

A GOOD LIFE

Let us put our faith in God and live our Christian lives to the fullest extent possible.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ 1 Samuel 1 begins the story of a boy born as the result of the gut-wrenching prayer of his mother (vv. 10-11).
- ❖ His mother made a lifetime vow on his behalf: that no razor would ever touch his hair. Everyone who saw him would immediately know that he had been wholly separated and devoted to God. (See *Nazarite vow*, Numbers 6:1-21.)
- ❖ But just because his mother dedicated him to God didn't mean Samuel would automatically live out the requirements of that dedication. (For example, Eli's sons blatantly disregard their positions as priests, living horribly sinful and ungodly lives (1 Sam. 2:12-17; 2:27-34)).
- ❖ In response to Hannah's dedication and Samuel's willingness to LIVE IT as his mom desired, the scriptures state that
...Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.²¹ Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD. (1 Sam. 3:19-21)
- ❖ For historical and current examples of Christians who decided to LIVE IT, let's look at two pastors: George Müller and Francis Chan.
- ❖ George Müller lived in the 1800s in Germany and studied divinity due to his father's desire for him to earn a lucrative salary as a clergyman of the state church (not an unusual career path in a culture that saw pastoring mainly as a professional option).
- ❖ As he studied for ministry, Müller continued to live as he was used to (which included lying, gambling, drinking and stealing), until he was introduced by a classmate to a Bible study group where, for the first time, he heard the gospel and began to understand that Jesus actually intended His followers to *live* according to His Word.
- ❖ Within a week of his first attending the Bible study, he knelt by his bed and asked God to forgive, help and bless him.
- ❖ Later in his life he began the institutions for which he is best known – his orphanages. The wonder for many is that he refused to ask for financial support for the building or upkeep of the orphanages or their occupants. He trusted in God, prayed, and God repeatedly provided for his needs.
- ❖ On one occasion, knowing that there was no food for the orphanage's 300 children, he had them sit at the meal tables, thanked God for the food and waited.
- ❖ First, a baker, robbed of sleep the previous night by a strong urge to bake bread for the orphanage, showed up with the bread he had baked.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

1 Samuel 1:10-11, 1:28, 3:19-21

- ❖ Then the milkman's cart broke down in front of the orphanage and he knew the milk would spoil before the cart could be fixed. He asked Müller if he would take the 10 large cans of milk – which were just enough for the 300 children.
- ❖ Now, let's move forward to the 21st century and meet Francis Chan. A megachurch pastor at the time, he was helping to organize a conference designed to feed and care for the homeless of San Francisco.
- ❖ Two days before the food distribution event, it became known that there was no meat to provide for the 10,000 meals they were supposed to provide – and zero funding. They brainstormed solutions and prayed.
- ❖ About an hour later, they received a strange call from Trader Joe's [Supermarket] explaining that their freezers had suddenly quit. They asked if the conference could use all of their meat.
- ❖ Soon a U-Haul [truck] arrived filled with enough steak, chicken, and pork chops to feed 10,000 people.
- ❖ And (amazing to anyone who doesn't know God) Chan later related to a conference audience that this **exact** scenario replayed itself the following year.
- ❖ As we read in Job 5:9, God is more than willing and able to do "great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number."
- ❖ You may be an older adult like Moses, or you may be a child like Samuel. You may be a teenager like Joseph, or you may be an intellectual like Paul. It doesn't matter.
- ❖ We all have the opportunity before us to "LIVE IT!" To live a good life, as God gives us desire, insight and wisdom into His will.
(For references, see Announcements page.)

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Discuss/compare the faith(fulness) of Hannah, Samuel, George Müller and Francis Chan.
2. Are the people mentioned in #1 examples of a special kind of believer? Should they be? (How common is faith like theirs among the Christians you know and/or know of?)
3. Whether it is being faithful to a Christian life-style or trusting God to provide, in what area(s) of your life do you find it easiest/challenging to "Live It"? Share and pray for one another.

PRAYER TIME

Jesus, please help my decisions to reflect that I truly live my life for You. In Your name, amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What is your favourite (advertisement or other) slogan and why?

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/weprayatfaithsanctuary/>
PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. Ministries: Departments, Directors, and participants



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

(References: 1) <https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/church-history-for-kids/george-mueller-orphanages-built-by-prayer1634869.html>
2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_M%C3%BCller
3) <https://www.facebook.com/458039131328595/posts/this-is-the-first-of-a-series-of-posts-concerning-miracles-that-have-occurred-in/473693666429808/>)

Living by faith in Jesus above

Trusting, confiding in His great love

From all harm safe in His sheltering arm

I'm living by faith and feel no alarm

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES:

Bible Study – 10:15 a.m.

Morning service – 11:00 a.m.)

- o Go to www.faithsanctuary.com >click "livestream" link (or type in www.faithsanctuary.com/live)
- o Go to www.youtube.com >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- o Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- o Call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone access

Berean Bible Study: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Facebook and Zoom)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JANUARY 24, 2021

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

Hebrews 11:13 NKJV

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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