



The Anchor



A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Easter Issue

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast..." Hebrews 6:19

April 2013



From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



This quarter I would like to write on a simple subject that is many times both overlooked and under practiced. Through the years, I have observed God's people failing to give Him thanks for their daily provisions of food. I've made some trips to farms over the years and have observed pigs being fed. I've seen the food placed out before them and have watched as they gobbled it up. But I have never seen a pig pray over his food before he eats it. I want to encourage each of us to thank God for the food He places before us. I've entitled my article, **"Do Pigs Pray?"**

The Provider

I would not expect the unbeliever to offer

thanks to the Lord for his food. He has not humbled himself and acknowledged his dependence on God for salvation so why would he give thanks to the Lord for a meal that he probably thinks he has worked for and earned. But the Christian knows the Lord and that He is the ultimate Provider for the food on the table. God proclaims this through His prophet, *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater"* (Isaiah 55:9-10). It is God who gives to man the mind, the strength to work, and the job. Solomon says, *"Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God"* (Ecclesiastes 5:19). So it is

God who sustains us. Our prayers of thanksgiving ought to go to Him before we eat. Jesus taught His disciples to acknowledge the Father as the Provider, *"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread"* (Matthew 6:9-11). Don't take your daily provision from God for granted. Pray before you eat - don't just pig out.

The Pattern

Offering thanksgiving for food before a meal is the pattern found in the Bible. Matthew records that before the multitudes ate of the miraculous multiplying of the loaves and fishes, Jesus gave thanks, *"And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude"* (Matthew 14:17-19). Before the meal at the Lord's Supper, Jesus asked the blessing as recorded by Paul, *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord*



Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

Paul instructed Pastor Timothy about those demonic doctrines that forbid the eating of certain foods by saying all could be eaten if properly given thanks for, "Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving" (1 Timothy 4:3-4). The Apostle Paul's pattern was to call upon churches to be thankful to the Lord: in Thessalonica, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thes.5:18); in Ephesus, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph.5:20); in Colosse, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col.3:17); in Corinth, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor.9:8-11). There's no praying pattern in the pig pen. How is it around your table?

The Portrait

When a Christian prays for his food before eating, is it a beautiful portrait of a soul humbling themselves in gratitude before their God. Whether it be praying before a meal in public (like Jesus did) or at home in private, it depicts the Christian as totally dependent upon their Sustainer. The prayer is not to be done to draw attention to the Christian, but it is a testimony to all who see, including the unsaved. David said, "Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen" (2 Samuel 22:50). It is also a testimony and teaching moment for the newly saved and

children. Taking a moment to pause and give thanks before a meal pictures the child of God dependent on the daily allotment of food from their heavenly Father (Proverbs 30:8-9). Pigs have the same Creator as man. But they have no soul. They are not made in the image of God. Do pigs pray before they eat their food? Probably not! Do Christians pray before they eat, I hope so!

YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

Forsaking All

And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him." Luke 5:11

Peter sets a great example for us. We find in this passage a great miracle of fishes that the disciples had brought up on Jesus' command. Even though some of them had been already called to follow after Christ, we still find them fishing. The Bible says that "the people pressed upon Him to hear the Word of God." The people were literally imposing on Christ to teach them. He saw two ships and asked Simon Peter to take Him out a little ways from the shore. Jesus taught the people from there.

When He finished teaching, the Bible tells us that He turned to Peter and tells him to "let down his nets for a draught." Simon, being his usual belligerent self, told Jesus that they had already fished all night and caught nothing. Peter said he would do it anyway. The next thing he knows, Peter has too many fish for his boat to hold. He called for partners to come and help him, but there were still too many fish.

After Peter experienced this, we see a complete change in his attitude towards Christ. He seeks forgiveness on his knees from Christ. Christ responds by saying this to Peter, "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." (verse 10) But Peter did not only ask for forgiveness, he also acted upon what Christ had said to him. Verse eleven tells us that "they forsook all and followed Him." God expects this from every person, and especially from those in whose hearts, or in whose behalf, He has wrought a miracle of grace and of salvation. Christ called them to go forth with the Gospel, and with His power, that they might teach

the ignorant, and be successful in their work.

The key to this is forsaking all. We cannot have God's power if we decide to keep petty things in our lives. This is what the writer of Hebrews addresses in chapter twelve verse one and two, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." We must lay aside, or forsake the things that hold us back from serving Christ. For Peter, this meant that he had to give up fishing. For each person, it will be different. Jesus puts it this way in Matthew 16:24, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." If we really want to serve Christ, we must be willing to forsake all. We cannot truly follow and serve Him if we decide to keep part of our self back.

He made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Will you make the ultimate sacrifice for Him? Romans 12:1-2 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

A Woman's Window

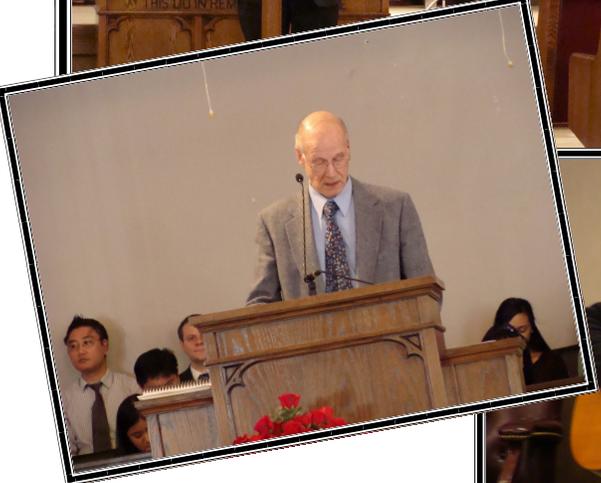
Mrs. Debbie Adams

Recipe For Life

Have you ever made a dish and decided to add something not listed in the recipe? Was it because you thought it might turn out better? Or, have you added that extra can of this or that to s-t-r-e-t-c-h the dish? I have done these things and I've found that I usually am disappointed with the results. I then try my best to repair the dish so that it can still be received and eaten by my family. They will usually be nice and eat my creation anyway and hope that I won't try that recipe again! For a successful dish, I have found that it's best to follow the ingredient's list in the recipe book.

When it comes to the Bible, there is a recipe for success for the Christian. It's

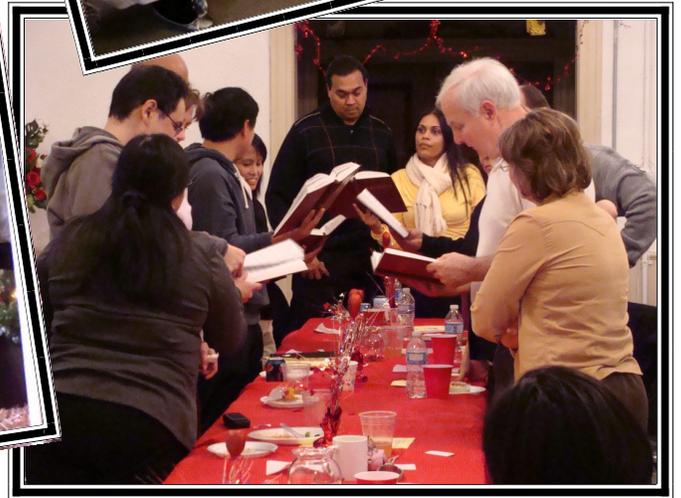
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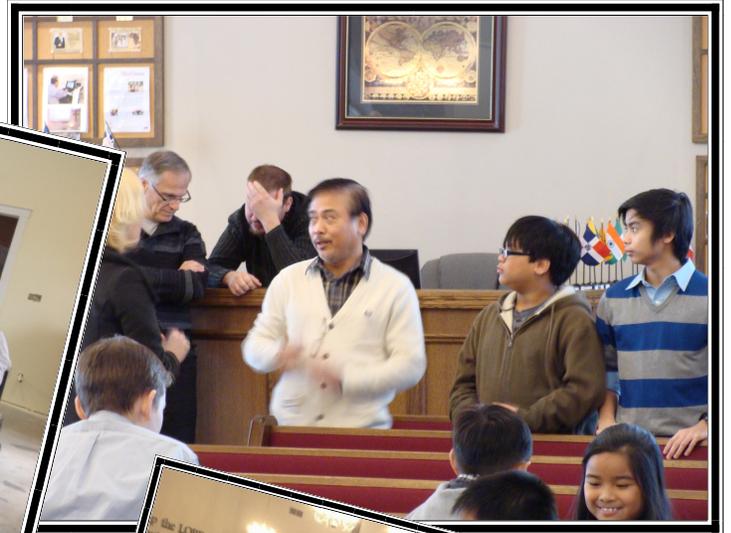


MEMORIES OF



2012





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from Joshua 1:8, *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”*

To cook up a good, successful life, follow God’s recipe in Joshua 1:8. Don’t add any new ingredients and surely don’t take any away. Follow the directions and it will lead to a spiritually well-balanced life.

Foundations In Education

Daniel Bousquet
VBCA Principal

I am pleased to announce that information packets for Vaughan Baptist Christian Academy are now available. Please see me at church to pick up a packet or to ask any questions you might have. As you may have heard, we have decided to offer a special introductory tuition rate of \$2,900.

Renovations on the new school room are continuing to move forward, with progress being made on the chair rail and wall trim project. Please continue to pray that money would come in for flooring. We are hoping to complete the room by late spring.

Faith

Blair Cassidy

We must consider the design of God as it pertains to salvation. God’s plan of salvation was foreordained before the world began. Before man’s wickedness, before man sinned, before there was all the devastation that we see and hear around us God had a plan, God had a solution. I just heard on the radio, in a 5-minute sound bite that a prostitute was pistol whipped and robbed, a 17-year-old had been convicted of distributing child

pornography and a truck filled with fireworks caught on fire exploded and killed 11 people. This was all in a few minutes while I was out getting coffee. What is the answer to this sin-stained world, what is the answer to all of this madness and destruction that is prevalent in the world? FAITH. Faith is the answer, the only answer. This is God’s divine design from eternity. 1 Jn 5:4 *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

The world tells us: just believe in something, believe in a higher power, believe in yourself, believe in what makes you feel good, believe in what makes you happy. God forbid this kind of complete nonsense! This is the devil’s counterfeit of faith. Faith is what saves us; faith is what gives us hope. Faith is the medium by which God’s amazing saving grace is imparted to us. No hell, no sin, no suffering, no hunger, no thirst, and no pain is promised to all who have faith. Freedom from selfishness, freedom from lust, anger, religion, freedom from lies and error all through faith.

One act of faith, one act of true faith places us in the security of Jesus for all of time and eternity. We are born into God’s family through faith. Gal 3:26 *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”* When asked by those who were following Him, *“What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?”* Jesus gave this astounding response, *“This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”* Not very complicated! No list of external rules, no organization that you must belong to. One requirement and one only – Faith, faith in Jesus, He whom God hath sent.

Faith in Jesus, true faith form the heart, from the seat of our affection, from the center of our being opens our eyes, translates us from the darkness to light, from the power of Satan to the power of God, from children of destruction to citizens of

heaven.

How unfathomable that God would bestow upon us eternal splendour and His holiness through one act of faith.

In regards to faith, what saith the Scriptures? Rom 10:9-10 *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* Rom 4:3 *“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”* Gal 3:6 *“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”* Jas 2:23 *“And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”*

A common misconception of faith is that faith is believing in the impossible. The more you believe in something that could not possibly or rationally be true the more you are thought to have strong faith. Believing in the impossible is an element of faith, but this is more like a small element of faith that grows more and more insignificant as your faith grows. Faith is knowing who God is, faith is knowing what God has done, what God has said, and what God will do in the future. This makes the impossible a part of your daily life. Having faith in Jesus makes you realize that with God the impossible is no longer a factor. The impossible is possible.

The most concise definition of faith is given by God and speaks for itself. Heb 11:1 *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* Let faith control you, let your faith in Christ be the cornerstone of your life. The belief, the substance, the evidence of things not seen is faith. John 14:1 *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”* Eph 2:8 *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”* AMEN! God has a plan. God has a solution... **FAITH.**

TESTIMONY

A Personal Testament
Evelyn Pingol

I was the youngest of 6 siblings and was the baby in the family and was treated as such. When I was 17, I met a pastor and his wife who were instrumental to my getting saved. I then met a group of young people who later became my dearest friends. They were so dedicated to the Lord and they encouraged me to attend the Christian youth meetings and prayer meetings. When I turned 20, I moved to Canada with my parents to join my sister and her family. Life became so different from what I was used to. I had to look for a job and be an adult.

I knew I had to find a church where I could grow and be with Christians. I think I attended two churches in Scarborough but I felt so uncomfortable that I gave up. That was always the reason I gave but I believe



Announcements and Events

Over the past several months, in spite of the cold, winter weather, our soul winning ministry is ablaze. The Lord has truly worked in the lives of many of our people and we have seen our Tuesday night teams triple in number. This is also our discipleship night with newer Christians being disciplined. Because of the cold, we have been taking a group and doing person-to-person soul winning at Vaughan Mills Mall.

We have been blessed with a great number of visitors coming out for church services, including Wednesday evenings. Folks have been saved and a large baptismal night is planned for April. Also, a work team from BIML, led by Missionary Phil Smith, took two weeks and transformed our old sanctuary into a one-room schoolhouse. These men sacrificed many hours and dedicated themselves to helping us prepare for the opening of our Christian school in September. To God be the glory!



Our Schedule of Services

MINISTRIES ON SUNDAY

Sunday School
 for all ages 10:00 am
 Morning Worship 11:00 am
 Evening Service 6:00 pm

We have fully staffed and supervised nurseries at all services.

MINISTRIES ON WEDNESDAY

Bible Study and
 Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

We are an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church, located in the heart of Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. The Church is located 5 minutes north of Metropolitan Toronto and 20 minutes from Toronto Pearson International Airport, and only a 40 minute drive from downtown Toronto.

William E. Adams, D.Min.,
 Senior Pastor
James Hird, B.Th.,
 Youth Pastor

THE ANCHOR

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Would you like to share your testimony? Do you have a special story, event, prayer request or any other information you would like to share with your church family? Please contact us at the church office by phone or email.

now that was just my excuse to be away from the Lord. I was curious and wanted to experience the world. I was earning money; I got to dress up, and felt like a grown up for the first time in my life. I was content.

After living in Canada for 5 years, my Dad passed away very suddenly of heart attack. I didn't really get to mourn him very much as my attention, same with the rest of my family, was on our mother. She just had a bypass surgery six months before and we were so worried that she would not be able cope and also suffer a heart attack. She was very sick but my sisters and I took care of our mother but for a while it was only my mom and I who were living together as both my sisters had their own families. She became the center of my attention. I was content.

In January 2007, my mom died. The Lord finally got my attention. I felt so guilty because I didn't get to tell her that I loved her but most of all, I didn't pray with her. There were so many opportunities to tell her that in order for her to get saved, she only needed Christ, not Mary, or any other saints that she was told of all her life. She was born Catholic and practiced it.

That was when I decided to ask for forgiveness, for Christ to take me back. I knew I had to find a Bible believing church so my Christian faith would not waiver but be strengthened. The Lord has led me to this church, Vaughan Baptist Church. This was the first church I visited as I had 3 lined up. I felt so welcomed that I knew I didn't have to go anywhere else. It has been a blessed 6 years of learning and growing since I joined this church. As David had written in Psalm 51:12, the Lord has restored to me the joy of His salvation.

I live in hope that somehow my parents got saved and that I will see them again in heaven. My prayer for all... I pray that it will not take a tragedy for the Lord to get our attention and that if an opportunity exists to save a person, we will not waste it.

