

# Gospel Power



*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)*

*The **Gospel Power** is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.*

Anderson  
church of Christ  
5900 Highway 207  
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web  
[Anderson-church.org](http://Anderson-church.org)

**Men Priviledged To Serve:**  
Sunday, April 28st

#### **Bible Classes**

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Bible Reading ..... (Heb. 4:1-16)  
..... Claus Martel  
Prayer  
..... Mark McIntyre

#### **Morning Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Daniel Clemmons  
Prayer  
..... Jerry Dickey  
Lord's Supper/Collection  
Presiding ..... Rocky Rose  
Serving ..... Phil Pressnell  
..... Eddie Hammond  
..... Jerry Best  
Closing Prayer  
..... Ray Tucker

#### **Evening Worship**

Song Leader  
..... Claus Martel  
Bible Reading ..... (Heb. 5:1-14)  
..... Eddie Hammond  
Prayer  
..... Ronnie Phillips  
Lord's Supper  
..... Rocky Rose  
Closing Prayer  
..... Michael Clemmons

Volume IX

April 28, 2002

No. 17

## **Saving Faith**

David A. Cox

The Hebrew writer says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Without doubt all would agree that in order to be saved, one must have faith. What is involved in saving faith? Is this faith just mental assent or is there more involved? The Hebrew writer in this verse and its context gives us a clear picture of what is involved in saving or pleasing faith.

**Saving Faith Believes.** First the Hebrew writer says, "...he that cometh to God must believe that He is..." As we look at the intricate design of this creation, indeed we must be impressed with the fact that there must a designer. The psalmist said, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). Paul, writing to the church at Rome said, "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). The Hebrew writer says, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3). These passages plainly declare that the things of creation or nature affirms that God exists. Therefore, a saving faith or pleasing faith must believe in the existence of God.

**Saving Faith Trusts.** Secondly, we see in this passage the aspect of trust in faith. Notice the text says that one that believes that God is a "rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). The one that believes in God will take, or trust

in the promises He has made. The wise man said, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). In some ways this may be the hardest part of faith because our trust has been violated too many times by those that we place our trust in. But our faith must have this trust based on God’s:

1. Genuine interest in our well-being (Deuteronomy 6:24; John 15:13).
2. Faithfulness to the promises that He makes (Joshua 21:45; 2 Peter 3:9-10).
3. Faithful aid, constant help and ability to deliver (1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 4:20-21; Hebrews 7:25).

Trust then is not blind or without reason and our faith must involve the trust in God.

**Saving Faith Will Seek.** Faith will cause one to “diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). Notice this is not just a seeking, but a diligent seeking of the Lord. This means that we will strive with our all to please the Lord in all things doing His will. Then one must spend time in reading, studying, and mediating upon the word of God. This will strengthen our faith and increase our knowledge of God and His will for us.

**Saving Faith Obeys.** In reading Hebrews 11, one must be impressed as the great men of faith are mentioned and how they obeyed the will of God. Beginning with Abel in verse 4, his faith was pleasing because he obeyed God. Noah’s faith in verse 7 pleased God because he obeyed. Abraham’s faith in verse 8 was pleasing because he obeyed and the list goes on.

What we see from Hebrews 11 is that a saving faith and pleasing faith believes in God, trusts God, seeks God and obeys God. Do you have this kind of faith?

### Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

## The Fortress of Faith

Dan S. Shipley

As an encouragement to Christians living under the constant threat of persecution, the apostle Peter writes of a “living hope” made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. With such hope the faithful persevere in anticipation of an eternal inheritance reserved in heaven (1 Peter 1:3,4). The source of their hope and the key to their endurance was faith. It has always been so with God’s people and ever shall be. “And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

It is in keeping with this idea that Peter writes of being “guarded through faith” by the power of God (v. 5). This word “guarded” is a military term used in the sense “of providing protection against the enemy, as a garrison does” (Vine). So, our faith is our fortress for providing protection against all enemies of righteousness. This protective aspect of faith is also suggested in Ephesians 6: 16 under the figure of a shield – “Wherewith we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one.” Elsewhere, it is pictured as a breastplate (1 Thessalonians 5:8). Such references show plainly that faith is our protector. Faith is our strength and help in the quest to overcome and to gain the great victory.

But behind all of this, as suggested in the employment of these military terms, is the recurring allusion to a great conflict. If not, why the need for being guarded? Why the talk of such things as shields, breastplates and victory? Too, conflict implies an enemy. In an earlier noted passage, Paul identifies him as the “evil one.” In 1 Peter 5:8 he is referred to as “your adversary the devil.” This is why Christians are encouraged to “put on the whole armor of God” – that we “may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11). Here it is: the enemy; the conflict; the protection. The battle is real. So are its casualties. And so is the need for protection.

Hence, the need for a strong faith. Old Testament history tells of great fortified and walled cities such as Babylon, built out of concern for physical safety. We need such concern for our spiritual safety! — for the protection of precious souls. There is a sense in which every Christian is building his fortress of faith. How well we are able to withstand the testings of trials and temptations depends on the measure of our faith — the strength of our fortress. And be sure of this, the assaults will come! In our context, Peter writes of their “manifold trials” and later tells them to “think it not strange concerning the fiery trial among you, which cometh upon you to prove you, as though a strange thing happened unto you” (1 Peter 4:12). Knowing the trials will come, we must fortify our faith.

To this end we assimilate more and more of the word of God, our only source of strength and growth (1 Peter 2:2). This means not only knowing it, it means respecting it and applying it to every circumstance of life. As Jesus, we can face and repel the tempter with: “It is written.” Of him, Peter says, “withstand steadfast in your faith” (1 Peter 5:9). How strong is your fortress?

~via *The Gospel Observer*, Avondale, Pennsylvania.



## The Power of Prayer

Mike Wilson

Do you believe prayer changes things? In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus tells a parable about a widow who badgers a judge into giving her legal protection. Even though the judge is decidedly lacking in spiritual qualities, he acquiesces to her demand, so she won't “wear me out.” Likewise, Jesus says, we should be persistent in prayer to the One who has impeccable spiritual excellence: “Will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He

will bring justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:7-8).

When we go to God, we should “ask in faith, without any doubting” (James 1:5). God gives wisdom to all “generously and without reproach.” Moreover, He is “able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us (Ephesians 3:20). Consequently, “the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (James 5:16).

Jesus teaches, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in this heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you” (Mark 11:22-24).

Ultimately, the power resides in God, not in the act of verbalizing a prayer per se. The Lord of the universe may not answer our prayers exactly the way we have in mind, but, then again, He is not a genie out of a bottle who says, “Your wish is my command.”

On the other hand, when we lift up our thoughts in absolute confidence in Him, He will never let us down.

~via *Focus Magazine*, Vol. 6 No. 1

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Helen Toursdale* was sick this past week and unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night... *Lakin Hammond* has been sick this past week, but is now better... *Wanda Tucker* has been sick this past week... Remember *James McConnell's father, Albert McConnell*, as he is taking treatments... *Scot-tie Goode's father, Hubert Goode*, continues

at home taking his medication... **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home ..**Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty, and brother, Paul McCafferty** and **Aldeen Noles** are in the SunBridge Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg ...**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson,** who is at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter,** who is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**PREACHING TONIGHT: Carlton McPeak** will be here this evening and preaching for us. We have helped to support Carlton in his work in *Tunnel Hill, Georgia*. I know that all will be benefited by the lesson Carlton will preach. I hope that all will make plans to be present.

**ACTIVITY FORMS:** Remember we are needing every member to fill out a new activity form. Please be sure to fill one out and give it to one of the deacons, as soon as possible, so that we can know each area of work you are willing to do. They are located on the table in the vestibule.

**OUT OF TOWN: Glenda and Andrea Phillips** and **Aric Butler** are away today visiting in Tennessee.

**GOSPEL MEETING** The *Beulah church* in Limestone county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Thursday. *Bill Hall* will be the speaker Services Monday through Thursday will begin at 7:00 p.m.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** This week is Communication Group four's week to meet. If you are in group four, plan to participate with your group tonight.

# Gospel Meeting

## June 16-21

Bill Hall, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207

Anderson, Alabama

### Schedule of Services

**Sunday**  
 Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
 Bible Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Elders**  
 Michael Clemmons .... (256) 247-0836  
 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

**Deacons**  
 Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
 Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
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