

I Believe

Foundations

Romans 8:12-17

**EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

**KEY VERSES**

*So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.*

**REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION**

This week we continue our Lenten journey with a new sermon series, “Foundations.” Our hope is to be reminded of the foundations which are constant in our lives, upon which we can build our world views and beliefs. This is especially important for us now as our world continues to change so rapidly, causing our days to feel chaotic. ***What foundations have you been able to rely upon in your life that have kept you particularly grounded?***

Guiding our journey is the Apostles’ Creed, the oldest of creeds and confessions of our faith. It is believed that the twelve apostles each contributed a line or phrase to this creed that was spoken over new converts at their baptism. As Christ’s followers we have everything we already need, yet it requires effort to comprehend all that we have received through Him. ***When we join our voice to this great communal voice which transcends time and place, how does this give our words more truth and connect us to the body of Christ?***

The first phrase, “*I believe in God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,*” seems so simple – yet for so many is becoming increasingly more difficult to claim. It is more commonplace to see intellect valued over faith. For some academics, however, the pursuit of science has been an essential part of leading them to faith. Dr. Francis Collins, head of the National Institute of Health, was once an atheist. However, his experience in mapping human DNA revealed to him that “this was both a stunning achievement and an occasion for worship.” ***As people of faith, why should we never assume that scientific and spiritual worldviews must be antithetical? How have you experienced these two perceptions coexisting?***

*God the Father almighty* is a wonderful juxtaposition of words—that God is both mighty **and** Father. As many ways as God could have set up his relationship with creation, He chooses to be our parent. Therefore, God sees us just as we are, unconditionally loved and valued by Him, and belonging to one another. *When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (v. 16).* ***How should we then build our worldviews around this most foundational miracle of God’s love? This week do not speed through the words, “I believe in God the Father almighty,” but hold them close and recite them often.***

*Heavenly Father, we praise You for the miracle of your love for us. Thank you for loving us just as we are and help us to live a life guided by the foundational miracle of belonging to You. May we love one another as You love us and help us this week to think about and affirm why we believe what we believe. Amen.*