

Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith
(Galatians 6:1-18) “*Help to Hold Onto*”

~ GOOD MORNING ~

I WANT TO MAKE SPECIAL MENTION...

- Of the great success the Lord gave us with VBS this week.
 - A very **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to all the servants...
 - Who made time to be here.
 - Time off work
 - Time away from family
 - Time to plan / prepare / run the event

GREAT NEWS...

- Pastor Jeff will be back next week Starting Exodus & resuming Acts!
 - Today we will be finishing our study through *Galatians*
- Turn to the book of (*Galatians 6:1-18*) NLT

~ INTRO ~

REMEMBER WITH ME...

- We've introduced Galatians as...
 - A letter written to people who had a reputation of being fickle...
 - And who were quickly departing from the faith.

SO FAR WE'VE LEARNED...

- Combating fickle faith focuses on pleasing God & not man
 - In a personal experience of God's amazing grace.
- 1) How to answer the question...
 - *“How do I know I'm really saved?”*
 - Now we can define the work of salvation...
 - As faith in Jesus & His work on the cross...
 - Belief + Action = Faith
- 2) How to answer the question...
 - *“I'm saved... now what?”*
 - Not moving into a religious relationship with God...
 - But relating to Him based on my position & not my performance.

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- Not = Motion without Emotion

- 3) Answered the question...
- “*What do I do about sin?*”

LAST WEEK...

- We learned that we’re perfected and live life by God’s grace...
 - That we’re to be lead by supernatural love...
 - And have the leading of God’s Spirit living inside of us.

The **answer** to human struggle with sin...

- Is not laws or threats of being punished...
 - Because laws cannot change a person’s sinful nature.
- It’s not law on the *outside* but love on the *inside*...
 - That makes the difference
- We have been given power within...
 - And that power comes from the Holy Spirit.

~STUDY~

TODAY...

- We’re closing our study with (Chapter 6)...
 - Where we continue in the *practical application*...
 - Of salvation by faith in Christ.

BECAUSE I’M SAVED BY CHRIST...

- “*How to I find my place*” and become apart of this new family of God...
 - And how do we stay unified as people...
 - When it’s easy to become divided?

BECAUSE THE FALSE GOSPEL (FAKE NEWS)...

- Had infiltrated the church...
 - They started distinguishing & dividing as Jews & gentiles.
 - It had become a critical, cesspool of hypocrisy.

SO PAUL WILL TAKE TIME...

- To encourage & instruct the believers...

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- Regarding the purpose of the Body of Christ (Church)...
 - And offer “*help they should hold on to.*”

SO NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message...
 - “*Help to Hold Onto*”

(Read vv. 1-6)

~ LET’S PRAY ~

HERE’S A FEW THINGS...

- For us to walk away with:

~ IDEA # 1 – “Help When I Struggle” (vv.1-6) ~

(v. 1)

GOD HAS INTENDED THE CHURCH...

- To be a place where people are rescued in the midst of their struggle...
 - And restored back to health in their walk with God & others.

THIS INSTRUCTION...

- Is written to the individuals within the church...
 - Not the leadership team overseeing the church.

#1 ENCOURAGING

THIS IS ENCOURAGING TO US...

- Because we now have a place where we can share our lives...
 - And be confident knowing we will receive **help**!

#2 CHALLENGING

BUT IT’S ALSO CHALLENGING...

- Because in order to receive help from someone else...
 - It requires vulnerability & authenticity.

#3 PAINFUL

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SOMETIMES IT’S PAINFUL...

- Because help requires a reset & change.
 - The word for “restore” NKJV
 - Means to reset a broken bone / or a joint out of socket.

THIS IS NECESSARY WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST...

- Because we live in a corrupt culture...
 - And “*temptation is inevitable*” (Matthew 18:7b) NLT

THEREFORE...

- Our attitude within the church...
 - Should be to build each other up in encouragement...
 - Those who are struggling...
 - Not a critical attitude.

HERE’S HOW...

- We can have healthy relationships...
 - Within the church.
 - (Eph. 4:29-32) NLT
- Good + helpful = encouragement
- This can even be applicable to our body language...
 - Some of our faces have subtitles!

SOMETIMES...

- We are trying to help someone...
 - But it can come across as critical or unhelpful.
- We come to the table with a lot of comments...
 - About the way we should have done things...
 - Instead of offering helpful encouragement
 - To build a person up and launch them forward to success.

(v. 6)

NOW PAUL US A GIVES A PRACTICAL WAY...

- To be an encouragement to those who are pastors & teachers...
 - Within the church.

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WHEN IT COMES TO OUR CHURCH...

- There are only two full-time members on-staff...
 - Pastor Jeff & Myself.
 - But it hasn't always been this way.
- But it can be a great encouragement...
 - When ministry expenses of the church & staff are paid each month.
- I've been here when that wasn't the case...
 - It was super discouraging when I had to go back to the work force.
 - But we're never afraid to do it if necessary.

*This concept of voluntary giving to provide for the Lord's servants was revolutionary since Jews were taxed for the support of their priests and Gentiles paid fees, made vows, etc., to sustain their religions. The admonition is clear that as a teacher shares the good things of **the Word of God**, a believer is to reciprocate by sharing all good things with his instructor.*

WE TEACH IN THE NEXT STEPS CLASSES...

- God doesn't use the offerings to raise funds...
 - He uses them to raise His kids!
 - So let us simply receive what God's word says here.

THE SIMPLE TAKEAWAY IS...

GOD DESIRES THE CHURCH TO BE...

- A place offering help & support when we struggle!

(Read vv. 7-10)

~ IDEA #2 – “Help When I Want To Give Up” (vv. 7-10) ~

(vv. 7-8)

#1) WARNING

NOW THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN ALL RELATE TO...

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- When the difficult times come and all we've gotten is criticism...
 - Our instant response can be to go backwards...
 - And start responding to the fleshly desires that come to mind.
- When we experience failure...
 - We respond like Peter...

"Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing...' (John 21:3 NKJV)

- Paul offers a **warning** against that temptation...
 - Because it's only going to make things worse!
 - More pain

#2) ENCOURAGEMENT

HE GOES ON TO ENCOURAGE THE PERSON...

- And offer help when we want to give up...
 - Insisting that living a life following the Spirit...
 - Will harvest everlasting life.

BUT WE ALL WRESTLE WITH MOMENTS...

- When we feel like we want to give up...
 - So what do we do?!?

THERE WAS ANOTHER SERVANT OF GOD...

- Who wrestled with this same issue...
 - And what did he do?

- (1 Kings 19:4) NLT

- (v. 4) He gave up and left (on the run)
- (v. 9b-10) He was discouraged because of ONE negative comment
 - "I don't want to do this – It's fruitless!"

ONE NEGATIVE COMMENT...

- Was enough to give up and quit... WHY?!
 - Because it was the straw that broke the camel's back.

MAYBE YOU'RE HERE TODAY...

- And you can relate to Elijah...
 - Thinking that there's no fruit

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- Prodigal kids
 - Potential in ministry work
 - Position in the workforce
 - Place in the family
 - Problems in marriage
- The Lord asks Elijah... “*Why are you running?*”
- (v. 15) After experiencing the gentle encouragement from God...
 - He tells him to go back the way he came.
 - (Rev. 2:2-5) NLT
- Paul tells us to keep pouring out with each opportunity...
 - Especially to those within the church!

WHAT’S THE POINT:

THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN THE LOCAL CHURCH...

- Offers the help that is needed...
 - To encourage when we feel like giving up.
- Jesus says this too...

"Peter said, "We've left our homes to follow you." "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God," (Luke 18:28-29 NLT)

THERE HAS BEEN HARDSHIP...

- **But there will** be a harvest!
 - Don't give up – God's not done.

(Read vv. 11-18)

~IDEA #3 – “Help To Move Forward” (vv. 11-18) ~

(vv. 11-13)

PAUL CLOSES THIS LETTER...

- By personally writing some final encouragement to the churches...

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- And a last few instructions.
 - And summarizes the whole book.

(v. 14)

AS WE WALK AWAY FROM THIS STUDY...

- We must understand that we’ve been made new in Christ...
 - And the old life is gone.

"... anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT)

- But we don’t always feel like this is true!
 - Which means we need to start anew today.

"The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning." (Lamentations 3:22-23 NLT)

- The past is gone...

"... I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead," (Philippians 3:13 NLT)

(v. 17)

THEN HE CLOSES WITH THIS NUGGET...

- Explaining that he bears the scars...
 - That identify him as a servant of God.

AND THAT REALLY RESONATED WITH ME...

- Because as we continue in this life serving Jesus Christ...
 - There will be wounds that come from those we love...
 - These demonstrate that we are Christ's servant
 - And the scars show that we’ve done the right thing...
 - To let Christ heal them for us.

WHAT’S THE POINT???

WHILE THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTY IN THIS LIFE...

- A healthy church will offer help when I struggle...

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- Help when I want to give up...
 - And help to move forward in faith!

~ IN CLOSING (WORSHIP TEAM) ~

I’VE BEEN SO BLESSED...

- A to have taken us through the book of Galatians!
- I’ve walked away with new insights from the Lord...
 - And my relationship with Him has been transformed!
- I pray that you’ve experienced the Spirit of God...
 - Revealing how this book is relevant to your life...
 - And His love and tenderness in a new way.