

August, 2025

Dear Friends,

While thinking about what to write this month I drove by a local church and on their sign was the saying "**COME IN FOR A FAITH LIFT!**". I LOL and knew what my topic for this letter was to be about.

### **FAITH !!**

Recently, I talked with someone concerned with serious family problems but, our conversation didn't go very well. I was trying to help this person to first deal with their attitude and problem solving methods as a way to bring healing to the family. This was not what they wanted to hear or do. In their opinion the problems all lay with the other people and they had no problems to deal with.

I'm currently reading the Old Testament Prophets and see a strong similarity with what was going on back then in Israel and what I'm seeing in my counseling. Back then people believed they were in the right and sought out people who reinforced their opinion. It didn't go well for Israel as they refused to trust God and obey Him and have faith in His word spoken by His prophets.

Today, with the belief that humans have evolved from some microscopic element it has caused humans to believe they are the only authority they can trust. The true and living God, and the Bible, have no value to them.

Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the faith chapter in the New Testament. I encourage you read the whole chapter-regularly but for the sake of space I'll only mention a couple of verses.

Hebrews 11:3 ***By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God....***

Hebrews 11:6 ***And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.***

Faith is the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ. Faith involves a strong conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God.

Our country is struggling now just as Israel was in the Old Testament and for the same basic reason. Faith in only what man can do for himself. In June, 1963 the Bible was forbidden to be read in public schools by the US Supreme Court. Since then we, as a nation, have rejected not just the Bible but also its author, God! Our faith, as a nation, has been refocused on man's ability to lead and guide our government to do what is best for the nation.

Now, I know that not everyone has turned from faith in God and the Bible, but look at the violence and hostility that is everywhere now! Recently, I-5 around Seattle has been named one of the most dangerous roads in the nation! Road rage is common showing the uncontrolled anger that seems to be everywhere. People shooting or stabbing innocent shoppers at a store seems to be almost common. This is also discussed in the Old Testament times when Israel refused to have faith in anyone but themselves.

So, as God's born again children we have a great responsibility to walk in faith with Christ and be a light in the darkness that is overwhelming our society. I'm trying be bold in sharing my faith in normal every day conversations. I like to mention that I accepted Jesus as my savior when I was 22. The reactions I get to my unsolicited comment are interesting and recently a man at the Y took a tract and is now a Christian. It takes faith in Jesus to risk sharing what He is doing for us 🙏

Thank you for your prayers and gifts to Alpha!!!. You are an important part of this ministry.

*Richard*