

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Al Corkren

On the Table: Head - Eddie Dickinson  
Servers - Josh Berryhill  
Greg Lowery  
Billy Box

Closing Prayer: Ralph Burleson

Preparing the Lord's Supper Vertie Mae York

**Weekly Service Times**

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Visit Our Website**

[www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddie Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

**Contact Information:**

Phone: (205) 465-9142

Brilliant Church of Christ

930 Main Street

P.O. Box 222

Brilliant, AL 35548

# Living By Faith



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Arguing with God**

By Louis Rushmore

Arguing with God is an extremely bad idea! It’s an argument one simply cannot win. Sadder yet, passing from life to death with an unresolved and ongoing argument with God is eternally lethal – a fate far worse than death.

There are several incidents recorded within the Scriptures that essentially represent arguments between humans and God. Beginning with Adam and Eve, things have never fared well for anyone who violated God’s instructions or in essence argued with God (Genesis 3). Eventually, nearly the entire human race was expunged from the face of the earth in the universal flood in the days of Noah and his family (Genesis 6-8).

Later, not even the Israelites – a favored nation with God – refrained from arguing with God. Notable examples during the 40-year wilderness wandering include: complaints on the western shore of the Red Sea as the Egyptian army neared (Exodus 14:10-12); complaints about the availability of water (Exodus 15:24; 17:2; 20:1-5) and food (Exodus 16:2-3, 12-13); the Golden Calf idol (Exodus 32); profane fire kindled by Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-2); dissension of Aaron and Miriam against Moses (Numbers 12); refusal to enter Canaan and determination to return to Egypt (Numbers 14:1-4); Korah’s rebellion (Numbers 16); Moses’ sin at Kadesh (Numbers 20:10-13); complaints against God that prompted Him to send fiery serpents among the people (Numbers 21:4-9); and fornication and idolatry in Moab (Numbers 25). Failing to follow divine instructions, God responded on one occasion, “...How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?” (Exodus 16:28 NKJV).

The nation of Israel continued to argue with God even after entering the Promised Land of Canaan. First, there was the memorable sin of Achan (Joshua 7). Generally speaking, Israel failed to complete the conquest of Canaan, which resulted in hundreds of years of reprisals by remaining previous inhabitants (Judges 1:27-36). For over 300 years after entering Canaan, during the time of the Judges, Israel repeatedly wavered between obedience and disobedience toward God, for which cause God allowed the former occupants of Canaan to afflict Israel and to require tribute. The circumstances were no better following the Judges and during the time of the three kings of the united kingdom of Israel.

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Lannie & Glenda Key: be praying for both of them during this difficult time

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister} is in the nursing home in Guin, pray for her she has some ongoing health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Angie Ganey Gardner: fighting against breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Don Lawrence: hip replacement surgery went well, please be praying for a successful recovery

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy); planning on gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please continue to keep her in your prayers

Guy Weeks: is undergoing cancer treatments, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Sandy Markham: is having a problem with her ankle, please pray that this will get better

Maddie Bishop (young girl South Haleyville) diagnosed with stage 4 Ewing sarcoma, please pray for her and her family and that treatments can defeat this cancer

Billy Lee {Carolyn’s Brother} he is in renal failure, is back at the nursing home in Guin, please be praying for him and the staff caring for him

Timmy Weeks: he is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that he will receive treatments that can restore his health

Danny Berryhill: diagnosed with thickness of the heart, please be praying that doctors can successfully help him with this problem

Bill Berryhill: dealing with cancer, please be pray that his battle with cancer can be controlled and won

Mason Estes: he is need of a liver transplant; please be keeping him and his family in your prayers

Becky Jones: she has been diagnosed with renal failure; please be keeping her in your prayers

Frank Farris: is dealing with some health problems, please pray that he gets better

Judy Barker (David Barker’s Mother): she had been diagnosed with bone and lung cancer; please keep her and her family in your prayers

Ricky Caudle: he has cancerous tumors on his kidney, liver, and lung; he has been placed under hospice care, please pray for him and his family

Susan Harkness {Donna Martin’s Aunt}: she has been diagnosed with breast cancer, please be praying that with proper treatment it can be defeated

After the split between the ten northern tribes (Israel) and the balance of the nation (Judah), sinful arguments with God (rampant disobedience) led to the conquest of Israel by Assyria (721 B.C.) and the overthrow of Judah by Babylon (587 B.C.).

Though today God may not exact immediate punishment upon disobedient souls, nevertheless, the Judgment is coming to all (Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Every act of disobedience, either of commission or of omission (James 4:17), is essentially an unfruitful argument with God. It is going to end badly for everyone who enters into eternity with an unresolved argument with God (i.e., acting out disobedience). “...It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; cf., 1 Peter 4:17).

Whatever divine instructions may be entertained, the choice is always to obey or not to obey. Disobedience of any sort (e.g., ignoring, directly challenging, subtraction from or addition to God’s Word, or any other modification of biblical instruction) amounts to an argument with God. One’s complaint lies not with faithful teachers of God’s Word, but truly complaints to any biblically true proclamation are assaults rather against God Himself. “...What are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord” (Exodus 16:8; cf., 1 Thessalonians 4:8).

If God had asked for my preferences, I would have made some recommendations about what constitutes Christian worship. However, God neither consulted with me nor with any other human prior to stipulating the activities and mindset of Christian worship. Christian worship must be “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24). Had God sought my opinion about church organization, Christian doctrine, salvation or a host of other matters, I might have been so brazen and foolish enough to offer a few suggestions. God did not, though, approach me or any other mortal for guidance on these things or on anything else.

The Bible is God’s final, absolute, complete and divinely inspired Word – His verbal communication to mankind. As communication, it was intended to be understood by the original recipients of the various books and epistles that comprise the 66 books of the Bible. Students of the Scriptures today ought to understand no more and no less than what God expected the original addressees to understand. “...No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20-21). Finally, in the Christian Age, all humankind must turn to the New Testament for answers regarding Christianity (Romans 7:6; Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14).

Remember, arguing with God is an extremely bad idea! It’s an argument one simply cannot win.

Obtained at: [www.gospelgazette.com](http://www.gospelgazette.com)

**I Believe that I Believe**

By Robert Johnson

I remember a conversation years ago between two people. One asked, “I’m just curious, but do you have faith?” “Oh yes,” the other answered, “I have faith. I believe.” The first then asked, “Well, what is it you believe?” The answer was, “I believe what the church believes.” “Well,” the first person said, “What is it the church believes?” “Oh, the church believes what I believe,” was the answer. Still not satisfied, the first person pressed on. “Okay, but what is it that you both believe?” The response? “Oh well, you know, we both believe the same thing.”

There are those who claim to believe but aren’t sure what it is they really believe. I’m sure in the Lord’s church there are those who genuinely and sincerely read the Bible daily and seek to take its principles and precepts to heart. They seek to allow God to work through His Word to transform their lives. How many, though, would reflect the attitude of culture, speaking reverently about Scripture but do not really know the transforming power of Scripture in their personal lives? How many believe but don’t know what it is they should believe or how they should respond to what they believe?

The problem is not just a lack of knowledge of Scripture but a disconnect between what the Bible teaches and how a person goes about making the decisions that guide his or her actions in life. So, one must know what it says for there to be real faith.

Yet, faith without transformation is useless. Jesus asked, “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46). Saving faith, a relational faith with God and Christ, is never simply a mental acknowledgment of the truthfulness of Scripture, but it is a submission by faith to the life it demands. “Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself” (James 2:17).

We could play out the scenario with which we started the article and find out if one just believes in believing or has a genuine faith in the spiritual, in God and His will for life. “Do you believe?” “Oh, yes, I certainly believe.” “Do you faithfully worship God and fellowship your brothers and sisters in Christ?” “Well, not necessarily, but I believe in that.” “Do you take advantage of opportunities to serve others?” “I do believe that is important, but I have a busy schedule.” “Do you spend time in God’s Word and try to apply it in your own life situations?” “I believe in that too, but doing it, not so much.” If we objectively examine our faith and how we live, what would we find? Do we just believe in believing, or do we have a real faith that acts? “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22).

Perhaps the greatest challenge we have as Christians is what Paul noted in Romans 12:2. “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” We must spend time in Scripture so God can transform us from the image of the world around us into His image, but that transformation won’t happen if we have no idea of into what it is we are to be transformed. Even if we know what it says, its power to transform can’t be energized in us if we won’t do it. Even of Christ the writer of Hebrews said, “Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:8-9).

Do you believe? What is it you believe? Do you believe in believing, or do you have a faith that will respond in doing? One will save, the other will not. Choose wisely. “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Obtained at: [www.gospelgazette.com](http://www.gospelgazette.com)