

From the Pastor:

The next verses in James 1 deal with the subject of faith. This is a large subject all by itself. However, there is an important principle concerning faith that we need to understand.

But first, James 1:6-8 reads, “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Faith in God requires knowing God well enough that He will always do what He has promised. We need to understand that Hebrews 11:1 does not give an actual definition of faith. Hebrews 11:1 describes what faith does. Hebrews 11:1 reads, “Now faith is the substance [foundation] of things hoped for...” Faith provides the foundation that our hope rests on. For example, we hope for positive outcomes in our future. Faith in God provides the foundation—the basis—for that hope.

We have positive hope for the future (no matter what happens) because God has promised that “all things work together for good to those who love God...” (Romans 8:28)

What is faith? Faith is the conviction—belief—that God will always do what He has promised. We see this revealed in the account of Abraham recorded in Romans 4:18-21.

“Who contrary to hope [Abraham’s hope was for a son]; in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

Abraham had faith because He fully believed that God would do what He had promised despite the physical circumstances of his and his wife’s age.

The foundation of hope is faith. Hope is built upon faith. The foundation of faith is the promise of God. Faith is founded on the conviction that God will always do what He has promised.

The author of Hebrews described this truth this way, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

We must not only believe that God exists. We must also have come to know God well enough to know that He will always do what He promises. God will always answer; but, He will answer in His time when He deems it best for us. The hard part is for us to learn to patiently wait on God.

We have asked many times: “How real is God?” “How well do we know God?” “Are we truly seeking to draw close to God?”

If we are truly seeking to draw close to God, God has promised He will draw close to us. (James 4:8)

We will grow in faith as we build a real relationship with our Father.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:05pm	8:05pm	8:05pm
Sunset Friday 8-24	7:59pm	7:59pm	7:59pm



Victoria

Sermonette: Anthony Laitkep
Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: In Accord
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: In Accord
Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

Romans 4:17

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 8/18	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 8/25	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi and Victoria. The San Antonio congregation will meet in the Main Auditorium. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Hendren will be in San Antonio. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria. Mr. Watts will present the sermon in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

GOD'S FEASTS:

Feast of Trumpets – September 10

Victoria – 10:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi and Harlingen combined – 1:00 p.m.

There will be a covered dish social on Trumpets. Corpus Christi will provide the food and Harlingen will provide the desserts.

Day of Atonement – September 19

Victoria – 10:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi – 3:00 p.m.

Harlingen – 10:00 a.m.

Feast of Tabernacles and the LGD – September 24 – October 1

Please note there will not be services on the Sabbath before the Feast, Sept. 22nd, in Corpus Christi, Harlingen, and Victoria.

Corpus Christi will have a Bible Study and a brown bag social on the Sabbath of Sept. 15th.

Harlingen will have a Bible Study and a potluck on the Sabbath of Sept. 1st.

DALLAS FAMILY CAMPOUT – October 26-28.

HOUSTON NORTH FAMILY CAMPOUT – November 2-4.

Camps: Please be praying about the weather and safety at the upcoming camps.

TEEN CAMPS:

Winter Camp – Dec. 27, 2018 – Jan. 1, 2019