



Light of Faith

Faith Baptist Church of Godfrey, IL

FROM THE TOP

by Pastor Tom Olney



I don't know the words to express the gratitude of my heart for the goodness of God. Our 50th Anniversary Old Home Day weekend was all that we could ask for and more. Members and friends traveled from 17 states to fellowship and minister to one another during those 48 hours; truly, a sweeter reunion time than could be imagined this side of Heaven.

The complete surprise of \$5,702 given to my wife and me to take a long-desired, 16-day trip west interestingly turned out to be just slightly over a 5,700 mile drive! We did not spend it all, but we felt like some old, retired couple on a very generous pension, something very few active pastors ever get to

experience, and a definite and lingering shock to this one. We saw everything and everyone we wanted to see west of the Mississippi. God led every mile, giving us amazing things on every side, every day; things we could never describe in words or pictures.



The words of Psalm 40:5, "*Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered*" came together with a book of songs, "*Tis More Than I Can Tell*," by a dear friend, the recently departed evangelist Dr. Phil Shuler to help speak my heart.

This verse from a song of his considers what we might hear, *If Stars Could Talk*:

"If stars could talk and had I ear their crystal tones to hear,

I'd ask each one, 'Who set the course you run?'

And as they raced across the sky, in answer each would cry,

'One and the same, Who died your soul to claim.'

They'd say that God in His love sent down His Son,

To pay the price on the cross for everyone,

He cried, "Forgive!" as the milling crowd did mock,

This would they say, if only stars could talk."

—Words and music by Phil Shuler
Arr. by Glenn Christianson

THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

by Mr. Jerry Fair, Administrator



Asking **right** questions is a skill that, when acquired, is a great asset. The real test of a question is the response that it provokes. The most thought provoking questions lead to practical, personal applications of truth. The Lord Jesus Christ was Master in the art of questioning. Even in His preaching. He frequently asked, “*What think ye?*” and “*How think ye?*”

Right questions produce three stages in the process of thinking. First, there must be a stage of doubt or uncertainty. Secondly, there is an organizing stage in which the individual considers the means at his disposal to reach the ends desired. Then, thirdly, there is a critical attitude involving selection and rejection of the schemes which have suggested themselves. Thought provoking questions involve purpose, opinion, and application. The Lord demonstrated this approach many times. For instance, He struck at the consciences of His critics when He asked, “...*Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath day, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill?...*”

Whether in the classroom or in the classroom of life, teaching opportunities that excite no question will provoke no thought. Questioning is not, therefore, merely one of the devices of teaching, it is really the whole of teaching. Where thought is not required, there is no lasting result. **Right** questions awaken interest, direct thought, quicken participation, and drive home truth. Questions that review truth cause the mind to perfect knowledge, confirm knowledge, and render this knowledge useful.

Right questions, also allow the right amount of response time to give the chance to activate the three stages in the process of thinking before an answer is required. Personal application of truth cannot be reached before critical thinking takes place in the heart and the mind; thus producing **right** answers or **right** choices.

Are you asking **right** questions?

The **greatest** question ever asked is found and answered in Acts 16:30-31, “...*sirs, what must I do to be saved?*” “...*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*”

ASKING GOD FOR WISDOM

by Pastor Brent Van Sickle, Youth & Assistant Pastor



What do you think of when you hear the word “wisdom”? Perhaps the mental image of someone you know popped into mind. Typically, wisdom is associated with someone of age and experience. That is somewhat unfortunate for those of us that are younger. Teenagers are rarely mistaken to be possessors of great wisdom; adults rarely seek out the counsel of children. Teens may read this and claim injustice. Fortunately though, there is a solution in James 1:5, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” I kick myself every time that I read this verse, knowing just how often I neglect to take advantage of God’s promise to give if I ask in faith.

A working definition for “wisdom” would be the practical application of facts into proper actions. For example, you can have an individual that is very intellectually and academically smart, and yet lacks common sense in life. Wisdom is more than knowledge; it is proper action based from that knowledge. Proverbs also draws a distinction between worldly wisdom and true wisdom that comes from God.

Regardless of your age, I hope you desire more wisdom. This should be particularly true of those that are young! Once you acknowledge your wisdom deficiency, you can liberally ask of the only one that can truly give it—God. The only requirement for receiving wisdom is to ask in faith. As a child, if you knew that you could ask dad for money and never be denied, you would ask again and again. Let this be true of us with our Heavenly Father as we ask over and over for the precious gift of wisdom.

TESTS OF LIFE

“The tests of life are to make, not break us.

Trouble may demolish a man’s business but

build up his character. The blow at the outward

man may be the greatest blessing to the inner man.

If God, then, puts or permits anything hard in our

lives, be sure that the real peril, the real trouble is

what we shall lose if we flinch or rebel.”

—Maltbie D. Babcock

What's Happening

October

1	No School
6	AWANA begins!
8-9	MVIT Volleyball
10	Fall Sing, both services Potluck at 11:45 a.m. Teen SNAC
11	No School
16	Ladies' Circle of Prayer
17	Matt Barfield, 7 p.m.
22	No School
24	Pumpkin Sunday, 9 a.m. Lord's Table, 7 p.m.
28	MVCS Grandparent's Day
31	Youth Night

November

5	BJU Musical Ministry Team
5-6	High School Drama, 7 p.m.
6	Ladies' Day
7	Daylight Savings
11	Veteran's Day Chapel
14	Men of Valor / Ladies for Christ
23	Thanksgiving Praise Service
24-28	Thanksgiving Vacation
28	Youth Night—SNAC
30-Dec. 1	Christmas Store—MVCS

December

3	MVCS Christmas Musical
4	Church Adult Christmas Party
5	Kerry Psinas, Morning Service
11	Children's Program Practice
12	Children's Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m.
17	School half-day; resumes Jan. 4
18	Cantata Practice
19	FBC Cantata, 7 p.m.
22	Christmas Candlelight Service
31	New Year's Service, 8 p.m.



Dates to Note

OCTOBER 10

Fall Sing

Our annual "Fall Sing" in the 10 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. services is a FBC favorite. The noon potluck dinner is always delectable with each lady bringing the best-of-her-best cookin'!

NOVEMBER 5-6

MVCS High School Drama

"Don't Kick the Turkeys" is this year's MVCS drama, promising to be an interesting evening directed by our very own Donna Thaxton.

NOVEMBER 22

Thanksgiving Praise Service

A great time of singing and testimonies, this special hour of praise replaces our usual Wednesday service.

DECEMBER 3

MVCS Student Body Christmas Musical

"Christmas Carol" is about a little orphan girl who is given a home with a family over Christmas. A surprising and joyful twist emerges as the story unfolds as directed by Wendy Allen.

DECEMBER 12

Children's Sunday School Christmas Program

"Come as a Child" is the title of this evening presentation by the youth of Faith Baptist Sunday School. Always enjoyable, this is a special part of the Christmas season under the capable supervision of Peggy White.

DECEMBER 19

Christmas Cantata

Faith Baptist Church choir will once again bring a special evening of music celebrating the birth of Christ, directed by Galen Fitzsimmons.

Faith Baptist Church

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Pastor Tom Olney

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Got a Minute, Ladies? by Lee Olney



Dillon—a forlorn, Christian young man staring at the floor of the Nevada truck stop, wondering what he was going to do for needed gas money to drive his ailing truck home;

Tony—our youthful, ear-looped Grand Canyon coach driver, so thoroughly steeped in evolution, so tragically absent of any knowledge of God or His Word;

Isola—my befriended, sweetly-smiling, but barely English-speaking cleaning lady at the motel in Colorado Springs who gratefully received the illustrated Gospel story.

Suzy and Nicole—our pleasant mother-daughter traveling partners as we rode the Cog Rail to Pike's Peak summit and back;

Mrs. A. and Mr. S.—an unsaved older couple living together outside of marriage, with whom we lunched and talked at the Grand Canyon hotel and train;

Three Indian men—at the river-sized flash flood barring any further passage on the remote road we traveled, who half-heartedly listened as Tom shared the good news of Christ, but thanked him for the illustrated, clearly presented Gospel tract booklets;

Elderly couple—at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, who many years before had turned from the truth of God's Word to follow false teachers, but listened as Tom explained once again of God's simple plan of salvation.

The former pastor-turned-camera man who photographed us in Silverton, the Durango train tour-guide, Silverton bus-tour driver ...all of these and *more* made up the large and heart-exciting mission of our God-planned drive West.

God never leads His children anywhere, anytime, where He does not accomplish His purposes when our heart-focus is to do His will. Joy was not only in beholding the breath-taking works of God's hand, but *watching* as He steadily prepared a row of opportunities before us on which to sow the Good Seed of His Word.

We thank God for all who gave and prayed as we traveled. You made it possible for us to scatter *living seed* upon *specific hearts* of many far-away people we will never again see, until by God's grace, in Heaven! May God be praised!

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Philippians 1:3

to be sure of Heaven

1. Acknowledge to yourself and to God that you have sinned and deserve the penalty of death.
"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)
"There is none righteous, no, not one." (Rom. 3:10)
2. In sorrow for your sins, turn from them to God and ask His forgiveness.
"Let the wicked forsake his way, and let the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:7)
3. By faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, believing that he died in your place on the cross of Calvary.
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Weekly Services

Sunday

- Bible Study Hour 9:00 a.m.
- Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
- Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

- Bible Study 7:00 p.m.