



CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
**CROSSLINKS**  
FAITH AND WORKS

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



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## Vicar's five - minute reflection

### FAITH AND WORKS



How do the two seemingly contradictory functions of faith and works relate, interact and compliment each other? By faith in Christ alone, we are saved. Faith is the instrument, Christ is the Saviour. By works we prove the genuineness of our faith. We are saved by faith alone, but not by the faith that is alone.

Christians are justified before God as they place their trust in Jesus Christ, the Sin-bearer, the Substitute who bore God's wrath in our stead (Romans 3:26; 4:1-5; Galatians 2:16). The Christian starts and lives his life by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). He does not look inside him but outside, to Christ. By faith his hope is sustained (Hebrews 10:35-12:3).

Faith is not simply a feeling, a mere sentiment that results only in positive speech nor is it an optimistic decision. Neither is it passive orthodoxy. That is why faith must have content.

**We are saved by faith alone, but not by the faith that is alone.**

But since faith unites to Christ it cannot be lifeless. It works through love (Galatians 5:6). It seeks to do all the "good works, which God prepared beforehand" for us (Ephesians 2:10).

James rightly says, faith without works is dead, being by itself. Here he is describing a faith that knows the gospel and even agrees with it, but has fallen short of trust in God. Failure to grow, develop, and bear the fruits of righteousness shows that the free gift of God in Christ has never been received.

James is in no way contradicting the apostle Paul here. Paul was writing to people who were thinking they could work their way to heaven. So Paul says: 'The only way you can be saved is by trusting what Jesus has done for you. You cannot get to heaven by the good things you do.', whereas, James writes for people who say: 'Yes, I have faith, I trust in what Jesus has done. I can just put my feet up and enjoy the journey.' To them James says: 'If you really believe, then your belief will be seen in the way you act.'



You cannot be saved by simply saying you believe.' That's the emphases of the two writers. There is no contradiction between James and Paul.

1) James does not speak about how a man is reckoned as righteous before God, but rather about the justification or validity of his faith in the eyes of men (James 2:18: "Show me your faith....").

2) We are justified by faith alone, but works justify our faith, and declare that we are justified. Men cannot see our faith, except by our works (cf. Luke 7:47,50). If you have faith, demonstrate it. The only evidence visible to human eyes is the deeds of obedience. Though God can read the heart, our only view of the heart is by the sight of outward fruit.

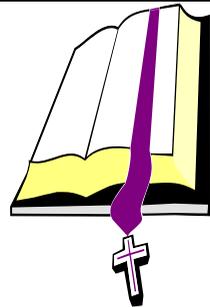
3) James treats the question, "What kind of faith is saving faith?" The obvious answer is that faith without works cannot save, something Paul wholeheartedly believed too. Faith that yields no righteous deeds is not saving faith. The New Testament does not teach justification by the profession or the claim to faith; it teaches justification by the possession of true faith. Calvin said: "We are justified by faith alone, but the faith that justifies is never alone." Both Paul and James would have agreed with this statement.

4) Thus James is attacking all forms of antinomianism that seek to have Jesus as Saviour without embracing him as Lord. Just as Paul demonstrated that trusting in one's own works is deadly, so James teaches that resting on empty or dead faith is fatal. They complement each other: James deals with antinomianism, Paul with legalism.

Dele Agbelusi

### **Memory Verse (Eph. 2: 8-10)**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



## UNTANGLE YOURSELF FROM AN EMOTIONAL AFFAIR



"How can I get unhooked from an emotional affair involving another person outside my marriage ?"

First of all, there must be a decision to quit the extramarital relationship in the realisation that its doing a gradual damage to ones home, family, and health.

If you are a Christian, talk it over with God and ask for his pardon, cleansing and strength. There is no easy way, and it will involve a process of time. First of all, **separation** is important. Do not indulge yourself with the other person's (**OP**) presence. You must stop exposing yourself to this shared life experience. The contact is what keeps these feelings alive; you need to stop feeding the compulsion.

I hasten to add that you just can't bury these feelings. Therefore, the next step is

to **identify** the "something" **OP** touches inside you. What unmet need does he/she tap into? Sometimes the hooked person (**HP**) can process this with a spouse or a friend, but at other times that will need to be done with an experienced counsellor who is committed to restoring the marriage. Experience has shown that the longings that underlie infidelity often go back to childhood; the **HP** brings them with him or her into their marriage. They often were touched upon or satisfied in the initial phases of the relationship with the spouse, but over time have been buried by the crush of life's responsibilities.

The next process is **exposure**. Don't allow these longings and feelings to remain a secret. The longer the **HP** allows these feelings to continue as a secret, the more he or she will idealize the person the feelings are attached to. Idealization means this **OP** becomes perfect, and as a result, no one else (e.g., the spouse) can measure up. The **OP** is beginning to be seen as "all good," and therefore the **HP** will have to see the marriage as "all bad."

Take the next step to **write down** the feelings you are experiencing in this rather involved and tortuous journey.

**Rebuild and concentrate on the lost relationships that contributed to the vacuum...**

## Untangle yourself from an emotional affair

Feelings don't have to control an individual, but their influence is strongest when they are held in secret.

The longings that have led to this emotional affair are often a part of the childhood magic; journaling them gets them out into the open, into the adult realm.

**The final idea is to *grieve*.** Though this is extremely difficult for the spouse to observe, it is important and necessary. Many times this needs to start with a "good-bye" letter (written to the adulterous partner). Most **HP** find this very painful to do.

### **The Healing Process**

Many spouses caught in this kind of emotional affair have found portions of The Serenity Prayer helpful: *"Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."* Be careful of changing the components around. Don't try to change the things you cannot change—that will only lead to frustration and anger. On the other hand, don't accept the things you should be changing—that will only lead to feelings of victimization.

**Rebuild** and concentrate on the lost relationships that contributed to the vacuum that the emotional affair filled. **Enjoy** the process and reschedule the experiences that made your marriage good in the first place.

### **Some Cautions for the hooked person**

Some people struggle with the same temptation for years. For instance, just because someone wants to smoke again because he's tempted doesn't mean he's a smoker. Don't let the temptation to return to the partner shame you into feeling "What's the use? I might as well give in. I'll never be free of these feelings."

### **Some Encouragement for the Spouse**

First, remember that some of these longings might have been present in your spouse before you entered his or her life. You didn't create them, and you probably can't fully satisfy them.

Second, you did tap into those longings early in your relationship in some fashion. The longings were present in the initial feelings of what love is all about.

(continued on page 9)

## DO NOT ENVY ME

"You are to be more envied than anyone I know," said a young man to a millionaire.

"Why so?" responded the millionaire. "I am not aware of any cause for which I should be envied."

"What, sir!" exclaimed the young man in surprise. "Why, you are a millionaire! Think of the thousands your income brings every month!"

"Well, what of that?" replied the millionaire.

"All I get out of it is my food and clothes, and I can't eat more than one man's allowance and wear more than one suit of



clothes at a time. Even you can do as much as I can, can't you?" "Yes, but think of the hundreds of fine houses you own, and the rentals they bring you." "What good does that do me?" replied the rich man. "I can only live in one house at a time. As for the money I receive for rents, why, I can't eat or wear it; I can only use it to buy other houses for other people to live in; they are the beneficiaries, not I." Then, finally, after a little more discussion, the millionaire turned to the young man and said: "I can tell you that the less you are preoccupied with the things of this life, the happier you will be. All my wealth can't buy a single day more of life, cannot buy back my youth, cannot procure power to keep off the hour of death. Then what will happen? In a few short years at most I must lie down in the grave and leave it all forever. Young man, you have no cause to envy me."

© Stories for preachers

## ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. dwelling place
2. You. . . God
3. number. . . days
4. cover. . . wings
5. worship. . . bow down

## NOTICE BOARD

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Parish concluded its AGM on Sunday, 30th April.

#### **PCC members from April 2006 are :**

Charles Murphy, Peter Green, Grace Macauley, Sheila Wheeler, Richard Mercer, Mervin Bentham, Emma Faulkner, Iyabo Agbelusi, Granville Watson, Luke Anand, Ade Osibona and Funmi Haggerty.

**Church Wardens: Peter Green and Charles Murphy**  
**Secretary: Sheila Wheeler**  
**Hon. Treasurer: Grace Macauley**

#### **Sidespersons:**

Roger Topping, Sheila Wheeler, Janet Benjamin, Elizabeth Jackson, Vera Freeburne, Emma Faulkner, Jim Jenks, Jasmine Green, Beverley Evans, Janet Abdulai, Lisa Miller, Granville Watson, Luke Anand, Mervin Bentham, Janet Crawford, Pat Meadows, Iyabo Agbelusi, Desiree Lukomona, Tolu Agbelusi, and Uniformed Organisations

### CHURCH FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH

The new date fixed for the church family photograph is the **18th June 2006**, after the morning's family service. Make sure you are there. This will remove the conflict that arose with the BBQ event of July 16th!

### THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with A, B.

Abdulai Janet; Adeneye Lolade; Agbelusi Tolu, Bolurin, Sope Dele and Iyabo; Aiyegbusi Olufunke; Alvis Daisy; Anand Luke and Renu; Angus George; Banfield Fiona; Banfield-Nwachi Joy; Benda Nathaniel, Benjamin Janet, Becessar Devin; Beckford Glen; Bentham Mervin and Anita; Billot Natasha; Botterill Allan and Patricia ; Burrell Cecil; Byron Barbara .

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

The Church is comprised of a farmer ploughing in a field, a housewife at the kitchen sink, a student in a classroom, a mechanic in a garage, a businessman at his desk, a factory worker at a machine...Wherever there is a heart that is redeemed and beats in unison with the heart of Christ—there a part of the Church exists. The Church is people—people who share the love of Jesus.

Selwyn Hughes.

### **Gleanings from “The purpose driven life” by Rick Warren**

- Worship is far more than music. For many people, worship is just a synonym for music. They say, “ At our church we have the worship first, and then the teaching.” This is a big misunderstanding. Every part of a church service is an act of worship: praying, Scripture reading, singing, confession, silence, being still, listening to a sermon, taking notes, giving an offering, baptism, communion, signing a commitment card, and even greeting other worshippers. Actually, worship predates music. Adam worshiped in the Garden of Eden, but music isn’t mentioned until Genesis 4:21 with the birth of Jubal. If worship were just music, then all who are non-musical could never worship. Worship is far more than music.
- Worship is far more than praising, singing, and praying to God. Worship is a lifestyle of enjoying God, loving him, and giving ourselves to be used for his purposes. When you use your life for God’s glory, everything you do can become an act of worship.
- The way you see your life shapes your life. How you define life determines your destiny. Your perspective will influence how you invest your time, spend your money, use your talents, and value your relationships.

## BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. "Lord, You have been our \_\_\_\_\_ in all generations." (Ps. 90: 1). *Psalm 90 is perhaps the oldest of psalms in the Psalter, having been written by Moses.*
2. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_." (Ps. 90:2).
3. "So teach us to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Ps. 90:12).  
*In light of the brevity of life the believer must make every minute count for the Lord.*
4. "He shall \_\_\_\_\_ you with His feathers, And under His \_\_\_\_\_ you shall take refuge." (Ps. 91:4).  
*As a mother bird protects her young from all danger, so the Lord protects the psalmist from all that might harm him.*
5. "Oh come, let us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker." (Ps. 95:6).  
(Answers on page 6)

### Untangle yourself from an emotional affair (Continued from page 5)

For whatever reason, the **OP** settled for the initial and superficial satisfaction of those longings, versus deepening and maturing them. This is not your fault. Many times it is the result of a combination of circumstances: work, school, family, and so on. But the exciting thing is now you both can go deeper in your love for each other. Last, both of you will eventually forget the other partner. The memories of this experience will fade in the same way that a widow or widower forgets about the loss of a good first marriage if the second marriage is a pleasant experience. It is possible to rebuild after an emotional affair has been discovered. Work through these steps and you will make progress. This is the kind of stuff emotional intimacy is built on, and that is the key to any good marriage.

# LAUGHTER LINES

## LETTERS FROM CHILDREN TO THEIR MINISTER

“Dear Vicar...



- I know God loves everybody but then He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. (Age 8)
- Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been good all week. I am Peter Peterson. Yours sincerely, Pete. (Age 9)
- My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. Robert Anderson. (age 11)
- I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my pocket money. Could you have a sermon about raise in my pocket money? Love, Patty. (age 10)
- I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. Stephen. (Age 8)

## HEARING IS NOT BELIEVING

A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home."

## CREATION

- Why did God create man before woman?  
He didn't want any advice.
- Why did God create man before woman?  
Because it's always good to have a rough draft before you create your masterpiece.

Submitted by Richard Mercer

# LAUGHTER LINES

## FAITH

A minister tried to illustrate the difference between fact and faith. He hit upon a brilliant analogy that involved the congregation to which he was speaking. He said, "It is indeed a fact that you are sitting in the pews. It is also a fact that I am standing behind this pulpit. But it is only by faith that I believe any of you are listening to me."

The Happy Clergy, Herb Walker, 1977, p. 14

Dr. J. M. Buckley, a Methodist preacher, was once asked to conduct what they used to call in those days an "experience meeting" at a church in the South. That was a meeting similar to a testimony meeting such as we sometimes have today. A woman arose and bore witness to the preciousness of her religion as light bringer and comfort giver. "That's good, sister!" commented Dr. Buckley. "But now about the practical side, the positive side. Does your religion make you strive to prepare your husband a good dinner? Does it make you look after him in every way?" Just then Dr. Buckley felt a yank at his coat tails by the host preacher, who whispered ardently, "Press those questions, doctor; press those questions. That's my wife!" Does our faith show by what we do for others?

Stories for preachers

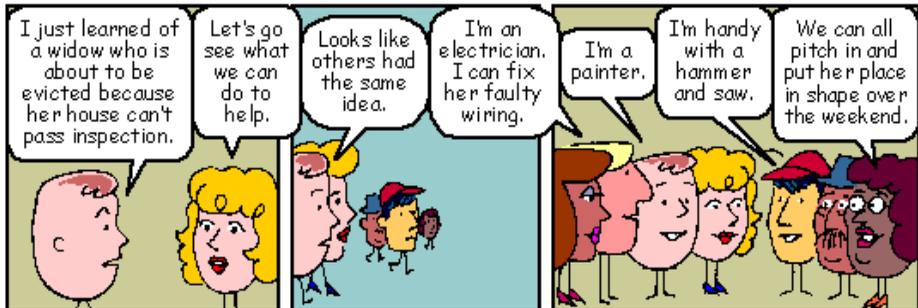
## PRAYER WITH AN ACCENT

As song leader for my church in New Hampshire, I was preparing for Sunday. I planned on playing my guitar, but my electronic tuner was missing. "Maybe I left it in the car," I thought.

Heading to the garage, I asked the Lord out loud to help me find my "tuner." Nothing was on the back seat of the car, but when I reached under the front seat out rolled a can of tuna.

My husband followed my laughter to the garage. "Honey," I said, "The Lord definitely heard my prayer--New England accent and all." -- Sandy Pastor, Pelham, New Hampshire. Christian Reader, "Lite Fare

# PURE RELIGION



## WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

A little boy had to write a report for school, so he went to his mother and asked, "Mom, where did I come from?" Surprised at hearing such a question from her child, the mother discreetly answered, "Um, the stork brought you."

"And where did YOU come from?" the boy continued. "Well, the stork brought me, just like he brought you. Now go to your room. No more questions, please."

But the boy persisted. "What about Grandma? Where did Grandma come from?" "Look, the stork brought Grandma, the stork brought me, the stork brought you! Now go to your room. I do not want to talk about this any more!"

So the little boy went to his room and began writing his report. "Our family hasn't had a normal birth in three generations..."

Hmm

Do you ever wonder how you got here? The world sometimes gives you answers that are about as stupid as "the stork brought you." Don't believe it. You didn't get here by accident. You're not just a highly developed monkey. The Bible tells us that you were "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).

Reducing the mysteries of the universe to something that we can measure is like parents telling small children tall tales so they'll stop asking questions. Don't let tall tales invented in the name of science rob you of your faith. No one knows exactly how God did it, but we know that God created everything, including you and me—and he knows each of us by name. Not only that, he loves and desires a personal relationship with each person he has created. He wants to have a personal relationship with you.

Will you accept His offer of reconciliation and friendship?

## STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTIONS

### **What kind of bad habits do you struggle with?**

Most people think that when they come to Christ, their bad habits will magically disappear. That couldn't be further from the truth. Christians or not, we are all humans, and people make mistakes. People have bad habits but their attitudes to them is what shows who they are. The very fact that you are concerned about it is a good sign. The people who won't admit they have a problem are those who should worry.

Everyone, at one time or another, struggles with some type of bad habit or addiction. Maybe it's shopping too much, smoking, drinking alcohol, pornography, coffee, sweets, etc. People don't want others to know about their problems, so they hide them in the closet, hoping no one will ever find out about their secret. When a problem is hidden in the dark, it will continue to haunt you. But once it is brought into the light—that is when you will be able to overcome it.

A bad habit or addiction is anything that robs you of your time with God—that you feel you must hide, that hurts your health or the health of others or is against the Word of God.

It is important that we guard what we are feeding the gates of our heart—our eyes, ears and mouth with.

### **How do you overcome the bad habits and addictions in your life?**

#### **1. Repent.**

If we didn't struggle with problems in life, there would be no reason to repent. However, we do; so we must ask God to forgive us for our wrongdoings. He is a gracious God who promises to forgive us when we repent. The mistake most of us make is in hiding our sin from God. Run to God when you slip in your recovery. Run to Him when you sin, because He is on your side. He is not sitting up in Heaven, waiting to pounce on you anytime you make a mistake. That is not who He is. God is love, not hate.

#### **2. Ask God For Help.**

God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. Think about that for a moment

(continued on page 15)

## STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTIONS (from page 14)

In our times of weakness, we can count on God to be strong for us. If we team up with God, we can conquer anything. Romans 8:37 promises that *"we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."* and Philippians 4:13 states that *"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."* Without Him beating a bad habit is like digging yourself out of the bottom of the Grand Canyon. It's an uphill battle.

**3. Make A Decision.** "I will" –when said together, those two words can be the strongest words in the English language. Why? Because they denote choice. Even in the Garden of Eden, we find humans making their own choices. Eve could have chosen not to talk to the serpent. She could have decided not to eat the fruit. Adam could have refused the fruit when Eve offered it to him. Every day we make choices. Every day we make up our minds to do the right thing or to do the wrong thing. So, we must train ourselves to choose the right option. Whenever you have to choose between right and wrong, take a moment and determine which the wrong option is and which the right is. If you don't know, ask yourself what would happen if you picked a certain option. If it would result in someone being hurt or in something that is contrary to God's Word, it is the wrong choice.

**4. Find Someone To Talk To.** When we leave things in the dark, they continue to have a hold over us. In order to stop this cycle, we must find someone to whom we can confess our habits and addictions. Once it is out in the open, then we begin to heal in that area of our life. Make sure to find someone you can trust to talk to. You don't want your sins to be broadcast all over your church, your neighbourhood or your school. Instead, go to your minister, youth pastor, parents, school counsellor or a close friend.

Expose your bad habits and addictions to God's light, and you will be amazed at how quickly they will crumble under the heat.— D.A.

adapted from Annagail Lynes

Motto /Text for the year  
"I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES  
ME STRENGTH" *PHIL. 4:13*

## FINDING OUT ABOUT ...CHRIST CHURCH?

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

We are a family of men and women, boys and girls who are trying to live for God in a world that has largely chosen to ignore Him.

We believe that it is God's world and that He has given the answer to all human problems in Jesus Christ.

As a body of believers, we offer to all who come regular opportunities for worship and service that point the way to God as our strongest resources in all aspects of life.

We will be pleased to welcome you to any of our activities. You will find a warm welcome at Christ Church.

### Times of worship and fellowship are shown below:

- Sunday** - **8.00am.** Holy Communion ( Book of Common Prayer)  
- **10.30am.** Main service with Crèche facilities

There is family/parade service once every month– usually the third Sunday of the month unless otherwise indicated.

- **6.00pm.** Evening worship

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

- Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon** ) -Term time only  
- Brownies meeting in Church ( **5.30 pm** )  
Prayer meeting 22nd May, 5th June, 19th June (**8pm**)
- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:30pm**)
- Friday - Home Group at Flat 10, 3 Waverley Road, N8 ( **2.30 pm** )  
- Scouts meeting in church and hall (**6.00 pm**)

Enquiry/Counselling - please phone 020 8340 1566

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**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

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