



The Historic **CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH** *of Dover, Delaware*

Established 1884

The Place Where Life Begins

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Greetings, CBC Family and Friends,

Perhaps you have entered a challenging season – death, illness, lack of opportunity, compassion fatigue, career changes, etc. It is these times of life that can rattle our faith in God. “Rattled faith” is no reflection of a lack of faith; it is simply part of the human experience. It is crucial to understand that point to prevent the enemy from turning our realities into distractions – or worse, making good on his intention to kill, steal, and destroy.

Let us be clear - it is one thing to say that you have faith; however, it is an entirely different thing to walk by faith. If faith without works is dead, we need to be actively engaged in perfecting our faith. How do we do that? Every situation that challenges us is an opportunity to work on ourselves, whether that means being truthful about how we feel at that moment or looking at our situation through a different lens. Authentic growth is not possible when we are not honest.

But how do we hold on to that faith throughout everything we go through in life? We have to set our minds on the things above (Colossians 3:2). We have been erroneously told that just because we believe in God, go to church, or do our best to be our best will somehow avert life's challenges. I am so sorry to tell you that it does not work like that. I will, however, tell you that because you do those things, how you go through challenges is much different than it is for those who try to handle their lives without God and the fellowship of the church.

Making a conscious effort to be faithful to God keeps us away from superficial efforts to be happy. As has been said, money can buy you a house but not a home, a place but not peace, food but not an appetite, thrills but not joy, and flattery but not respect.

So, what makes people give up? The loss of focus. The moment overwhelms us and becomes bigger than God. Of course, it is not intentional; it is just the truth. Our minds are no longer set on things above. Losing that focus leaves a vacant space that doubt cannot wait to fill. However, when we fill our thoughts with heavenly things, then a life with God will become the most important thing to us, and the result is that we will strive to be faithful in every situation of life.

So, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23.

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