

# church of Christ at Alisal

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## FIRM IN FAITH Ed Smithson

In the days of Ahaz, King of Judah, God sent Ahaz a message through the prophet Isaiah concerning the future of the Jewish people. He told the King that that in 65 years “Ephraim will be broken into pieces so that it will no longer be a people.” (Isa. 7:8 ESV) Then God said to Ahaz through Isaiah, “If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.” (Isa. 7:9 ESV)

We know that faith is necessary to be pleasing to God. (Heb. 11:1-3) And faith cometh by hearing the word of God. (Rom. 10:17) But that faith must be firm. James spoke of an uncertain faith. “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:6-8 ESV)

“Firm in faith” is the foundation of Christianity. Because if one is not firm in faith, he will not be firm in anything else. His lack of faith will undermine all the attributes of living life as a Christian. There are a lot of people in this world, who are not members of the Lord’s church, that are always praying for things. But they have not the faith in God that is required to have those prayers answered.

Lack of firmness of faith translates to lack of action:

It means lack of performing good works which we are saved to do. (2 Cor. 9:8; Rom. 2:10; Eph. 2:10; Phil. 1:6 and others.)

It means we will not have faith to preach/teach gospel into “all the world.” (Matt. 28:20; Mark 16:16; Luke 24:46-47)

**It will cause the saints to fail to attend the assembly. (Heb. 10:25)**

(Brother Smithson left this life on June 30, 2018 -RIP)



### From the Morro Bay church bulletin last week...

We would like to officially welcome DAVID & VICKI RYAL back home! After spending the past 2 ½ months at Stanford they have been able to come home. David is doing great. He will still need to make monthly visits to Stanford, but will get to be home now. He meets more milestones each day. We are so thankful that he has come so far and we pray that he will be able to continue to move forward in the coming months. Please continue to keep both of them in your daily prayers.

~ Please keep David and Vicki Ryal in your prayers~



*Ahh, summer time...*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

### MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.  
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

# Welcome

**Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!**



Jordan

## This Week's Sermon's

**A.M. - Looking in the Mirror**

**P.M. - Various types of Heart**



### Approaching The Throne Of Grace

Bruce Ligon

Prayer is one of the avenues God has prescribed for our worship. As we pray unto Him, we give praise and adoration to Him, we express thanksgiving, we confess our shortcomings and sins, we beg His tender mercies, we present out our requests, and we seek His providential protection. In a psalm that is ascribed to Solomon, the attentive nature of our Father, when we come to Him, is vividly described, "For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper" (Ps. 72:12). Charles Spurgeon, in *The Treasury of David*, makes this helpful comment: "A child's cry touches a father's heart, and our King is the Father of his people. If we can do no more than cry it will bring omnipotence to our aid."

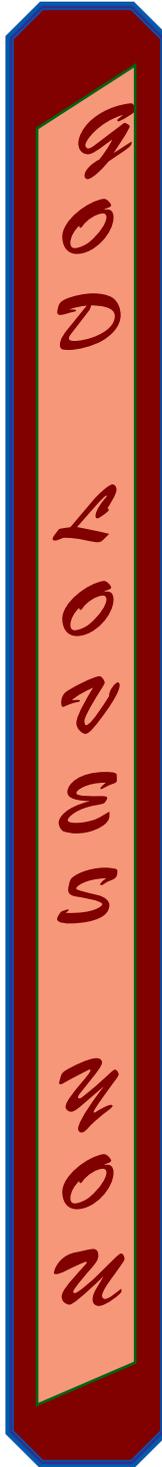
In helping us to realize in a greater way the privilege of prayer, the following exhortation should thrill us,

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

Our prayers should never be characterized by timidity. We are invited to come before our Father with "confidence." We do not have to wonder if God desires our coming to Him. We are given the exalted privilege of being a royal priesthood (I Pet. 2:5). One application of this blessing is that we can "draw near to the throne of grace".

I believe one gauge of a congregation's devotion to spiritual worship is in the emphasis given to prayer. As the congregation is assembled for worship, the time devoted to prayer should never be seen as rote, routine, or ritualistic. As the assigned brother leads the assembly in prayer, you and I are to involve ourselves by fervent concentration. Each of us has the responsibility of being spiritually and mentally involved in the prayer being lead.

Imagine you were in a small group of people who had an audience with a high governmental official. How attentive would you be to what was taking place and being said in this meeting? Most certainly, you would not be thinking about something that needed to be done later in the day or week. The reason you would be giving your



greatest possible concentration would be due to the respect of the office of the governmental official. But I am afraid that sometimes when we come together for worship our great God in the assembly, we may find it easy to let our minds wander as we are being lead in prayer.

The following are some suggestions that I hope will help us as we come together and collectively pray in the assembly:

#### 1. We must prepare ourselves.

When we turn on a light switch instantly the light is shining. But you and I do not have a worship "switch" that we can turn on, and instantly we are worshipping. Worship without preparation will result in worship that is mundane and heartless. One helpful exercise is to meditate on the holiness of God. One passage that aids us in directing our thoughts is Psalm 33:20-21, "Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name."

#### 2. Anticipate the privilege and joy of worship.

The enthusiastic attitude of David toward worship is seen in his exclamation, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Ps. 122:1). When we pillow our head on Saturday night, the last thought we have before we drift off to sleep should be on the privilege that awaits us the next morning. Then when we awake in the morning, our anticipation should be even greater!

#### 3. Enter the worship service with a deep sense of reverence and awe.

Psalm 96:4 reminds us, "For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised." In one of his books on worship, Tom Holland recounts the thoughts of one brother regarding how we should approach worship. The following is a paraphrase of his comments: We should imagine God is seated on a throne at the front of the auditorium, receiving our praise and adoration.

### Announcements

1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Wednesday evening class, "Romans - chapter 4 #3". Be prepared - bring your notebook!

~ On the Prayer list ~

- Beverly** - for a safe return from her cruise and good health.
- Norma, Rose** - for peace of mind, healing, and better health.
- Kerry** - for permanent job placement with the USDA

**Have a blessed week!**