

January 31, 2021

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Overcoming Obstacles to Faith

Everyone who has begun to travel down the road of faith knows that there can be obstacles along the way. Some spiritual obstacles can't be avoided, but they can be overcome.

There are five common obstacles that block the development of our faith.

Ignorance - A Lack of Knowledge

Paul tells us that one of the ways we grow in faith is by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:7; Galatians 3:2,5), and unless we come to know God's will - through His Word - we will never have the underlying understanding that enables true faith. An example of this fact is when the disciples of Jesus became confused because they didn't understand something He said. Jesus' admonition to them points out the connection between lack of understanding and a lack of faith: "Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "Ye of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves...? Do you still not understand" (Matthew 16:6-8) In the same way the disciples became confused in this instance and began to rely on their own limited understanding without input from their teacher, unless we gain knowledge of God's Word, we can't develop our faith.

Unbelief - A Lack of Belief and Trust

The Bible shows that we must begin to trust and believe, and then God adds to our faith. God may indeed begin the process in our minds (Hebrews 12:2), but our choice to believe is also involved in the process. We see this in the story of the man who asked Jesus to heal his possessed son. When Jesus said "Everything is possible for one who believes," immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief!" where upon Jesus healed the boy. (Mark 9:23-25)

Doubt - A Lack of Certainty

Doubt is different from disbelief. We may believe that God is and that He can perform something, but we aren't sure if He will do it for us. We see the classic symptoms of doubt in the story of Peter's attempt to walk on the water with Christ (Matthew 14:25-31). Although he started out well, Peter soon began to doubt: "But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and began to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. 'Ye of little faith, why did you doubt?'" Overcoming this doubt involves constantly being aware of God's working in our lives so that we see the ongoing evidence that He is, indeed, working with us personally.

Fear & Anxiety - A Lack of Confidence

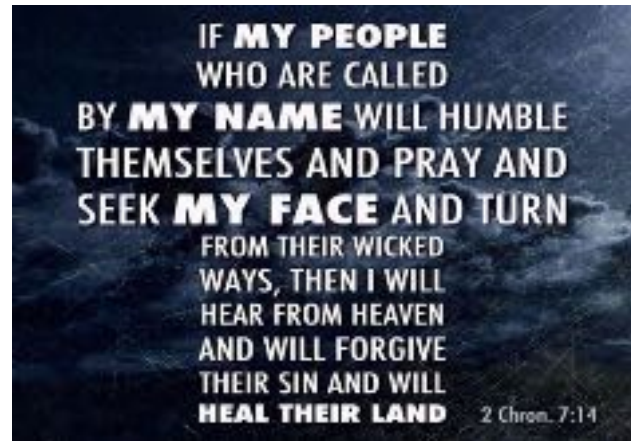
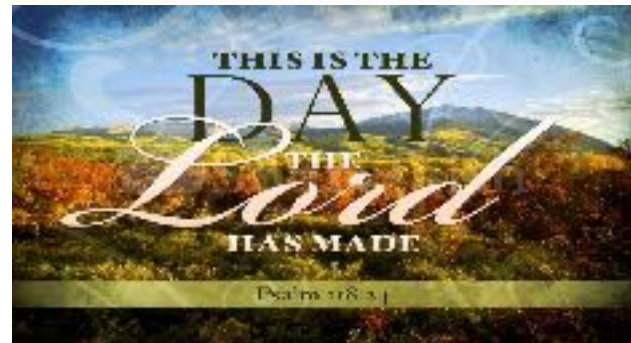
In Matthew 8:23-26, the disciples found themselves, with a sleeping Jesus in a boat in the middle of a great storm. When they awoke Jesus and pleaded for Him to save them, He answered, "Why are you fearful, O ye of little faith?" Anxiety can be just as destructive to faith as fear. Matthew 6:25-33, Jesus lets us know that our every need will be taken care of. We must learn to trust Him not only to provide for our basic physical needs, but also to help us in other areas.

Distance - A Lack of Closeness

The further we drift from God at any point in time, the less faith we have. If we stay close to God and to the sources of guidance He makes available to us, our faith will not suffer from the negative effects of distance.

For every obstacle there is a clear way to overcome it - to make us stronger (James 1:3). Prayer, Bible Study, Focusing on God's Will and drawing closer to the One Who is the founder and perfecter of our faith.

"Be not overcome of evil; but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21



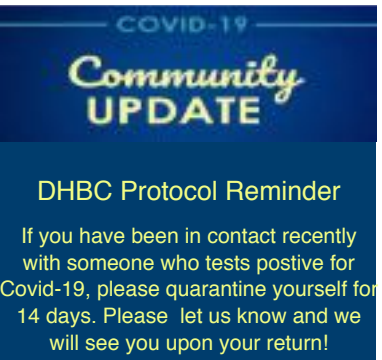
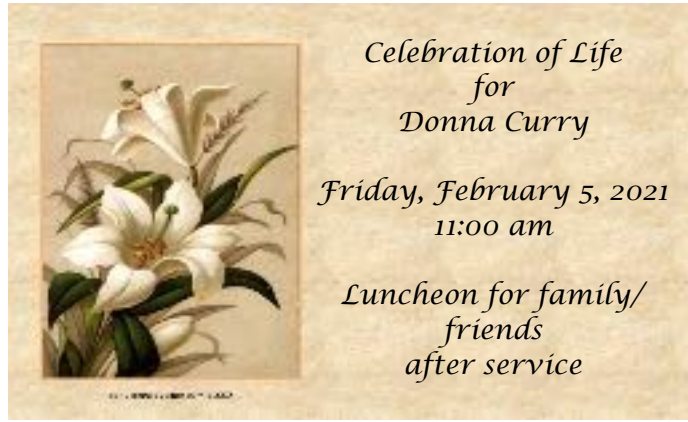
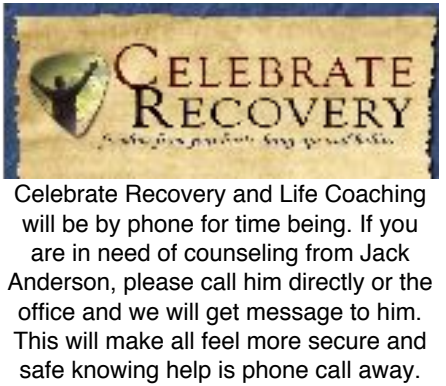
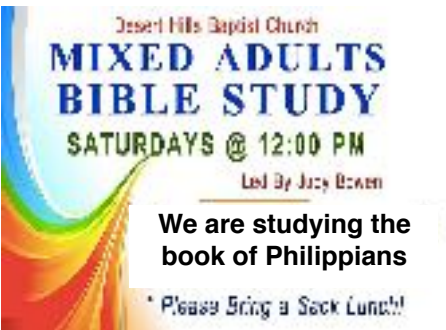
Reminder.....
Please call all calls to Pastor go through the office.



Sermon Notes



- Sunday 1/31**
 8:30 am
 * Choir / Music Practice 9:30 - 10:30 am
 * Sunday School - ALL Ages 10:40 am
 * Youth Led Service
 * Worship
 * Children's Worship
 * Nursery
- Wednesday 2/3**
 5:30 pm
 * Prayer Warriors Meet 6:30 pm
 * Worship Service
 * Youth Bible Study
- Friday, 2/5**
 11:00 am
 * Memorial for Donna Curry meal after
- Saturday, 2/6**
 9:30 am
 KKV 1060 am
 "The Unashamed" 12:00 pm
 * Mixed Bible Study 5:00 pm
 * Choir Rehearsal



The staff of Desert Hills Baptist Church is committed to being available to assist you. If you have a general or specific need, please contact us through the church website or telephone.

www.deserthillsbaptist.com

- Go to our WebSite to contact a staff member below -
- R. Scott Hocker, Pastor
 - Roger D. Johnson, Assoc. Pastor, Student Ministries
 - Zach Hocker, Youth Director
 - Judy Bowen, Pastoral Assistant/Chief Administrative Officer
 - Lana Sanchez - Pastoral Assistant/Office Manager
 - Dave Brown, Communications Director
 - Gary Helton, Outreach & Electronic Ministry
 - Bill Hughes, IT Ministry
 - Marcell Furrow, Sunday School & Education Ministry
 - Shannon Ackerman, Deacon/College & Career Minister
 - Vivian Baker & Linda Howard, Sr. Adult Ministry
 - Judy Bowen, Mixed Adult Ministry
 - Lana Paz, Worship Ministry/Children Ministry
 - Princess Moormann, Preschool Ministry
 - Barbara Harper, Ladies Outreach Ministry
 - Nancy Jones, PALS (Widow's Ministry)
 - Jack Anderson, Celebrate Recovery
 - Bill & Lisa Whennen, Food Pantry Ministry
 - Les Turner, Veterans Ministry
 - Kim Gillespie, Domestic Resource Liaison

