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doubt. What is more important is that we will all face it in crisis. When it happens, Satan whispers: "Give up." It caused the father in Mark 9:24 to cry out, "I have faith; help my lack of faith!"

It is belief trapped by the struggles we encounter each day. Sometimes it is the absence of something familiar; a loved one, a job or our health. Other times it is the presence of something difficult; chronic pain, depression, or wayward loved ones. We haven't abandoned faith, we struggle in it. We don't deny God, we return to him... pleading, questioning, crying or screaming in our pain and confusion.

Never mistake this for a loss of faith. This isn't unbelief, this is doubting. This is being unable to see the road ahead and fear rising up in us. We turn to God still. We wonder when it will change, if it will change.

This is why going to God's word is a constant for us. We read the laments and identify with the struggles. We don't feel so alone, we see them begin to believe more strongly and take a measure of courage from it.

His word stands forever, even against the struggles of this world. It is a fact, a reality that we hold on to when all around us fails.

If this is your place today, know you aren't alone.

*Grace and Peace,
Carl*

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

**St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
St John, KS 67576
620-549-6146**



In 1887, Henry Drummond preached a sermon in Northfield, Massachusetts, entitled Dealing With Doubt. Here is one of his observations:

Christ never failed to distinguish between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is can't believe; unbelief is won't believe. Doubt is honest; unbelief is obstinacy. Doubt is looking for light; unbelief is content with darkness. Loving darkness rather than light—that is what Christ attacked and attacked unsparingly. But for the intellectual questioning of Thomas, and Philip, and Nicodemus, and the many others who came to Him to have their great problems solved, He was respectful and generous and tolerant.

But how did He meet their doubts? The church, as I have said, says "Brand him!" Christ said, "Teach him."

When Thomas came to Him, denied His very resurrection, and stood before Him waiting for the scathing words and lashing for his unbelief, they never came. They never came. Christ gave him fact—facts

Morgan, R. J. (2000). Nelson's complete book of stories, illustrations, and quotes (electronic ed., p. 243). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

We don't have a huge arsenal of weapons against

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SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
 Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
 Worship Service—10:45 am
 Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
 Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Feril's)

ELDERS: Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

TREASURER: Richard Brensing

Worship Order for March 16, 2014

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker
 GATHERING SONG: No. 266—Majesty
 WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 2:1-4 (Chase Mansel)
 SONGS: No. 745—Humble Yourself
 No. 429—Oh, To Be Like Thee
 No. 230—Worthy Art Thou
 No. 764—Teach Me Lord to Wait

PRAYER: Tom Turner
 SONG: No. 364—Come, Share the Lord
 COMMUNION: Garland Mansel
 Orrin Feril
 Fred Johnson
 Chris Mansel

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
 SONG: No. 611—Heavenly Sunlight
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
 SONG: No. 922—Jesus Paid It All (vs 1)
 PRAYER: Terry Sallee

(CCLI #2440129)

Church Website - www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

Welcome Visitors

We are pleased you have joined us in worship—please come again!

Mission Work Updates

Michael & Alyssa Thys are scheduled to be at Stafford this morning, then come here after dinner to give an update on their work.
Jorge & Latisha Serrano—sent a note last week that is posted

NO Youth Group This Week

There will be NO Youth Group this Wednesday evening.

Ladies Bible Study

The next ladies Bible Study is scheduled for this Saturday, March 22 at 9:30 am. Study the lesson on Hagar in preparation.

VBS—Coming in May

Vacation Bible School - May 27-29, with a picnic on May 30.

SYMPATHY

Willie Reed (Director of the Recovery Program at the church where Dennis Rosenbaum preaches in New York); we were saddened to learn that Willie passed away last Sunday

Bret Browder passed away suddenly last week in Huntsville, Alabama; his wife, Geri (Sizemore), grew up in Stafford when her father preached there; Bret was on the police force there at one time; services were Thursday in Huntsville.

Jeff Scott's Uncle passed away recently.

Memory Work for 2014—Mark 4:21-25

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Adam Holmes 3/16 **Katherine Suiter 3/17**
Mara Feril 3/20 **Robin Waddle 3/22**

**CONGRATULATIONS to the St John High School
 Boy's Basketball Team on winning State!**

Prayer Requests

Sarah (Messick) Ballard—stroke; (news as of last week): staying in Wichita & being closely monitored by her physicians; limited activity with plans for a C-section in about 5 weeks; physicians can't treat her brain injury until her baby is born

Clarence Messick (Sarah's father) - scheduled for total hip surgery March 25

Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) - broken shoulder

Nick & Kara Neidig—expecting a baby in May; a heart malformation has been found in the baby—they are seeing doctors at Children's Mercy in Kansas City

Olive Bartlett—health concerns

Carol Gingrich—health concerns

Phyllis Staub—Kenwood Plaza

Marilyn Thornburg—recent hand surgery

Diane Manilla (Meagan's sister-in-law's mother) - cancer

Marilyn Thornburg's daughter, Joy

Baylee Sizemore's Aunt Suzanne—chemo

Danny Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - health concerns

Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - improving

Vic Staub—Kenwood Plaza

Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza

Dorothy McIntire—Pratt Care Center

Wilbur Kinnamon—Leisure Homestead—Stafford

Theo Birkett—Tara's mother

Margaret Marks (Ned's mother) - declining health

Rebecca Hunley—cancer

Barbara Schuette—Marla's half-sister

Jim Sorensen—Tara's brother-in-law; brain tumor

Jim Soukup—Gingrich's son-in-law (Shari's husband)

Eunice Rice—long term care in Stafford Hospital

Heather, Dixie Hornbaker's granddaughter in England;

Dixie shared last week that Heather is improving

Jack McCawley—long time friend of Garland, who participated in the mission work in Mexico; in Rehab in Pratt