

Affirming one's faith in Jesus Christ is not about checking off one more item on one's (or one's child's) spiritual "To Do" list. Instead, it's one of many steps in a lifelong journey of exploring to whom or what we can entrust our souls for eternity. Jesus says that, when we respond to his love and forgiveness by entrusting our lives into his hands, then he sends us into the world to do "even greater works" than people saw him do. On this Pentecost Sunday, will you trust the Spirit of God to move you to demonstrate your faith in Christ through your good works toward others?

**Acts 2:1-13** (Select verses) On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Godly Jews from many nations were living in Jerusalem at that time. When they heard this sound, they came running to see what it was all about, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were beside themselves with wonder. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, and yet we ... all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. But others in the crowd were mocking. "They're drunk, that's all!" they said.

**John 14:11-13** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

## Reflections

Today, our reflection is an excerpt from the **faith statement** of one of our ninth grade students who is affirming her faith in Jesus Christ today.

In the beginning of confirmation, I really wasn't too excited about learning about God since I never really went to church or anything. When my mom told me about it I really just went because she wanted me to go. After a while it was fun to learn about God, so I stayed with it.

But halfway through my first year my belief in Him diminished a bit after the death of my best friend. I wanted answers to why my friend had been taken away from me. Or, when my mother says that I can still talk to him through prayers, he never responds or gives me any signs that he's still there.

As much as I wish, I still don't have complete faith in God, but I have a lot more faith in God when compared with my

faith in other things or people. Hopefully that will change, but through this experience I feel as though I have made new friendships and have gotten a better view of what I had been missing those years before confirmation. I felt that I had been missing out on chances to get to know better our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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To me, faith is to believe strongly in someone or something. Some people I have faith in are God, my family, my friends, and my small group."

Jesus said, "*Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.*" (John 8:11)

For many people, the only Bible they will read is your words and actions. What story are you telling through your words and deeds? Is it your story alone, or God's story interacting with your story?

Consider this week how you will give voice to your faith. Consider taking on the project that these youth did. For this point in your life journey, write out your response to this question, "What do you believe about Jesus Christ and what difference does that belief make in your life?" Each of us is in a different place, yet we are all growing in Christ. Get to know better our Savior, Jesus Christ. Don't miss out on all that God has purposed in your life.

## Readings

Each of the readings this week were selected at promise scriptures the youth who have affirmed their faith today. Use them as a start to develop your own *statement of faith*. *Each day, consider:*

**What do you believe about Jesus Christ and what difference does that belief make in your life?**

### **Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> — Faith**

Mark 11:22-23

Matthew 7:7-8

2 Timothy 1:5-7

### **Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> — Prayer**

Mark 10:27

Philippians 4:6-7

Psalm 138:3

### **Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> — Wisdom**

Psalm 1:1-3

Proverbs 3:5-6

Colossians 2:3

### **Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> — Obedience**

Galatians 6:9

Psalm 25:4-5

Colossians 2:6-7

### **Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> — Strength**

Isaiah 40:31

Philippians 4:13

Psalm 18: 28-29

### **Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> — Protection**

Psalm 121: 8

Romans 8:38-39

Jeremiah 29: 11

### **Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> — Love**

John 15:12, 15-16

Psalm 150

*Don't have a Bible? Access these scriptures at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).*