

**/ Welcome To**  
**BARAH MINISTRIES**  
**a Christian Church**  
**Good Morning!**  
**Let's Make a Mental Shift\**

Good morning!

Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20 says...

*/GAL 2:20*

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in (dwelling) me; and the (Zoe) life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me (unconditionally) and (who) gave Himself up (as a substitute) for me."*

That verse sums up the goal for my life. That verse encompasses the reason why I believe we come to church.

We come here so we can take some time for ourselves to learn about our Creator and leave equipped to make a difference in this world by being transformed, just like we read in Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2...

*/ROM 12:2*

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.\

Before we get started, let's take a few minutes to reflect on our Lord and Savior, and let's listen to a song by Chris August, called Unashamed of You...

**/MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*  
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

*Unashamed of You - Chris August\*

**/OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

**BARAH MINISTRIES**  
**Faith – December 8, 2013**

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth... the Word of God...

Please help us to learn to grow in faith. Help us to know that You are real in our lives. Help us to see Your work in every circumstance we encounter.

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit... in Christ's name... Amen.

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

Caleb Alburn  
Deacon\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. For those of you who don't know my name is Caleb Alburn, and I'm a Deacon here at Barah. Welcome to a ministry designed for people who want to develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**/TODAY'S STUDY**

**Faith\**

Today's study going to be a little bit different. Of course, we're going to learn what the Bible has to say about faith.

I also want to load us up with real life examples of how faith comes into play.

This lesson was inspired by the countless conversations I've had in the past few months about people who have expressed a lack of faith in God...

Time and time again I keep running into people who tell me that they don't understand how to have faith in God. They know they're supposed to, but they just don't know how.

Not that they don't believe in God, but rather they don't believe in what God can do for their lives and through their lives.

These are Christians. They're going through the regular "routine" of a Christian. They go to church on most Sundays. They pray a little prayer maybe before a meal or before they go to bed... but, they don't lean on God. They don't talk to God constantly through prayer like He tells us to in His Word...

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**Faith – December 8, 2013**

/1 TH 5:17

Pray without ceasing;\

No matter how many times I tell them that their faith increases the more they know God... and the more they see Him come through time and time again... they still don't believe me.

My hope and prayer for you and them is that by the end of this lesson you'll see that God is alive and real, and He really does care for you and want His highest and best for you.

To best illustrate this... I want to start off with a story.

I want to share with you about a place called Camp Tadmor. It's a Christian summer camp designed for youth. You go for one week, once a year, in the summer with kids your own age.

The camp is designed to teach kids about Christ by encoding biblical teachings to them for the week, and also to train adults to become leader's in their ministry. Camp Tadmor does this by having these adults teach the youth all summer long.

Like any summer camp, it's a safe place for kids to have fun with other kids for a week. Unlike other summer camps it's a time and place designed for your relationship with God to be deepened.

The reason I bring up Camp Tadmor and not other summer camps is because I've been to many summer camps in my lifetime. Yet, this is the ONLY one that's had an impact on my life.

Every year for my Christmas present, my grandparents would pay for me to go this camp.

Every year it started the same way. We would drive up there, check in, find your cabin, meet the other kids in your group, and then join together for a giant camp meeting at the lake which was surrounded by hills and mountains on every side.

Every year at the lake with all three hundred of us we would perform an exercise. It was as if this experience wasn't real yet, until after we had finished the exercise.

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Well, the exercise was really more of a chant. We would start off very slowly and quietly, less than a whisper... Jesus is alive... then we would gradually get louder and faster. And, after about twenty of these chants we were getting pretty loud.

And then, in perfect unison... all three hundred of us at the top of our lungs would scream...

/JESUS IS ALIVE!!!\

... and then you would hear it crystal clearly, plain as day, echoing back a dozen times plus... Jesus is alive... Jesus is alive.... Jesus is alive... Jesus is alive...

We would start off every year with this ritual. Camp didn't start for me until after this happened. This event is what made it all real to me. This was Christ coming to life to me.

I want to paint this picture for you, because this is the truth. Jesus IS alive. He's not just a book. Jesus is alive and real and active in our lives. Just like we read about in Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 12...

/HEB 4:12

For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.\

That's our God. He is alive... and my hope is that as a result of this lesson, you're able to reflect on your own life and see that Jesus is alive and active in your life as well.

My hope is that you can use your faith to do things that you didn't think possible... and that you can start doing them now. You don't have to wait.

I want to share with you a quote taken directly from Camp Tadmor's website. This is part of their mission statement.

/We value faith-filled living, risk taking, to follow the leading of God, requiring a willingness to put methods, programs, and perceived securities on the line to advance the vision.\

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So I ask you... what's the vision for your life? This is how I want to challenge you to live your life... I want you to put Christ first knowing that all things work out for your benefit.

/ROM 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God...\

That's you... God says...

/LUK 17:6

"If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.\

Or how about this one...

/MAT 17:20b

For truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.\

Now, I get it... these are just words that the Omnipotent Creator of the World... my God, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said... just to make a smaller point to the Apostles.

These couldn't really happen in real life. People don't survive terminal illnesses. You couldn't possibly land that dream job you've always wanted. You can never be out of debt. You're never going to get to take that dream vacation. You're never going to see that broken relationship get mended. You're never going to get up out of your death bed.

You see my point? It sounds ridiculous when I verbalize them. These are statements that you hear people say all the time. More importantly... these are statements that you, yourself, say. We water down verses like this all of the time.

I don't understand how we can say we believe the promise Hebrews 4:12 and yet, not simultaneously dive into verses like Matthew 17:20 and Luke 17:6...

"Oh wow... God split the Red Sea... So what... that's the Old Testament. He doesn't do that anymore... we live in the New Testament"

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Really? You're telling me that God doesn't save people every day from dangers that are pursuing them? You're telling me that God doesn't split Red Seas for you? I can't count the amount of times God's done that for me in my life... not to mention the amount of stories I hear from others...

This is God... This is God who wants His highest and best for you.

We have Christmas coming up. How do we celebrate the greatest gift of all time... by exchanging gifts with others... If you're smart like me, you ask them what they want... Or, you can just do what Channing Frye from the Phoenix Suns does...

Why do we do that? Because, you want them to be happy.

Well, what does God tell us about this same concept?

Let's find out... I want to have you turn in your Bibles to Matthew, Chapter 7. We're going to look and see what God has to say about prayer and how to treat people... We're going to look at Verses 7 through 12.

/MAT 7:7

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." \

/MAT 7:8

"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." \

/MAT 7:9

"Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?" \

/MAT 7:10

"Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?" \

/MAT 7:11

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!" \

/MAT 7:12a

"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you. \

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Again, God is practically begging us to go before Him with our requests.

Hebrews 4:16 says...

/HEB 4:16

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.\

This is what God asks of us...

I want to share some stories about a man who spent a lifetime doing just this. He demonstrated a life of faith and reliance on God. His entire lifetime was dedicated to living for God and from God.

Now, I'm not getting paid to say this, but I want everyone to go out and get a book and read his biography.

Don't just go out to Wikipedia for a small overview... rather... Get in-depth.

But, for those of you who don't like being told what to do and, instead, do your own thing... too bad, because I already pulled all of the highlights from Wikipedia that I'm going to share with you today!

We're going to learn about a man named George Muller. Some of you may have heard a little about him, but if not, this is going to be a real treat.

But, before we do... Let's go ahead and take a 5-minute break... as we listen to Live With Abandon by Newsboys. I challenge you to do exactly what this song says, and your tomorrow might actually look different than your today...

/BREAK

*Live With Abandon - Newsboys*  
*When I Think About Home\*

Welcome back!

Just as I promised, we're going to spend this next half of our lesson learning about a gentleman by the name of George Muller...

/George Muller\

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George Muller was born September 27th, 1805, and he died at the age of 92 on March 10th, 1898. He was an Evangelist who owned multiple orphanages in England that housed over 10,000 children. One of the most unique things about George Muller is that he only accepted grace gift donations. In his life, his ministry distributed 1.5 million New Testament Bibles and a quarter of a million other biblical publications written in twenty different languages. He did that without solicitation.

We're looking into George Muller's life in part today, because I think often we hear about people and their stories in the Bible, but we don't take them to heart.

We're hear about:

The Red Sea  
The Passover  
Jonah and the Whale  
Daniel and the Lions' Den  
Noah's Ark  
Gideon  
The Walls of Jericho

I don't know if it's because the stories are thousands of years old, or if it's just because we don't believe them, or we don't believe they're applicable to our lives.

But, I want to share some stories about George Muller's life and the amazing testament of faith that it is.

His biography has challenged my prayer life and is proof that God loves us no matter how small we may feel and always comes through for us no matter how bleak matters look.

I'm just going to give you a few highlight stories from his life, but again... don't cheat yourself. Go out and read a biography on him.

/Architect Story\

- In 1845 Muller's first home was starting to get too big that the neighbors complained about the noise, and there was disruption to the public utilities. George Muller prayed for a large building. Four years later their new home opened for business in large thanks to the architect who did the work for free.



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/Food Story\

- There wasn't enough food to provide for all of the orphans. George Muller, knowing this, still had everyone say grace that morning like usual. After they had said grace, the baker knocked on the door with enough food to feed everyone. While that was happening, the milkman came and gave all of his fresh milk, because his cart had broken down right in front of the orphanage.

/Boiler Story\

- One morning the boiler in one of the orphan houses stopped working. Obviously, this was an issue that needed to get fixed. However, there were a couple of problems. The first one being that the boiler was covered in bricks, and the second problem was that it was winter and the cold was setting in. George Muller went and prayed that God would solve this problem. Sure enough He did. The cold north wind changed directions and a warm south wind came in and warmed the buildings, so that heat wasn't needed. Also, the workers agreed to work 30 hours straight through the night to fix the boiler.

/Boat Story\

- Here is one of my favorite stories of all. Because George Muller was an Evangelist, he often traveled to various places around the world. On one particular trip in August of 1877 he was on his way to Quebec from Europe. While sailing a this fog came in. The captain, who was an unbeliever, told George that his appointment in Quebec would be missed, because they had to slow the ship down to a crawl, because the fog was too thick. George went to go pray, and the captain followed. After George had finished praying, the fog cleared. Captain Joseph E Dutton became a Christian afterwards.

To this date, The George Muller Charitable Trust is still in effect. It maintains its key principle of seeking funds through prayer alone, and it actively shuns fund-raising activities.

So, again... why do I share those stories with you? Why do I share stories about a man who decided to put faith to the test and left a legacy behind as a result?

I want you to see that the promises God gives us in the Bible come true in real life time and time again. And, if you want... you can experience them.

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I want to help people whose faith may not be where they would like it to be. I want to help you slowly build confidence in God. I want you see where and how God is currently working in your life.

I want the ministry of my life to encourage faith in Christ. I want the ministry of your life to encourage other people to have faith in Christ.

From the day I first learned about George Muller and the three months after during which I read multiple books and watched multiple documentaries on him, I have been praying for anything and everything I could imagine.

The best part about it is I have been watching God come through time and time again.

His story has been life changing for me, and as a result I've dedicated my life to help change others lives as well.

This too, is what Camp Tadmor did for me. As a kid growing up in uncertainty, Camp Tadmor was the one place every summer that I was able to look forward to every year.

For one week a year, this place instilled a foundation of faith in me that encouraged me to continue to press on toward a higher calling like it says in Philippians, Chapter 3, Verse 14...

**/PHI 3:14**

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.\

This is the same goal that I have for Barah Ministries as well. I want Barah Ministries to be a place that continues to build your faith in Christ.

Thank you again, Pastor Rory, for providing me the opportunity to do just that.

Our closing song today is Reckless by Jeremy Camp. I chose this song, because this is the type of life that Christ died on the cross for you to have... if you want it...

**/CLOSING SONG**

Reckless - Jeremy Camp\

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/JER 29:11

‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’\

/1 PE 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, //casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.\

/JUD 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, //to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.\

**/CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

God, thank You for teaching us to have faith and confidence in Your Word. Thank You for making it clear that You're alive and powerful in our daily lives. Thank You for giving us real life examples that we can learn from. I pray that You build our faith in You through events that we go through in our lives. We pray that You continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of Your person, Your thinking, Your work, Your reputation, and Your essence. And we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, and in Christ's name... Amen.

**/Thanks for coming!**

**Thanks for watching!**

**Thanks for listening!**

**[www.barahministries.com](http://www.barahministries.com)**\