

The Faith Cycle To believe is to trust,
To trust is to commit. To commit is to obey,
To obey is to have faith. To have faith is to believe.

Monday, 12 June 2017 John 8:30-32

As he was saying these things, many believed in him. So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

I see the faith cycle embedded in these words of my Lord. That is that belief, trust, commit, obey, faith is a regenerating cycle that is the basis of a disciple's life.

Tuesday, 13 June 2017 John 8:45-46

But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?

Isn't this the way of the world? The truth convicts of sin so the world rejects the truth and the One who speaks Truth. I wonder if there is not an equivalent cycle of unbelief that is an antithesis of the faith cycle.

Wednesday, 14 June 2017 John 9:18

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

Isn't this the way of the world? Not only do they not believe when they hear the truth; they do not believe when they see the truth. But they do believe what they define as their truth.

Thursday, 15 June 2017 John 9:35-36

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

"Who is he, that I may believe in Him?" is a question

we must all ask. And we must come to understand as did Peter in *Matthew 16:16* "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." It is that personal realization of the opportunity to come into a relationship with the Creator of all that ever was, all that is and all that ever will be.

Friday, 16 June 2017 John 9:37-38

Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Ah, the sweet incense of conviction leading immediately to worship. Finally, after all the doubts and defiance of the Jews, all the unwillingness of the parents to get involved, the one who was healed, said, "Lord, I believe." It is that personal healing hand of the Lord upon a broken and contrite soul that brings belief.

Saturday, 17 June 2017 John 10:24-26

So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep.

The words of the Son of the Living God do not convince. The works of the Son of the Living God do not convince. Nothing left but to realize that the stubbornness of some transcends their acceptance of any flaw on their part.

Invictus reigns:

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.[1]

Lord's Day, 18 June 2017 Psalm 119:44-45

I will keep your law continually, forever and ever, and I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought your precepts.

An interesting thought, Lord, that obedience to Your word widens my path. I don't think in the sense that I have more latitude, but that a wide path implies an increased sense of satisfaction with my life, that pervasive sense of well-being that is the joy of the Kingdom. Thank You and praise You, my Lord and Master.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



June 12-18, 2017

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-14

LORD, our prayer this week is that each of us will be fervent in prayer for our congregation; that we will be constant in seeking the transformation of our minds that will enable us to recognize Your good and perfect will. We pray this so that we will live lives worthy of You and please You in every way, that we will bear fruit in every way as we grow in the knowledge of You.

We pray that our fellowship will be strengthened with all power so that we may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to You for qualifying us to join in the inheritance of the saints in the Kingdom of light.

We praise and thank you that we have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of Your Son whom You love, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Amen

Creational Theology hint for the week—I continue to be fascinated by the dead tree across the street from where I sit. Once a tall, magnificent maple, now a stalk rising 40-50 feet into the air. But still part of God's ongoing plan to bring harmony into the creation. It is attacked almost daily by pileated woodpeckers in their search for food, harvesting the grubs who contribute to its decay and return to the soil. What a beautiful picture of a part of the creative cycle.

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