

Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church

-We are not a perfect people

-We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!

CFF exists to Know Christ and to make Him Known!

Living the Faith

- **Are you spending at least 5 minutes a day at least 5 days a week reading your Bible?**
- **Have you shared your conversion story/or a God story?**
- **Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- **Did you spend some alone time with God this week?**

Mark 10:27 ***Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."***

- **Simple faith is all that is needed for the next victory in your life! God CAN!!!**
- **Renewing our faith to believe God Can!**
- **What are we believing God for? (Not hoping for - but Believing for!!!)**
- **This Friday is Ascension day! (40 days)**

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day…

according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas [*Peter*], and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- **As Paul writes to the church in Corinth he emphasizes that the death and resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith – it is the gospel you believed in order to be saved in the first place!**
- **There were multiple witnesses that Jesus did raise from the dead. That He was & is who He said He was!**
- **Jesus death & resurrection was the Start of God's redemption plan for the world!**

Acts 1:3-11 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

(God’s Calendar was NOT to be the focus!!)

(Here is the focus!) 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 After

he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

- STOP staring up & get on with it!

- **Jesus left us with a plan and a promise.**
- **<u>The promise</u>: He would return**
- **<u>The plan</u>: His followers would be filled with the Holy Spirit = power to be His witness!**
- **There are a lot of fringe things involved in the whole but the main point and focus of the plan was the power to be His witnesses!**
- **His ascension brought us the promise of God's presence within = The Holy Spirit!**

- **But the Holy Spirit was not coming to start a new thing but fulfill the work of Christ in us and through us!**

John 16:12-16 12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify

me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

- **The Holy Spirit was coming to fulfill the work of Christ… Jesus told His followers what the purpose of His coming was!**

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Matthew 9:10-13 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

- **We see clearly that Jesus lived the message among unbelievers!**
- **He didn’t just spend His time with the disciples but led the disciples into the streets to share the Good News!**
- **He also expects His followers to the do the same!**
- **Matthew put it this way:**

Matthew 28:18-20 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Personal Application

- **The Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our salvation!**
- **When He left – He left a promise and a plan 1. He is coming again 2. We are to be His witnesses!**
- **He did NOT leave us to do it alone but He left us the Holy Spirit to empower us to do the work!**
- **When is the last time you shared your story with a sinner?**