

# CAFÉ CHURCH SERMON SERIES

## STUDY GUIDE

Theme: - What is Faith

Bible Readings: - Ephesians 2 v 1-10

Further descriptions of faith

Matthew 17 v 19-20, 1Cor12 v 9, Gal 5 v 22-23,

Rom12 v 3, Rom 5 v 1, Rom 4 v 9 and 4 v 23-25, Mark 5 v 33-34.

### Reflection:

Look at the readings above. What do we understand by the word “faith”? If we consider the Anglican Creeds and other affirmations of faith, they contain a summary of what we believe. Faith takes that further, in that it’s not what you believe, but the way that you believe it. Given that we believe what we do, what is our response?

In the Ephesians reading we see Paul commenting upon what we were all like; dead to sin and following our own desires. Paul then continues to show, indeed affirm that God had a plan for us “even when we were dead in transgressions”, to raise us up with Christ and not just make us comfortable again on Earth, but to sit us down with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

We are saved by grace and not by works. Why did the Ephesians and indeed do many Christians feel that they have to “do” something to help God with His plan of salvation? It seems to be in our nature to strive to achieve things; who has kids going through GCSE, “A” levels, dissertations, driving tests, music grade exams, etc; but on this occasion, God has done everything by Grace through faith in Jesus. As we read elsewhere “faith without works is dead” have a look at James chapter 2 and from verse 14, but our salvation is “not by our works, so that no one can boast” as Paul reminds the Ephesian church.

### Questions?

1. What other examples of the word “faith” can you think of in different biblical contexts?
2. What do you think about the creeds we have within the Anglican Church and what is our response to them?
3. Do you have examples of when you have seen God work in your life as a result of faithful prayer? What was your mountain moving moment?
4. Tell the person sitting next to you that they are “seated with God, in Christ Jesus, in heavenly places”. What is their reaction to this?

### Personal Application

We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph 2 v 10)

Discuss in your group what these “good works; prepared in advance” might be?

