



And Also With You

MID-AUGUST 2015

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Drive Fairhope, Alabama 36532
 251-929-1606 www.visitgrace.net frscottdavis@aol.com Facebook.com/GraceAnglican

AUGUST

SUNDAYS

10:00 am
 Worship
 (nursery provided)

6:30 pm
 The Union's
 Worship

MONDAYS 10:45AM- INTERCESSORS

6:30 pm
 Graham Cooke
 Group-455-5940

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 am
 Women's Bible
 Study-990-2973

THURSDAYS 6:pm-Prayer in Church

FRIDAYS
 8:15 am
 Men's Group-
 422-3169

CHALICE BEARERS

August 2
 Jane and Bob
 Grafe

August 9
 Jan Bogue
 Becky Johnson

August 16
 Maggie Rockett
 Susan Jones

August 23
 Kitty Barksdale
 Janic Terry

August 30
 Julian and Maggie
 Carnes

Fact, Experience, & God's Word



The Reverend Scott Davis

What I have noticed of late is that people's life experiences are often elevated to an authoritative position, and if a person is a believer, then his experience even competes with Scripture itself. I do not think this is intentional, but our experiences seem to gain importance over time. When this happens, a person's experience begins to shape his belief system which can eventually take equal footing with God's Word. This is never intentional, yet as I listen to myself and others, I observe that we use an experience as precedence to win discussions, make decisions, and settle issues.

A person's experience of life is true for them. There is no denying this. Every person has a life time of experiences that leave deep impressions, both good and bad.

Another reality is facts. There is no denying that facts are real.

The savings account that has \$100 in has \$100 in it—no more, no less. If an X ray shows a spot on your lung, then there is a spot on the lung. If the gas gage registers empty then the car has no gas.

There are higher truths, however, that supersede fact and experience. John 17:17 and Psalm 199:160 tell us that Scripture is truth. John 10:10 tells us that Jesus is truth. The question becomes,

which layer of truth has the final say for my life: fact, experience, or God's Word?

Layers of truth can be seen in government. A cities is governed by a mayor. The mayor has both right and responsibility to rule over his jurisdiction until a city matter involves the state. When this occurs, the governor (the greater truth) has both right and responsibility to step in and resolve the matter. However, if the issue becomes Federal then the president *trumps* (no pun intended) both the governor and mayor within the jurisdiction. All three are govern—mayor, governor, and president. Each has a jurisdictional claim over the same area, yet some are lesser leaders who deal with lesser problems while others are greater leaders dealing with greater problems. The nature of the matter determines which official is the authority.

President, Governor, Mayor



The student will identify the roles of the following elected officials:
 a. President (leader of our nation)
 b. Governor (leader of our state)
 c. Mayor (leader of a city)

The same is true in the Christian life. Facts are like mayors. They are real and govern facets of our lives. If facts are like mayors then our experiences are like governors. Experiences reveal that there is life

beyond facts. We hear stories of how situations should have ended badly because of the facts involved yet come to a successful conclusion in the opposite direction. Incredible experiences like this can become authoritative for a person. Mayors yield to governors just as facts yield to experiences, and governors yield to presidents just as life experiences yield to God's Word. God's Word is the truth

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that supersedes all other truths.

It seems that many believers begin treating their own experiences as equal to God's Word. Without carefully thinking it through, we yield to facts or experiences for solutions rather than asking if there is a higher truth.

God's Word is filled with life

IT'S MY EXPERIENCE

events where the miraculous supersede fact and experience. The fact surrounding Jesus's first miracle is that wine has run out at a wedding celebration. Experience says that this will not end well. However, *the Word* tells the servants to fill empty water jars and then to draw out a cup and to take it to the steward for approval. God's Word changes the fact that there is no wine to the reality that now there is quite a bit of excellent vintage.

You may receive a bad report from a medical diagnosis. In turn you may ask others to pray for you, yet their life experience may be that few of the people they have pray for get healed. Do you give up because of fact or do you press into God's Word? Both are truth but one is a higher form than the other. God's Word, for instance, has quite a bit to say about healing even when my experience might say other wise. God's Word remains the ultimate truth even when it may not make sense at the other levels.

I heard a minister say that 70% of those he prays for receive healing. He was tempted to give up because his experience still left 30% unhealed. However, he realized that if he quit praying then

100% would remain unhealed so he continues to pray even though his experience does not always line up with God's Word.

When my experience becomes authoritative over God's Word then there will always be a problem. If facts supersede God's Word then there will always be a problem. Both facts and experiences are real and true, but praise God that there is a higher truth—God's Word.



Hamburger Pot Luck
August 23
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and Sweet Tea provided. Bring a side dish, dessert, or condiments.



Mission Nigeria
Father Scott has been asked to preach, teach, and minister in Warri, Nigeria in April 2016. The 9 day trip will include 4 travel days to and from Nigeria and then 5 days to teach ministers and evangelists in the mornings and then preach and minister at revival services each evening. The church in Warri holds 2,500 which means that it will be an intense and busy time of working with believers in a country which is 1/2 the population of the US.

The trip costs \$2,200 which covers airfare to/from Warri plus hotel, and food. To date, \$900 has been given which is greatly appreciated. If you feel led to partner in this venture you can make checks to **Grace Church** and mark it-**NIGERIA**. Also, if you would like to go as part of the intercessory team please see **Father Scott** as well. There will be much ministry to do and harvesters are needed!

We enter a clean church each week because of these people. I encourage you to thank them for their ongoing gift to us!



1. Cheri Kriner
2. Jan Bogue
3. Ovie Moore
4. Alan Pate
5. Becky Johnson, Coordinator

Father Scott will offer a Leadership Training Class beginning Sept 13.



The purpose of the class is to train leaders to feel confident ministering to others, sharing their faith with ease, and learning do's and don't's when following the Lord.

- It will require an 8 week commitment
- There are only 6-8 slots available (other classes will be offered at other times).
- It will also require a Saturday retreat and a group dinner as part of the training.

See Father Scott to sign up or if you have further questions. Class begins Sunday, Sept 13 at 9:am.