

[illegible]

Donald Montgomery - 4th
Jill Carlberg - 14th
Will Parker - 30th
Chuck & Sonja Rowell - 11th
Corey & Calista Murphy - 18th

Love the Lord
your God with
all your *heart*
soul, & strength.

▣ DEUTERONOMY 6:5

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SERMON NOTES

True Faith Is An Active Faith

By Mike Riley

The story is told of a tight-rope walker in a circus who once asked his audience this question: “How many of you believe that I can walk backwards?” Everyone in the audience raised their hand. He then walked backwards on the rope (see 3rd video) and asked, “How many of you believe that I can ride a bicycle across the rope?” Again, every hand was raised. He rode the bicycle across the rope and then asked, “How many of you believe that I can push a wheelbarrow across the rope?” The same response was given. Finally, he asked, “Who will volunteer to ride in the wheelbarrow?” Not a hand was raised!

Folks, it’s relatively easy to “say” we believe something (cf. James 2:19-NKJV), but to demonstrate our faith, is sometimes a different story.

The apostle Paul admonishes us to:

“walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised” (Romans 4:12-NKJV).

Abraham’s faith was characterized by the following two qualities:

He accepted God’s word without doubt or hesitation (Hebrews 11:8-NKJV; cf. Genesis 12:1-NKJV; Acts 7:2-4-NKJV). Also see James 1:5-8-NKJV).

He was motivated to obey God irrespective of the hardships and apparent sorrows involved (Hebrews 11:9-NKJV; cf. Genesis 12:8-NKJV). Also see Hebrews 5:5-9-NKJV; 1 Peter 1:22-NKJV).

As God’s people, let us never forget that “in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love” (Gal. 5:6-ESV – emphasis mine).

True faith is an active faith (James 2:14-26-NKJV).

A Testimony To Faithfulness

By Mike Riley

History tells us that in 79 A.D., the Roman city of Pompeii (near modern-day Naples) was literally buried in lava by the violent eruption of the Mount Vesuvius volcano (see Pompeii history). The city was lost for nearly 1,600 years before its accidental rediscovery in 1592.

During the excavation of that city, archaeologists found people in the streets, who had been attempting to make their escape out of the city. Some were found in deep vaults, trying to find some kind of protection from the volcanic lava flow, while others were found in lofty chambers.

One interesting find was the remains of a Roman sentinel who was faithfully standing at the city gate with his hand still grasping his weapon. He had been placed there by his commanding officer, keeping watch for any intruders coming into the city. As the lava stream rolled into the city, he had faithfully stood at his post, never wavering from his responsibility as sentinel.

Similarly, our Captain (Hebrews 2:10 KJV) has placed us as a sentinel “entrusted with the gospel” (1 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV; 1 Timothy 6:20 NKJV; 2 Timothy 1:13-14 NKJV).

No matter what spiritual wickedness comes our way (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV; cf. Romans 8:38-29 NKJV), will we, as the Roman sentinel, be found faithfully standing at our assigned post, watching for any intruders? (Ephesians 6:13 NKJV; Acts 20:29-31 NKJV; cf. 1 Timothy 1:20 NKJV; 2 Peter 2:1-3 NKJV).

Let’s think about it!