



Faith Christian Assembly

January Newsletter

January 1, 2025

Snap Out of It! *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

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There is a statement of blessing that I love and one that I pray over you for 2025. (And no, it's not, "Snap out of it!") This quote is by Thérèse of Lisieux: "May you always experience the joy that comes from putting Christ at the center of your lives".

Charles Spurgeon said, "If the Lord be your joy, your joy will never dry up. All other things are but for a season; but God is for ever and ever. Make Him your joy, the whole of your joy, and then let this joy absorb your every thought. Be baptized into this joy; plunge into the depths of this unutterable

bliss of joy in God."

Unfortunately, we don't always feel the reality of this joy in our lives. We too often pursue what we think will make us happy instead of placing Christ at the center. This never works. From the very beginning early on in Genesis we find Adam, Eve, and their firstborn son, Cain quickly placing themselves at the center, and man has been tempted to do so ever since.

We read in Genesis 4 that Abel brought an offering that was pleasing to the Lord, but that the Lord did not respect Cain's offering. Instead of Cain examining his own way

and changing his course and bringing an offering the Lord would respect, Genesis 4:5 tells us, "... Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell." KJV: "Cain was very wroth" - both at God and at his brother. Cain would fit right into our culture today - he made himself a victim of his own disobedience against God. And this anger led to the first crime - murder. Albert Barnes: "There is no spirit of inquiry, self-examination, prayer to God for light, or pardon. This shows that Cain was far from being in a right frame of mind."

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Earlene Leming

Walking on Water *by Earlene Leming*

Matthew 14:29-32: "And HE said, 'Come'. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, 'Lord, save me.' And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him, and said unto him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased."

I believe Peter walked on the water! I don't know how far he got, but it was far enough for Jesus to reach out, grab him, and then walk beside him back to the ship. If we want to SEE a miracle, we must have a problem BIGGER than we can handle. Peter did fine as he took the first steps... UNTIL he looked at the FACTS around him. The wind had created a fierce storm, yet Peter got out and began to walk on the

water. The Bible says he looked at the wind...AND was afraid. It says the wind stopped when they returned to the ship. Jesus was always in control. Let's go forward this New Year by staying FOCUSED on JESUS, expecting miracles! He brings peace as we walk together. We might even discover we are "walking through a miracle"...just like Peter! (Read Isaiah 43:2)

Snap Out of It! *continued from page 1*

So in a move of His divine grace, God comes to Cain and asks him a question which implies that there is no just cause for his anger. (I remember as a child, my dad used to follow God's example here by suggesting that I "Snap out of it!")

Genesis 4:7: "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

God is telling Cain to basically retrace his steps and think about what he's done. The New Testament has the same instruction for us...2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV: "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you are disqualified."

But too often in our flesh, we don't want to examine ourselves, we want to ex-

amine everyone else, or even examine God and judge according to our own flawed conclusions. As we see in the life of Cain and his rage, this proved to be very dangerous. If only Cain had stopped and listened to God and allowed Him to be at the center of his life, what a different story this would have been.

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We can't really tell how crooked our thinking is until we line it up with the straight edge of Scripture.

ELISABETH ELLIOT

January Calendar

SUNDAYS

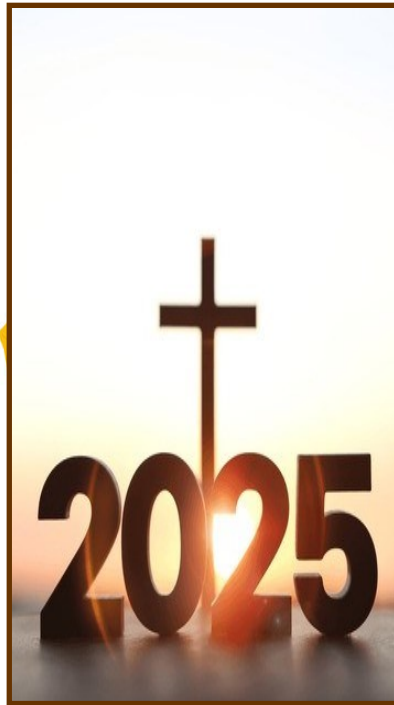
Service Time: 10:30am
January 5 – Communion Service

MONDAYS

Office Closed

TUESDAYS

Church Office and
Library Hours
10:00am to 4:00pm
Call for appointment



WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study @ 11:00am
(resumes January 8)

THURSDAYS

Next Men's and Women's
Ministry meetings February 20

FRIDAYS

Church Office Hours
10:00am to 4:00pm.
Please call for appointment

Please note: We thank each of you for your obedience to God's Word and your generosity to Faith Christian Assembly throughout the year. We will be mailing out letters of receipt for your giving for 2024 on January 17, 2025. Those of you who have tithed regularly throughout the year will also receive a financial statement.

Snap Out of It! *continued from page 2*

If only Cain had seen that his only option as a guilty sinner was to submit to Almighty God, who was reaching out in His mercy and trying to get his attention by warning him that sin "is crouching at your door" (Albert Barnes: "as a crouching slave the bidding of his master.") In Jude verse 11, God continues to warn His people against following in Cain's footsteps. "Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain..."

May we make the decision to honor God in 2025 by placing Jesus at the center of our lives. May we heed the warnings of His Word. May we read the Bible for correction as well as for understanding and for wisdom. This is the way to a joyful life! John 15:11: "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

~ Pastor Sheri

by Martin Luther [1483-1546]

For feelings come and feelings go, and feelings are deceiving.

My warrant is the Word of God, 'naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should stand condemned, for want of some sweet token,

There is One greater than my heart, Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word, 'till soul and body sever,

For though all things shall pass away, His Word shall stand-forever.





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Faith Christian Assembly is a member of the Grace International Churches and Ministries, Inc., which was originally organized as the California Evangelistic Association in 1934. Beginning with one church, Colonial Tabernacle, located in Long Beach, CA the organization has since grown to include more than 4400 churches in the United States as well as in many nations of the world. It is now headquartered in Houston, TX, and overseen by an Executive Team and a Board of Directors, including as President Pastor Steve Riggle. Pastor Sheri Leming serves on the Grace International Missions Board and on the Grace SoCal District Committee.

From the Desk of Pastor Sheri Leming ~ January 1, 2025

Happy 2025 to you! We pray that you anticipate this New Year with a renewed trust in the faithfulness of our God. We continue to be grateful and humbled for all that the Lord accomplished in and through Faith Christian Assembly in 2024. We cannot express enough how wonderful it is to be journeying through life together with all of you! Ephesians 4:22-24, "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Speaking of the New Year - Have you made any resolutions? One resolution that is absolutely worthy of keeping is to immerse yourself into God's Word in 2025! We invite you to join us for Bible Study meeting every Wednesday @ 11am. God's Word

shows us His plan for the way we should walk around this dark world as He draws people to Himself. Psalm 119:24 tells us, "Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors."

It is always such a treat to have Pastor Paul Vaughn return home from Tahiti. He shared stories of God's faithfulness throughout the year to La Bonne Nouvelle. We take joy in all that God is doing through Paul's ministry in Tahiti. We also had a blessed time at our Birthday Party for Jesus lunch, and through your financial offering we were able to help raise extra support for our Grace International Missionaries. Also because of your generosity we were able to give to Samaritan's Purse and local organizations, including Horizon Crisis Pregnancy Clinic, We Care and the Orange County, Long Beach and Los Angeles Rescue Missions. Thank you for giving to the Lord!

We will be mailing out letters of receipt for your giving for this past year on January 17, 2025. Those of you who have tithed regularly throughout the year will receive a financial statement as well. We thank each of you for your obedience to God's Word and your generosity to Faith Christian Assembly throughout the year.

We continue to enjoy the wonderful preaching of Pastor Gwyn Vaughn, who will be speaking Sunday, January 25 in our 10:30am service. Pastor Vaughn always brings such richness and through his passion for God's Word lives are transformed.

We invite you to join us this first Sunday January 5 in our 10:30am service as we partake in Holy Communion together. This is the time to partake together and in this way we obey Jesus' command to "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Pastor Sheri & Gary Leming