

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## ***Foundations of Faith***

Last week (10/6) Peter laid an excellent foundation for receiving and understanding **what God is saying** to us in His Word.

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He referred to Paul calling the Corinthian Christians to, "Let a man examine himself." (**I Corinthians 11:28**)

- Though Paul was writing about partaking of the Lord's Supper, it applies to our life of faith as a whole
- Paul continued, "If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged." (**11:31**)

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This, in itself is foundational to our life of faith in Christ.

- God calls us to use the authority He's given us over our own lives...
- To **submit ourselves to the authority of His will & ways**, as revealed in **His Word**
- His authority is demonstrated in those who **voluntarily** submit ourselves to it
- **He imposes Himself on no one.**

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His **physical laws** of the universe (Physics) are **not optional**

- His **moral laws** are just as certain, though we must **choose** to obey them...
- The tragic consequences of violating them are often delayed...
- Deceiving some folks of their certainty
- God's laws are simply **the way things really are**

Today we'll follow Peter's lead with some other **Foundations of Faith**

What is faith?

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Faith is **NOT** mental **agreement** or intellectual **affirmation**

- Faith is not just belief in **what God will do** (Though He has promised to do some things)
- Faith does not **decide what we will believe for**, expecting God to do it
- Faith does not **require** anything of God

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**Faith is belief in who God IS**

- Faith is eternal confidence in who God has **revealed Himself to be**
- Faith is the certainty of what **He HAS done and said**
- Faith is unwavering no matter what **does, or does not happen**
- Faith is our **personal response** to God
- Faith entrusts **who we are** to who **He is, ENTIRELY!**
- Faith is **obedience** to **whatever** God calls us to

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**Hebrews 11:1**, Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

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**Hebrews 11:13**, These all **died in faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off **were assured of them**, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

**Hebrews 11:36-39**, Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— **of whom the world was not worthy**. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, **having obtained a good testimony through faith**, did not receive the promise

For today – we'll look at **three steps of faith** into our life of faith with God

- **Surrender, Submission & Subjection**, or...
- **Repentant, Receptive & Responsive**

**Surrender** is to relinquish the authority to run our own lives

- **Surrender to God is not defeat, but freedom**
- We surrender our self-centered **opposition** to God's rightful authority
- **Matthew 12:30**, "Anyone who is not with Me is against Me, and anyone who does not gather with Me scatters."
- Surrender on USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, September 2, 1945. "**Your sword first, sir.**"

Our surrender to God is a **specific, personal, voluntary, life changing** transaction

- God said to me, "**You're not in charge anymore.**"
- **We repent** of excluding God as the authority in our lives
- That was the first sin. **Choosing** to disobey God

**Submission** is being **receptive** to God's will & ways in our life

- Having surrendered, there is no conflict of our will with His
- We can openly receive God's direction, correction & instruction
- **Psalms 119:105**, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

**Subjection** is **responding** in obedience to God

- Deciding **ahead of time** we will choose to do His will, when known
- It is **committing to obey Him** when/if our will is not in concert with His
- It is **choosing God's will**, even when it is costly

**Surrender, Submission & Subjection** are sequential

- Each opens the door for the next
- They are **collaborative**, incomplete without each other
- **Interdependent & interactive**, empowering each other

We cannot be **submissive** until we have **surrendered**

- No longer in charge

We cannot be **subject** to Him and obey until we have **received** what He says

- **John 5:19**, "I assure you: The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing."
- **John 20:21**, Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

We cannot be **fully His** without **doing** God's will

- **Matthew 12:50**, "For whoever **does the will of My Father** in heaven is My brother and sister and mother." (**Luke 6:46 & James 2:26**)

Some examples of surrender:

- **1 Kings 19:19-20**, Elijah & Elisha
- **John 5:19 & 30**, Jesus
- **Matthew 26:39-42**, Jesus
- **Acts 9:4-6**, Paul

Examples of not surrendering:

- **Genesis 3:1-6 & 4:1-8**, Eve & Adam, and Cain (Sin seeks company & seeks to silence righteousness)
- **Genesis 13:8-11**, Lot

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*Examples of submission:*

- **Psalm 40:8 & 143:10**, David
- **Matthew 6:10**, Jesus & us
- **Luke 1:38**, Mary
- **Romans 12:2**, Followers of Christ
- **II Corinthians 12:7-10**, Paul

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*Example of not being in submission:*

- **Jonah 1:1-3**, Jonah

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*Examples of subjection:*

- **Genesis 6:22 & 7:5**, Noah
- **Genesis 12:1-4**, Abram
- **Matthew 1:18-24**, Joseph

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*How shall we then live?*

- 1)** *Will we actively surrender the authority of our life to God's?*
- 2)** *Having surrendered, are we open & receptive to God's direction for our life?*
- 3)** *Being surrendered & receptive, will we obey whatever God calls us to?*