

Our *“little faith”* can grow if we will invest our time in prayer, study, and attendance. Those who willfully forsake the assembly will decrease in faith. They will eventually give in to the devil completely and leave the Lord.

Peter did not drown because Jesus grabbed hold of him. Our contact with Jesus will save us as well. What if Peter pulled away from Jesus when he started to sink? What if he blamed the Lord for his predicament? What if he swam away from the only source of deliverance? This is what many do when they start to drown in the world. They resist any contact with Jesus. They do not pray, study, or attend. Eventually they are lost.

Peter prayed for Jesus to save Him. He did not trust in himself or the other Apostles. He went to the Lord for aid. So should we when we feel ourselves sinking.

Repentance is a key to our deliverance as well as prayer. Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to sift him like wheat in Luke 22:31-32. He would be delivered from this by Jesus’ prayer. His *“little faith”* would survive the denial of Jesus. After this blunder he wept bitterly revealing a spirit of repentance. Through this episode and others he would become converted. He would be in a position to help his brethren. This is a place we all should find.

We will not get a miraculous endowment of the Holy Spirit like Peter and the Apostles did on Pentecost. But we do get the inspired revelation of the Spirit in the word of God. By studying the Bible we get the same information and encouragement to boldness that the Apostles received.

Would you consider attending services at 5:00 today? This is your first step in growing a **“big faith”**. *Ron Roberts*

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

November 6, 2016

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Editor: Ron Roberts

**God should
get our first
fruits not our
leftovers.**

Announcements

Dewey is back at Miller’s room 32. He was released from the hospital after having some complications.

Do not forget Jill, Mary, Alfred, and the Thompsons’ grandson in your prayers for increased health.

Didi has our website up and running. He will be approaching several of us to take charge of certain aspects of the site. The address is moorevillecoc.com.

A special thank you to Brian for preaching on Sunday night. If you or someone you know would like to preach on the 5th Sunday night let Ron know.

Check the new communion preparation list and sign up for a month you can perform this work.

Check the bulletin board for Gospel meetings in the area.

“O Ye of Little Faith”

Jesus rebuked Peter for having “*little faith*” when he began to sink after walking on the water (Matt. 14:31). Our Lord was not criticizing His Apostle for something that was beyond his ability. He had already walked on the water toward Jesus. By faith the action was possible. But as he was distracted by the wind and the waves he began to reconsider the walk he had started and began to sink (29-30). Like many of us; Peter started off well, but he took his eyes off of the Lord. He lost sight of his initial intent due to the environment around him.

Peter’s “*little faith*” prevented him from completing the task. We know in time his faith grew. He became an impressive pillar in the church, wrote two epistles, and, according to tradition, died a martyr’s death. His “*little faith*” increased due to contact with Jesus, prayer, repentance, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says, “*O ye of little faith*” four times in the New Testament. (Our previous reference says, “*O thou of little faith*”) Twice (in parallel passages) Jesus refers to the faith of those who worry about things in this physical life (Matt. 6:30, Luke 12:28). In Matt. 8:26 He rebukes the Apostles with this phrase when they awaken Him for fear of perishing in a sea storm. In Matt. 16:8 He tells the Apostles they have “*little faith*” because they could not make the application of His miraculous feeding of 5000 and 4000 to their current situation.

Although a situation may seem desperate (drowning, starving, or dying in another way), these challenges are only overwhelming to the person who lacks sufficient faith. We can do what needs to be done if we believe in Jesus and the Gospel message.

If you had an employee who arrived late on Monday, was absent on Tuesday and Wednesday, left early on Thursday, and asked for Friday off; What would you do? If you had an alarm clock that woke you up one time out of every four times you set it would you consider it reliable? If you had a car that started only one time for every three attempts

would you call that car a faithful vehicle? I suspect you would fire the employee, smash the clock, and sell the car (to the third customer). We recognize something is not trustworthy if it only works “hit and miss” instead of consistently. Why then, do we think we have great faith when we attend only one out of every four worship services?

I am not referring to those who are sick, shut in, or **required** to work to provide for their families. These people are incapable of attending all of the services. Jesus did not rebuke Peter for failing to do something he could **not** do. My concern and yours ought to be for those members who could attend but **do not want to**. Those people who volunteer to work on Sunday. The family who has three cars and four drivers, but they all stay home when one child has a sniffle. People who do not want to worship God will find an excuse to justify their absence.

Attendance at worship service and Bible study is the easier thing we do as Christians. We should **want** to worship God. We come to a place where **everyone agrees with us**. All the members unite, encourage, and display the proper attitude. It is **an essential part** of our ultimate goal to reach heaven. Like Peter, many started out well, but got distracted from their goal along the way.

Peter also illustrates the ease of professing our faith among like company. He was bold to say he would die for Jesus when he was with the Lord and the other Apostles. However, when Peter found himself alone and surrounded by the enemies of Christ, he denied knowing Him. If we cannot acknowledge our faith by assembling with those who agree with us, how powerfully are we going to defend our faith among those of the world. Attendance to the assembly is an indicator of our faithfulness when we are outside of worship. If I will not stand up for Jesus among His people why would I stand up for Him among His detractors? If I do not enjoy worship how can I resist persecution? If I do not want to go to the assemblies why would I want to go and tell my neighbors about Jesus and the Gospel? If we would not consider the employee, clock, or car faithful; why should God consider us faithful?