Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you spend time alone with God this week?**
- **Have you kept your New Years spiritual goal?**
- **Do you know what the Holy Spirits saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked?**



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!

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

- **Last week we talked about the horse learning to Trust us no matter what their fear says about running away. Getting in a trailer, crossing water, and riding by a brush pile to represent our fears!**
- **When God calls us into relationship we must step through all fears, doubts, & confusion – stepping forward in full surrender, obedience & trust!**

- **In the action steps we invited you to do just that: step forward, around, thru, or over the "Fear" that is keeping you paralyzed/stuck in your walk with God - Trusting Him as you move forward!**
- **After you responded - we reminded you that you would go out and FACE THAT FEAR again - knowing - *God would lead us there – the reason?* to remind us that we can TRUST HIM!**
- **At the same time the enemy would be right there 'reminding us that we CAN'T get past this'**
- **So - Who did you trust when you faced it?**

- **Today – God wants us to continue with the same topic of surrender, obedience, & trust**
- **We will look at some scenarios that will challenge us to surrender, obey, & trust no matter what our head tells us…**
- **Running is Not the answer = doing our own thing, reacting in the flesh… We must only go where we are led or sent by the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 10 1 In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment. 2 He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God. 3 One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said.

4 Cornelius stared at him in terror. "What is it, sir?" he asked the angel. And the angel replied, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been

received by God as an offering! 5 Now send some men to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. 6 He is staying with Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore.” 7 As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier, one of his personal attendants. 8 He told them what had happened and sent them off to Joppa.

- **Cornelius first reaction to the vision was fear BUT he didn’t run - he asked for direction**
- **Then he acted in obedience and sent for Peter!**

9 The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, 10 and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11 He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. 12 In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. 13 Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them." 14 "No, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and

unclean.” 15 But the voice spoke again: “Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.” 16 The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven. 17 Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean? Just then the men sent by Cornelius found Simon’s house. Standing outside the gate, 18 they asked if a man named Simon Peter was staying there. 19 Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, “Three men have come looking for you. 20 Get up, go downstairs, and

go with them without hesitation. Don't worry, for I have sent them."

- **Peter had never done this before… he'd actually been taught that it was wrong! BUT God said do it – TRUST ME!**
- **This challenge from God went contrary to culture - contrary to what he had done his whole life!**
- **From every area of his life – Peter was being asked to surrender, obey, & trust by doing something that went against everything he had learned (his natural instinct)!**

24 They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 As Peter entered his home, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter pulled him up and said, "Stand up! I'm a human being just like you!" 27 So they talked together and went inside, where many others were assembled. 28 Peter told them, "You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer

think of anyone as impure or unclean. 29 So I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. Now tell me why you sent for me."

- **A changing of the heart and mind of Peter …. "I was taught - but God has shown me!"**
- **The surrender of "my ideas" to God's requires Surrender, Obedience, & Trust!**
- **We are trusting God for the outcome – no matter what that may be! No matter what we may think, no matter what we've been taught, no matter what culture thinks – I TRUST GOD!**

- **Let's look at a different type of surrender, obedience, and trust**

John 11 1 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. 2 This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. 3 So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick." 4 But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness

will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.” 5 ***So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 he stayed where he was for the next two days*****.**

- **We NEED You NOW Jesus!!**
- **Although he loved them - he stayed back and “left them alone” in the time of their greatest need…**
- **It seemed to everyone around that Jesus didn’t move when He should have… respond in the right way…**

17 When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. 18 Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, 19 and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. 20 When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

- **“*Lord, If you had been here…*”**
- **We were alone in this time of need… You could have made a difference…. Where were You?… I sent for you asking You to come now!!**
- **She follows up her disappointment with a statement of faith: “But even now you can do something!”**
- **Now let’s see her sister Mary’s response:**

30 Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 31 When the people who

were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. 32 When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

- **So, it's unanimous… everyone thinks Jesus should have shown up sooner and done something to change the situation!**
- **How do you respond when God doesn't react to your requests the way you think He should?**

39 “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

- **It was Martha who had said: “22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”**
- **Now she’s facing the situation that is unchangeable in her mind – even though she said Jesus could do anything - She was not as trusting or obedient when she faced the reality of what she said she believed!**

- **If you roll that stone away it's going to stink!!!**
- **Sometimes things get a little messy when we are surrendering, obeying, and Trusting God for something that seems impossible!**

40 Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" 41 So they rolled the stone aside.

- **A reminder of who's God!!**
- **There are no barriers our God can't break through**
- **There are no issues or situations that are above Him or beyond His reach**

- **Peter, Mary & Martha all had to Surrender, Obey and Trust – even when all their thoughts said otherwise!**
- **Peter was challenged to do something he had never done before and do it because God said it was the right thing to do even though culture said otherwise!**
- **In Mary & Martha's case they had to do it when they were also thinking Jesus should have already done something about their issue – He knew about it "in time" to change the outcome BEFORE now!**

Action Steps

- What are you going to do when God doesn't respond to your request when you need Him?
- What are you going to do when He asks you to trust Him when it goes against what you think?
- Is that thing you just can't seem to get past, the one you faced last week, still in front of you?
- Is there something that is keeping you from pushing forward and taking the next step in your walk with God?
- Are you living Surrendered, Obedient, Trusting?