



Find true stability by trusting God

Have you ever put your trust in someone who ended up disappointing you or hurting you? Maybe you put your trust in your money and then something happened and suddenly you didn't have it any more. Have you ever wasted years of your life trusting yourself?

There are many things people put their trust in that are not stable. But God loves us so much He won't let us keep our trust in other things and simultaneously have a great relationship with Him.

The truth is, God is the only One we can really trust all the time, in every situation.

Many years ago when my ministry was just beginning, there was a group of ladies

helping me that I considered to be my best friends; I thought they would never hurt me. But eventually, I found out they were talking about me behind my back and telling lies about me.

My world was shaken and I didn't understand what was going on. The pain in my soul was so deep. But looking back, I understand now that God was getting ready to promote me to a new level of ministry, and I couldn't take those people with me. I also learned that we set ourselves up for a lot of pain if we think there are people in our lives who will never hurt us.

Another thing I learned is that it's one thing to trust God FOR something — to change something or someone in your life — but it's another thing entirely to trust God THROUGH something.

I'm talking about continuing to trust God when He's not doing what you think He should do and everything around you is shaking... when you don't understand why.

I can tell you from personal experience that when everything in your life is shaking, the only real answer is to trust God and keep on trusting Him. I know it's difficult to do this when you don't understand what's going on and the situation is not fair. It's hard when you feel like you're doing what you should be doing and you're not getting a right result. And it's especially hard when you see someone who is not doing the right thing, yet they are seemingly getting a better result than you are.

When you get into trouble that you don't understand, that's when you have to choose to keep trusting God — no matter what you think or feel, and no matter what your circumstances look like.

Hebrews 12:26-27 (NIV) says, "[God] has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain."

God wants to shake things in our lives until only the things that cannot be shaken remain. He wants to work with us until we let go of all the unstable

things so we're only hanging on to the rock of our salvation — Jesus Christ — who cannot be moved or shaken.

It's difficult when something is stripped out of your life that you're not ready to give up.

All things are possible with God, and He can take things that aren't good and work them out for our good. (See Romans 8:28.)

The key is understanding that you are a partner with God as you walk out His purpose and plan for you. He doesn't just automatically work things out for good; we choose to trust Him and do what He shows us to do, and He works on our behalf so we come out on top when all is said and done.

If you feel like everything in your world is shaking, there are probably things in your life that you don't need or that aren't good for you and God wants to remove them. If you will trust Him and let Him do what HE wants to do, He will give you something stable. He'll give you more of Himself.

I want to encourage you to make a determined decision to trust God with every single part of your life. Pray: "God, I invite You to shake everything in my life that can be shaken so only the things of You will remain in me."

He loves you, and no matter what condition your life is in right now, with God's help, you can trust Him.

Superintendent to speak of bond at FUUF Sunday

During the Sunday, May 1, worship service at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship from 10 to 11 a.m., Siuslaw School District Superintendent Ethel Angal will speak about the importance of constructing a new high school in Florence. "Every youth in Florence deserves nothing less than a quality education. Part of the quality comes in the form of an up-to-date learning facility that is safe and convenient for all concerned," said Angal.

The community always finds funds for what is needed, from upgrading its emer-

gency room, to the library expansion, to the senior center and more.

Come hear Angal give the hard facts of why the upcoming bond deserves serious consideration.

The UU Fellowship is located at 87738 Highway 101, at Heceta Beach Road, and is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each service.

For more information, visit www.uuflorence.org or call 541-997-2840.

St. Andrew's to 'bless the boundaries' tomorrow

Long before April 22 was celebrated as Earth Day, Christians in the Anglican tradition offered thanks for the glory of the earth and its blessings on a Sunday known as Rogation Sunday.

Traditions include "Blessing the Bounds," which is the practice of walking the bounds of the land for which the church is responsible, and using staffs to offer blessings, chase away undesirable influences and clean up litter.

This celebration used to be called "Beating the Bounds." When St. Andrew's vicar, Georgia DuBose, learned that the name came from the medieval practice of taking a young boy of the parish to the bounds of the parish and beating him at each of them so that he would always remember the boundaries, she thought it was time for a change.

St. Andrew's now "Blesses the Bounds" with a walk along the boundaries of the church land on Rogation Sunday.

A procession through the Labyrinth and Meditation Garden includes stopping for a litany, or prayerful requests to God, to be faithful caretakers of the land there, and all of the earth. ("Rogation" comes from the Latin "rogare" for "ask" or "request.")

Join the ceremony at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 1, and pray for the Earth and all of God's creation.

Bring a staff, cane or walking stick to be blessed, and receive a prayer card with prayers for love and respect for the Earth.

St. Andrew's is at 2135 19th St., one block east of Spruce.

For more information, call Vicar Georgia DuBose at 541-305-5549.

Soups On to discuss Bahá'í sacred writings Monday

On Monday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from varied spiritual paths to discuss the Bahá'í Sacred Writings, which emphasize the importance of education as the key to material and spiritual progress.

The Bahá'í teachings exalt knowledge, promote free inquiry and learning and emphasize the importance of acquiring expertise in arts and sciences to promote human prosperity.

The main goal of the Bahá'í Faith centers around one ultimate aim: The peaceful unifi-

cation of the entire human race.

The evening will begin with bowls of Tuscan vegetable soup, homemade sourdough bread, fruit and vegetables.

The gathering will end at 8:30 p.m. with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse, as well as those shared by the group.

The Heintz home is located at 875 Seventh St.

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

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www.churchofchristflorence.org

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