

1 John 5:1-6

Faith is a verb in the New Testament and especially in the writing of the Apostle John. We don't have a verb for faith in the English language. "Believe" is often the word chosen by translators to represent the active and ardent practice of putting absolute confidence in the Lord. This continues the theme of abiding in close relationship with God, actively believing in God, trusting His Son, and walking with Him while embracing His ways. His Spirit literally transforms us from the inside out, and we function in the world with Jesus, as we abide.

We cannot save ourselves, and we cannot sanctify ourselves, and we cannot break the power of sin in our own strength no matter how pure our intentions. Because of God's power, the "righteous requirements of the law" can be fully met in us. Not met a bit, or partially, but fully met in us. Impossible in our own strength, but fully possible because of what God has accomplished in Christ. Our righteousness comes from faith. It comes through Christ's righteousness, imparted to us through grace. In other words, we are truly transformed in our inner being, and in response to this transformation, holiness becomes not only possible, but also real. As Paul states in Romans 13, it is the law of love that enables us to fully live the holiness we proclaim. The sanctified, Spirit-filled life effectively deals with our "propensity" to sin. The power of God is indeed greater than the power of sin, in the here and now (Diane LeClerc, 2011).

The unmerited favor of God—His grace—changes our character if we receive it and cooperate with it day-by-day.

How is God's grace shaping you? _____

Next week: Missionaries Joseph & Ree Sumi & family

1 John 5:1-6

Faith is a verb in the New Testament and especially in the writing of the Apostle John. We don't have a verb for faith in the English language. "Believe" is often the word chosen by translators to represent the active and ardent practice of putting absolute confidence in the Lord. This continues the theme of abiding in close relationship with God, actively believing in God, trusting His Son, and walking with Him while embracing His ways. His Spirit literally transforms us from the inside out, and we function in the world with Jesus, as we abide.

We cannot save ourselves, and we cannot sanctify ourselves, and we cannot break the power of sin in our own strength no matter how pure our intentions. Because of God's power, the "righteous requirements of the law" can be fully met in us. Not met a bit, or partially, but fully met in us. Impossible in our own strength, but fully possible because of what God has accomplished in Christ. Our righteousness comes from faith. It comes through Christ's righteousness, imparted to us through grace. In other words, we are truly transformed in our inner being, and in response to this transformation, holiness becomes not only possible, but also real. As Paul states in Romans 13, it is the law of love that enables us to fully live the holiness we proclaim. The sanctified, Spirit-filled life effectively deals with our "propensity" to sin. The power of God is indeed greater than the power of sin, in the here and now (Diane LeClerc, 2011).

The unmerited favor of God—His grace—changes our character if we receive it and cooperate with it day-by-day.

How is God's grace shaping you? _____

Next week: Missionaries Joseph & Ree Sumi & family

May 6, 2018

6th Week of Easter

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 126* (What is God saying to you?)

Monday: *Isaiah 63:7-9*

Tuesday: *Isaiah 45:1-8*

Wednesday: *Genesis 9:8-17*

Thursday: *Romans 5:1-11*

Friday: *Joel 2:18-27*

Saturday: *1 Peter 2:1-10*

Almighty God, You created us, called us, and chose us to be Your people. We wait now to receive Your Word of guidance and blessing. Grant to us ears to hear, eyes to see, and faith to respond to Your love and leadership.

In the Name of Christ, Amen.

May 6, 2018

6th Week of Easter

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 126* (What is God saying to you?)

Monday: *Isaiah 63:7-9*

Tuesday: *Isaiah 45:1-8*

Wednesday: *Genesis 9:8-17*

Thursday: *Romans 5:1-11*

Friday: *Joel 2:18-27*

Saturday: *1 Peter 2:1-10*

Almighty God, You created us, called us, and chose us to be Your people. We wait now to receive Your Word of guidance and blessing. Grant to us ears to hear, eyes to see, and faith to respond to Your love and leadership.

In the Name of Christ, Amen.