

**St. Margaret's Community Church of
Scotland**

Dunfermline

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Dear All,

We have three chickens! Never in my wildest dreams did I think that Linda would agree to this – indeed it was her idea!! A hen house has been purchased, then a coop to give them more room. Part of the manse garden has been transformed and we are just waiting for them to earn their keep by laying eggs.

Quite apart from the joy of having these three wee ladies – called Omelette, BB and Rosie – has been how they have attached themselves to Linda, especially when they are let out the coop and allowed to roam in the garden. They trust her and they know that she is the person who looks after and cares for them – their relationship with her is different from anyone else in the family – especially Charlie our collie.

Why? Trust. She is the person who looks after them and feeds them and so their response is a growing trust.

The same word that is used for “faith” in the Bible can also be translated “trust”. Is there a difference or are they simply two sides of the same coin? Faith is not simply believing in the existence of God – it is more than that. It is personal. Faith/Trust is about relationship. Surely that is the essence of every good human relationship – husband/wife, child/parent, friends. We cannot have a meaningful relationship without trust at the heart of it.

What then is faith in the Bible and upon what does it depend? Faith first of all depends upon a number of accepted facts – the God created all things, He came into our experience, revealed His commitment to us, died for our sins in Jesus, was raised from the dead and overcame death for us and He will return to end this world, judge it and create a new universe. That is faith in the acceptance of facts that we accept as given.

Secondly, faith then accepts another proposition – that God, in Christ, did all of this because of a profound eternal love for us. We are all made in his image and He is determined to make it possible for us to be saved from our own worst selves, forgiven and become Children of God.

Third [and this is important] faith/Trust, is when we accept that He did all He did for us and when we desire to yield our lives to Him and live out a life of faith/trust – in other words it is when knowledge turns to relationship. Knowing the truth and the facts is essential to give substance to our faith but that is only one side of the coin.

Think of a young couple. They get to know one another. Their knowledge of each other grows – their temperament, their background, their like and dislikes etc. Trust grows. But there comes a point [and I am going to be old-fashioned here] when a step of faith takes place between them both and they seal the relationship in marriage! They are trusting [entrusting] their lives to each other and that is supremely evident in the vows they exchange.

Is this the nature of our faith – all three? Relationship at the heart of it all with God?

Iain

Intimations

You will be pleased to know that a new AV system is being installed as a result of a legacy left to us by the late Bob Kerr – more of this later.

Zoom on Wednesday Evening from 6.45pm – see the attached!

Facebook thought for the day based on readings through Acts on “St Margaret’s Church of Scotland.”

Zoom Church from 10.45am on Sunday – the link will be sent the day before on Saturday.

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else” – C. S. Lewis

“Little faith will bring your souls to Heaven, but great faith will bring Heaven to your souls” – C.H. Spurgeon

“Faith in the biblical sense is substantive, based on the knowledge that the One in whom that faith is placed has proven that He is worthy of that trust. In its essence, faith is a confidence in the person of Jesus Christ and in His power, so that even when His power does not serve my end, my confidence in Him remains because of who He is” - Ravi Zacharias, who died aged 72 recently.

“The issue of faith is not so much whether we believe in God, but whether we believe the God we believe in” - R. C. Sproull

“Some people need a faith lift because they have been putting their faith in the wrong place. They’ve gotten tangled up in the process, not the promises. They’ve been putting their coins in the wrong machine...if we make prayer the object of our faith, we will come up short every time. It’s like trusting an airplane to get us to our destination instead of trusting the pilot. The airplane is just the vehicle; it’s the pilot who gets us safely to our destination. Nowhere in Scripture are we exhorted to put our faith in prayer, in faith, or in anything but God. Prayer is not the answer; God is the answer. Faith is but a grace in our lives; God is the guarantee of that grace. In spite of the motto, prayer does not change things; God changes things. The only appropriate place for your faith is in God” – Woodrow Kroll

"Upon a life I did not live,
Upon a death I did not die,
I risk my whole eternity."

One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "But I can see you and that's all that matters.