

# Soup's On to discuss World Religion Day

On Monday, Jan. 11, at 6:30 p.m., join a group from diverse spiritual paths who discuss a variety of spiritual topics. This week's topic will be World Religion Day.

The Baha'i Writings say that throughout history, God has sent to humanity a series of divine "educators" whose teachings have provided the basis for the advancement of civilization.

These manifestations have included Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad.

Bahá'u'lláh, the latest of these messengers, explained that the religions of the world come from the same source and are in essence successive chapters of one religion from God.

The evening will begin with bowls of Moroccan chorba (minestrone) soup, homemade bread and vegetables, followed by the evening's topic until 8:30 p.m.

The Heintz home is located at 875 Seventh St.

For information, call Suzanne Heintz at 541-590-0779.



I remember the morning years ago when I was making my bed and I clearly heard God speak to my heart that He was calling me to teach the Bible to people all over the world. At the time, I was a housewife in Fenton, Mo., and having a ministry like this didn't seem likely.

But God had a plan, and He's brought it to pass over the last 35-plus years as I've learned to walk by faith that He would do what He said He would do.

It didn't happen overnight, of course; it took time, effort

# Defeat doubt and unbelief

and a determined decision to not give up when things were difficult. But I can tell you that it is possible for you to fulfill God's purpose and plans for your life if you will have an attitude that says: "I'm going to fulfill my destiny, enjoy the journey, and have everything Jesus died to give me!"

## Make up your mind to believe

Doubt and unbelief are problems for people who struggle to have a strong faith in God. James 1:5-8 (NIV) says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do."

God works in our lives through faith, not unbelief. It's so important for us to understand this because we don't want to live in situations where God can't do anything because of our unbelief.

When Jesus was ministering to people in His hometown of Nazareth, Matthew 13:58 (AMPC) says that "He did not do many works of power there, because of their unbelief (their lack of faith in the divine mis-

sion of Jesus)."

The good news is we can make up our minds that we're going to trust Him, stand firm and remain steadfast in our faith.

## Learning from the Father of our faith

Romans 4:18-21 tells us about how Abraham believed in God that he would become "the father of many nations" (NIV) even though it didn't seem possible, naturally speaking. Verse 18 says, "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed...." He had no reason whatsoever to believe he and Sarah, his wife, would have a child because at this stage in life, they were beyond their childbearing years.

They needed a miracle. Verses 19-21 say, "Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead — since he was about 100 years old — and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had the power to do what he had promised."

These scriptures show us that Abraham considered his circumstances — he was impotent and Sarah was barren — but he did not waver in his faith in God. Instead, he grew strong in his faith as he gave praise and

glory to God.

This is a key to defeating doubt and unbelief. We need to face our circumstances but not focus on them. When doubt is coming against us, we need to praise God and remember who He is and the other victories He's given us in our lives.

## Make it practical

The simple way to do this is by talking about God's goodness and the things He's done for you, not just your problems.

Set your mind and keep it set to walk by faith, trusting that God has something good in store for you. Don't keep trying to figure everything out or do something about a situation you can't do anything about.

Do what you know to do and believe that God will take care of the rest.

It's especially important to spend time meditating on the Word of God during these times. There are so many great scriptures that will renew your mind and line up your thoughts and words in agreement with God.

I want to encourage you today to trust God's love for you. Keep standing in faith for His will to be done and keep pressing on, one day at a time, to do what He's showing you to do. Put your hope in Him to do something good in your life and confidently expect it, because with God on your side, all things are possible!

## Sermon Series on Revelation

Sundays at 11:00 AM

## First Baptist Church

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### FLORENCE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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Masses: Sat. 5:30 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m.  
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# UU to talk about four keys to spiritual success

Rev. Ruth Miller will talk about "The Four S's of Spiritual Success" on Sunday, Jan. 10, at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship from 10 to 11 a.m. "Across religious traditions and cultures a consistent pattern of activities is recommended for staying balanced, healthy, and increasing wisdom," said Rev. Miller, who has boiled these down into a

simple formula that everyone can remember.

The UU Fellowship, 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road, is wheelchair accessible. Each service concludes with refreshments and dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each worship service.

For more information, visit [www.uuflorence.org](http://www.uuflorence.org) or call 541-997-2840.

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