

NTCOG NEWS

October 2011

Please read this newsletter carefully, make a note of the regular meetings, the special dates on the enclosed diary and make every effort to attend.

Weekly Meetings

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down

Popley

RG24 9AE

Monday Prayer Meeting

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday Bible Study

8:00 p.m.

Thursday – Open Door

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Our Mission

To present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the local community in a powerful, practical and relevant way.

To encourage every member of the Church to develop their God given ministry and to fulfil their potential.

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Word Puzzle – Hebrews 11:1-7

M B R H G U O H T S E I M
R V L I P K H F C K S E W
H F U H G C I E F A I T H
O G D A O H R P L E A S E
P C B N S T T M N P R V N
E B E C A U S E C S E E N
K H I I C T C F O O A S D
O E N E R U S O M U M R D
P N G N I B T R M M S E H
S L E T F M I M E M A V S
E V I S I B L E N D A I S
E N I A C V L D D B N N E
R E T T E B E M E A A U D
N E K A T V W L D K M T B

Now **faith** is **being sure** of what we **hope** for and **certain** of what we do not see. This is what the **ancients** were **commended** for. By **faith** we **understand** that the **universe** was **formed** at God's **command**, so that what is **seen** was not **made** out of what was **visible**. By **faith** **Abel offered** God a **better sacrifice** than **Cain** did. By **faith** he was **commended** as a **righteous** man, **when** God **spoke well** of his **offerings**. And by **faith** he **still speaks, even though** he is **dead**. By **faith** **Enoch** was **taken** from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not **be** found, **because** God had **taken** him away. For before he was **taken**, he was **commended** as one who **pleased** God. And without **faith** it is impossible to **please** God, **because** anyone who **comes** to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. By **faith** **Noah, when** warned about things not yet **seen**, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his **faith** he condemned the world and became heir of the **righteousness** that **comes** by **faith**.

International Version (Anglicised)

Faith

What is faith?

How do we demonstrate faith?

Can faith be measured?

When it comes to faith we all have opinions and we all have questions.

When asked to define faith most Christians quote Hebrews 11:1 which says:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (NASB)

When asked why faith is important the usual answer is found a few verses later in Hebrews 11:6:

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (NASB)

When asked how much faith we need the reply will typically be:

And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." Matthew 17:20 (NASB)

During October and November we are going to be looking at what the Bible has to say about faith. To understand the practical application of faith in our lives we will be looking at how faith can be seen in a number of men of God.

As we consider how faith is expressed in the lives of Abraham, Job, David, Paul and Nehemiah, I encourage you to look at others to see how faith impacted their lives. Rahab, Ruth, Deborah and Esther are all great examples of women who demonstrated faith in God and put their trust in Him. Neither

Rahab nor Ruth were Jews by birth, both chose to serve Yahweh and both appear in Jesus' family tree!

Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. Matthew 1:5 (NASB)

Deborah is another great example of a woman of faith in a world dominated by men. She was a gifted prophet who spoke God's truth and inspired Barak to lead the army to a great victory.

Deborah said to Barak, "Arise! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hands; behold, the LORD has gone out before you." So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him. Judges 4:14 (NASB)

The Bible has details of countless men and women of God whose lives were defined by their faith in God. Looking at their lives we can see that they had faith in God in every circumstance. Whether rich or poor, healthy or sick, strong or weak, they kept their faith in God. Their constant and consistent prayer was:

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade on your right hand. Psalm 121:1-5 (NASB)

As we look at faith, and learn from God's Word, let's all resolve to become men and women whose faith is in God.

Pastor Graham

Gift Aid

If you are a UK Tax Payers then the Government will give us 25 pence for every pound that you give so please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes for your tithe and offering.