle's sister, Mary Hernandez, who had a stroke and is on life support.

New Member Contact Label:

Please pick up a contact information sticker for EliJah Pickens to add to your pocket directory. They are located on the table in the foyer.

Children's Summer Series Sign up Sheets

There is a sign up sheet to bring snacks and a sign up sheet for young men to lead singing.

Service Roster

Week of May 31, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Bryant Siegel
Song Leader..... Randy D'Herde

Opening Prayer..... Barry Lehtinen
Closing Prayer..... Dan Fielder

Lord's Supper & Offering

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

Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Kirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Billy York
Closing Prayer..... Ken Dorries

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

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy
Song Leader..... Genesis Williams
Devotional..... Cody McCoy

Other

Prepare Communion for June

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Zachary Serenil..... May 31
Myra FitzSimmons..... June 1
Sandra Horton..... June 1
Abigail Pawlik..... June 2
Caiden Serenil..... June 3

Anniversaries

Kevin & Imelda Sheeran..... May 31
Mack & Callie Terry..... June 6

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

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

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ
Jesus.
Philippians 2:5

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 24, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....58
A.M. Worship.....87
P.M. Worship.....58
Wednesday Worship.....56

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

Supported Works

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