



## Secure and Sure

BY: Chris Harper, AD

Where do you stand? That is the question I ask today. Interacting with multiple churches on a weekly basis, I am beginning to notice a commonality among parishioners: there are typically three types of participants in any church. Over the next several weeks, I will be writing a three part

So I ask today, where do you stand? He who is secure but not sure in his faith stands firm on the promise of salvation but finds himself, often, lost in doubt and fear as he pilgrims through life. Like the man with the ill son in Mark 9, who believes in the name of Jesus, but must call upon that name to "help

*Let this serve as a reminder: your understanding is polluted, your strength is futile, and your wisdom is nonsense.*

series looking at these common "personalities" in the lives of church-goers. They include:

- 1) He that is secure, but not sure in his faith.
- 2) He that is sure, but not secure in his faith.
- 3) He that is both secure and sure in his faith.

his unbelief"... Like the disciples in Mark 4, who get into the boat with Jesus, trusting Jesus to "take them to the other side", yet when the storm comes, in fear they doubt his authority, even question his very existence (don't you care that we should perish?). This believer has enough conviction to drop his net (Matt 4:19), get up from his booth (Matt 9:9), not looking back at the plow

## Upcoming events



- 1/31 – B JV/V vs. Providence, 6 p.m.
- 2/1 – V Wrestling Sectionals at Jeffersonville, 9 a.m.
- 2/1 – Elementary Basketball, 9 a.m.
- 2/1 – G JV/V vs. Henryville, 4:30 p.m.
- 2/1 - B JV/V vs. Paoli, 6 p.m.
- 2/7 – B JV/V vs. Trinity Lutheran, 6 p.m.
- 2/8 – Elementary Basketball, 9 a.m.
- 2/8 – B JV/V at East Pekin, 6 p.m.
- 2/11– G V Sectional at New Washington, TBD
- 2/13 – B JV/V at Shawe Memorial, 6 p.m.
- 2/15 – B JV/V at Southwestern (Hanover), 12 p.m.

as he whole- heartedly obeys that first command, “follow me”... though later amidst fear and doubt, he will sink as he stands upon the sea of his faith weighed down by unbelief...

The ebb and flow of fear and doubt is related to ones understanding of Christ. The disciples, called by Christ, spent years learning from his person while failing, often miserably, as they attempted to understand and follow His ways. It wasn't until the Holy Spirit empowered them that they were able to walk through this world in complete confidence and peace, facing trials and persecution without much emotion, other than the complete joy they found in their savior. Paul's words echo in my mind. Paul addressing the church in Galatia warns them;

“Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are

you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?” Perhaps that is where you stand today. At some point in your life, you had a transforming encounter with God, the revelation of His son's mighty magnificent work was made known to you, transforming your heart and renewing your mind. Perhaps your start was fast, hard, and strong, but now, with time, you have moved more in your own understanding, your own strength, your own wisdom. Let this serve as a reminder: your understanding is polluted, your strength is futile, your wisdom is nonsense compared to the great works Christ has “done, is doing, and will do in your life.” Let the mistakes of the disciples be lessons for us today. The disciples heard his word and responded, often in haste; we have his word and get to respond, with hindsight. A thoughtful, genuine, calculated response.

Shame on us if we fail to do, and understand, “greater things.” Let their mistakes be like milepost on our pilgrimage, guiding us through that narrow way, a “great cloud of witnesses” confirming His victory in our lives.

When Jesus told the disciples to “get into the boat, I will take you to the other side”; He was not giving a command as much as He was giving a promise. Jesus promises he will take us to the other side. All we have to do is get in, sit down, strap up, and enjoy the ride. No matter what comes our way, or by what manner we arrive... He will take us to the other side.

Fear is for the hopeless, doubt is for the restless... Fear not, live a life of peace, a life of assurance.

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