

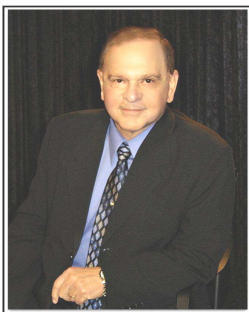
the Informer newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PCAI & PCAI CLERGY ASSOCIATION
PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL
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LEADERS EXPECT CRITICISM BECAUSE THEY LEAD

BY Dr. Henry A. Harbuck / PCAI Int'l President & General Overseer

Some people feel they are clever or great. But criticism has the power to destroy them and cause them to crash. Criticism is a powerful tool in the hands of parents, corporate bosses, pastors, lovers, mean-spirited people, and congregational members. Probably “criticism” is the greatest power in the hands of an enemy. Because human beings become conditioned



by a constant pattern of enforcement through repetition, frequent criticism tends to be a popular way for “control freaks” to control a good leader. A smart leader must be careful by evaluating what they hear. It’s probably a good idea to consider all criticism as a tool that can be turned into something good. For example, a person may criticize you for driving a Mercedes. However, it might be smart

to examine the reasons why this person is criticizing you before you trade in your Mercedes for a Volkswagen. On the other hand, if several people have made similar comments about your car, it would be unwise to altogether ignore these negative remarks.

You may be totally destroyed if you consider every critical remark as the Gospel truth, but ignoring them is equally dangerous. It’s a good idea to have an accountability group with whom you can discuss such matters. Make sure the people in the group are objective, loving, godly, wise, and above all, have your best interest at heart. This kind of group can help you evaluate the ideas, comments, and criticisms of others within your sphere of influence. ♥♥♥



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OFFICE HOURS:
9:00AM to 4:00PM

Common Faith vs Special Faith

Taking the Simple into the Deep

By Pastor Lynn Burling / Christian Faith Church –TX Senior Pastor



(2 Cor. 1:9 AMP)

“Indeed, we felt within ourselves that we had received the sentence of death and were convinced that we would die, but this happened] so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead.”

God’s breakthroughs and changes in our lives are not the result of our anointing, but of His Resurrection Power: the God who raises the dead. When we are struggling in life, God will bring us to a special faith otherwise we are fighting only in the flesh. The first step to this special faith is to quit trusting in self. God is constantly bringing new pressure to areas of our lives to bring us to special faith! An angel had to show up for Paul, yes Paul, to remind him of a faith beyond his first initial encounter of faith in Christ. (He reminded him he had to stand before Caesar... even though Paul had lost all hope, he not only believed for himself but for all 276 souls.) We might prefer a book with “7 steps to faith” so we can be assured we can do it, but only God holds the mystery of

faith. Only He can energize and give me saving faith, healing faith, faith for finances, and faith for all life situations. God is in control and I cannot take faith and control God! I can please God but not control Him. Faith was given as a common gift to man but when it is used; it opens a continuing portal of faith to faith.

Pressure is continually coming. If you don’t know how to turn it into power by trusting God, then you self-trust and end up powerless and defeated. There is an ordinary faith given to us by God at birth—as a baby (for new birth as a believer). This ordinary **Common Faith** simply trusts that God is God. It is called the **Common Faith** in Titus 1:4 “*to Titus mine own son after the Common Faith.*” In Ephesians 4, several “ones” are mentioned; one God—one father of us all, one Lord, one baptism, one body and one faith which is the **Common Faith** that we all have. Heb. 11:6 says, *without faith it is impossible to please God.* This is the first phase of **Common Faith**, which is to believe that “God is!” Scripture says, He that believes that God is must also believe He is a rewarder. This faith has to work in us 24/7 because God is and is good and He is always working in our lives. This faith is to believe in one thing in particular. It’s there because we first activated it as a lifeline to God. This is **Common Faith** that we all have to have.

Now if we have a need like a

financial situation, praying for a child, struggling with a sin, etc., that will take God energizing us in a special faith for these things. What kind of faith? A different kind of faith Rom. 1:16-17 says is in the gospel of Christ. The One New Man Translation says (vs. 17,) “*For the righteousness of God is revealed in this coming out of faith for greater faith*” just as it has been written and the *righteous will live by faith!* My addition is living in it and by it 24/7 trusting God incessantly for all things. Weymouth translation says, “*depending on faith and tending to produce faith.*” So the “**Common Faith**” is given to be born again and God gave it to each man. (Rom. 12:3b...*According as God as dealt to every man the measure of faith*) “*With the intention not to remain only in that initial state but having experienced its mystery and revelation to further pursue with vigor the God of our faith!*” Back to Rom. 1:16,17, “*This righteousness that is revealed in it (watch this) the righteousness that He, Jesus wrought out by obeying the precepts and bearing the penalty of the Law in place of His people, by which (Here it comes.) We are justified in the sight of God; this is called the Righteousness of God which is imputed to those who lay hold on it.*” This righteousness is not known by the light of nature or by the Law of Moses. It was hidden under the shadows of ceremonial law and only brought to light by the Gospel and only made known when

believed. Some say we go from the initial faith of God, deposited to be found and believed, to the faith of men...from the faith of preachers to the faith of hearers, from the faith of the Old to the faith of the New Testament saints or from one degree of faith to another. Once discovered and brought to light in the spirit of man by the Holy Spirit, as to “Saving Faith,” and having been at that moment made righteous or made “just.” Then Romans quotes Habakkuk 2:4, “*The just shall live by faith.*” Wow! It states emphatically for therein, tucked away in plain sight for all humanity, built in to be activated by us at a defining moment of belief in Christ. Therein “the content” if you please, then brings the reaction to the initial action and this is **that...now!!** The justified shall live by faith. It’s as if the light of truth comes and testifies that there’s more where this came from!

Power comes from pressure that weakens your trust in yourself. These pressures bring you to a special faith that is able to release power. Even while we have **Common Faith**, we can have unbelief where we are in need of “special” or graduated unknown faith; this is not the evil heart of unbelief which is choosing not to believe in God! This is like the unbelief of the father of the boy needing deliverance in Mark. He said, “*Lord I believe.* (Let that soak in.) Help my

Continued on page 3

Common Faith vs Special Faith... Continued from page 2

unbelief.” Man alive, does the church ever need help in 2019 with unbelief! Help us all Lord.

“**Common Faith**” has nothing to do with believing for healing, or deliverances or finance. Don’t misquote or say, I said “It’s not faith.” This one is used for saving faith. We go from faith to faith. When David struggled and talked about his soul being cast down and then suddenly broke out praising God it was because his **Common Faith** kicked in simply knowing that God is still God. God gives us this **Common Faith** “*for by grace thru faith are we saved, not of ourselves, but a gift of God*” and that gift is enveloped in, “*We are all given the measure of faith.*” We can’t even believe unless God gives us this faith. When pressure and circumstances cause me to need special faith that too comes from God. I cannot pressure myself into believing no matter how I struggle to do so. In fact, my struggle that comes from trusting self has to stop so I can trust God instead. (2 Cor. 1:9) “We should not trust in ourselves; but in God who raised the dead.” When we want to be in control of our lives, we might think we know better than God, but we cannot come to faith thru self.

Hosea the prophet was in a crucible of domestic difficulties. God had instructed him to marry a Gentile prostitute. He did and they had a family. She was not treated well in the Jewish community and synagogue, so she left and had a child whose name meant “not pitied.” He was sending a message to Israel. “**I no longer pity you.**” “Her next child’s name meant “not my people.” God said,

“**You are not my people and I will not be your God.**” So God asked Hosea if he still loved Gomer and he did and God told him, “**That just like you took Gomer back and did not divorce her so God would do so to adulterous Israel,**” and Hosea was to go tell them. This domestic crucible required a unique faith in Hosea and God energized each step of faith to release His power for Israel. That pressure brought special faith to Hosea and also had a message for Israel. (Watch this.) **Notice here, God knew the faith he needed was to be created by God because God created the situation for Hosea and for Israel.** Get ready today, God is creating answers and solutions for you! In a lot of our situations, we see a need. We have a need and we go searching for **un-common faith** but what most of us miss is that when God sets us up and requires obedience for His Word to work in our lives, it usually involves more than just us. We wonder how we can have the faith to do this, to truly obey God. I submit to you, we may have been taught that faith is our servant and we can take faith and order life with it or that we are in command thru faith. That implies God has to respond because we are in charge of faith. However if God does not energize faith in us, all we can do is trust in ourselves and we know how that ends up.

All of us will have circumstances come into our lives that have nothing to do with our common ordinary faith, unshakable faith in Christ. That faith is settled. We know who we are in Christ and that we’re new creatures. However, experientially there is

something down in us called <FLESH-SELF> that wants to be in charge of our lives. If we were perfect, the old self would be dead and gone! But we are only perfect IN Christ; we are righteous only IN Christ. We are only a new creation IN Christ and we are sons of God IN Christ. Pressure uncovers self-love, self-ambition and self-trust. The moment God’s enabling and anointing and results become a credit to self in any way, everything shifts. We start trusting in self and self starts struggling. Then that which was flowing in the life that was of God becomes suddenly lifeless with no God results! At that point we tend to lay things down and usually want to rebuke the devil. However...when we feel cut off and dead, we need to remember if the devil can’t get us to the end of self, God can! God will bring us to a wall so high and broad that no one can get over it or around it or under it. At this point any aspect of ministry or purpose or life fulfillment that remains centered on self is exposed and we see where we trust self instead of God. **We in some way take credit for initiating the faith God dealt to every person.** The reason we have to lay things down in life is because...before we lay them down they are ours and self is boss. Moses was purposed by God to be Israel’s deliver but not through self, not through killing Egyptians one by one. No matter how strong or powerful we are we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead. And trust Him who activates the special faith for every task. We love God and have a **Common Faith** and we can trust God for any special faith needed beyond

that. Our part is to walk out pressures until power and resurrection are the end results. This is what I believe the Lord is speaking today.

Many are stirred by the Spirit and the Lord is helping you to see past today into a realm *where* you will need uncommon faith and He is saying “If you will trust Him today for this kind of faith, I am ready to equip your response.” He’s saying when you make that choice and take that step, you will receive a supernatural faith to deal with it and give you strategies you never thought existed simply because you have always had self-limitations and in doing so limited God’s intervention in these matters. Self-limitations limit God interventions. I have it on good authority today.

There are old hurts and wounds today that will disappear. They have served as reminders of times past and represented failures and have attached like leeches. **You’ve become too comfortable to the point of losing the imagination of success in God.** So when you come, don’t come “asking.” You’re coming because He has stirred up your pure mind and spirit with what is possible once again. You sense the possibility and the probable end assurance that what once was; will be no more and what will be will come and to say it will be new and exciting is an understatement. So come thanking Him and rejoicing in Him for this is the day of Great Grace upon His people and His resurrection power is available. Birds can fly because that’s what they were created to do. ♥♥♥

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church/Ministry Tax/Law Dates to Remember



In addition to the regular semiweekly and monthly withholding requirements, churches should note the following dates for this month.

Jan Harbuck - PCAI Office
Need Help? Call 1-866-268-5600

April 17—Federal income tax and self-employment tax returns by individuals for calendar year 2018 are due by this date.

Last day to file an amended federal income tax return (Form 1040) for calendar year 2018 (unless you received an extension of time to file your 2018 return).

April 29—Churches/ministries hiring their first nonminister employee between January 1 and March 31, 2018, may exempt themselves from the employer's share of Social Security and Medicare taxes by filing Form 8274 by this date (nonminister employees are thereafter treated as self-employed for Social Security purposes). The exemption is only available to churches opposed on the basis of religious principles to paying the employer's share of Social Security and Medicare taxes.

April 30—Churches/ministries with nonminister employees (or one or more ministers who report their federal income taxes as employees and who have elected voluntary withholding) must file an employer's quarterly federal tax return (Form 941) for the first calendar quarter of 2019 by this date. Enclose a check in the total amount of all payroll taxes (withheld income taxes, the withheld employee's share of Social Security taxes, and the employer's share of Social Security taxes) if these taxes were less than \$2,500 on March 31, 2019.

Keep good records!

IRS Standard Mileage Rate for 2019

- 58 cents per mile for business miles driven (up from 54.5 cents in 2018)
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes (up from 18 cents in 2018)
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations (currently fixed by Congress)

FFRF Sues Over Loss of Status

Excerpt from Church Finance Today

Nonbelief Relief, the charitable arm of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) sued the IRS claiming its tax exempt status was unfairly revoked," the Religion News Service reported. The IRS said it revoked Nonbelief Relief's tax exempt status because the charitable organization had not submitted the required annual Form 990 for three years.

In its complaint filed in October in US District Court for the District of Columbia, Nonbelief Relief stated that it "objects to having to file Form 990 while churches and church-related entities do not." Churches and certain related entities are not required to file the form, which the atheistic organization claims is an unconstitutional preference for religion.

FFRF is the same organization that has challenged the constitutionality of the clergy housing allowance.

CHARTER RENEWAL DEADLINE!!!

Charters under the PCAI 501(c)3 Group Exemption have been mailed their annual renewal report packet.

It is also available on our website

www.aega.org

under "Resources" tab in a PDF file.

It is important that your report be received in our

**office no later than
 March 28th.**



These reports and renewals are in compliance with the IRS code to maintain your charter's tax-exempt status under the PCAI Group Tax Exemption.