



Coffeeville First Baptist Church
By
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Pastor

I want you to think for a minute about the things you believe. From the complex to the simple, we all have things we believe. How many of you went into a room this morning and flipped on the light switch? Why did you do that? You did it because you believed it would make the light come on. The same goes for turning the key or pushing the button on your car. You did that because you believed it would start. There are all sorts of things we believe in, and because we believe in those things we do or do not do certain things. Our beliefs cause us to act, think, or feel certain ways. The point is our beliefs change us. That should certainly be true of our belief in Jesus. All of Jesus’ disciples were changed by their belief in Him. For example, Peter seems to have been arrogant, irresponsible, and a know it all. When Jesus tried to wash Peter’s feet Peter said, “I don’t need you to wash my feet.” When Jesus told Peter he would deny Him, Peter said, “No way,” but he did just that. Peter seemed to have a gift for putting his foot in his mouth. Yet, Peter’s belief in Jesus transformed him into a humble, steadfast leader, a founder of the church.

John was another who was dramatically changed by Jesus. He was a young man, the youngest of all the disciples. He seems to have been a hot-headed young man. He was probably boisterous, loudmouth because Jesus called him a Son of

Thunder. When the Samaritans rejected Jesus, John wanted to call down fire from heaven to destroy them. John was the one who argued with his brother thinking he was going to be the greatest in the kingdom. However, John’s belief in Jesus changed him. John’s would later become known as the Apostle of Love and was noted for his gentleness and goodness.

We know that Jesus changes lives, but how can we know that He has changed ours, that our faith is real? Despite having professed faith in Jesus, at some point most of us will question our salvation. We will wonder if we are truly saved, so how do we know our faith in Jesus is real? How do we know that we are saved? In seeking to answer that question, we need to be careful to not compare ourselves with other people who claim to be Christians. Otherwise, we fall into thinking that if we are better than this person or that person, we are ok. The fact is they may not have genuine faith themselves.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 13:5 to examine yourself to see whether you are in the faith; test yourself, and you will realize that Jesus is in you unless, of course, you fail the test. Paul is saying stop relying on your emotions or what somebody else tells you or comparing yourself to other people who say they are Christians and test yourself to see if your faith is genuine. The question is, how do we do that? How do we test our faith? Fortunately, we do not have to wonder. In his first letter, the Apostle John wrote to the church with the purpose of giving them a test of their faith. He wrote in 1 John 5:13, “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

When this letter was written, Christianity had been around for a generation or so. There had been a lot of persecution, although the church had survived, one of the main problems confronting the church was the declining commitment of many who professed to be believers. People were claiming to be saved and to be part of the church, but they were starting to conform to the world rather than the Word, very much like a lot of professing Christians today. So, John wrote this letter as a way for those who professed to believe to know if their faith is real.

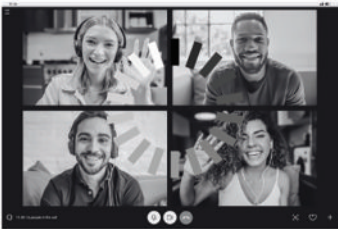
We have seen that a big focus of John’s gospel is on the fact that Jesus is the light of the world and the perfect and complete manifestation of God’s great love for us, so it should not surprise us that John tells us that the life of a person who is a true believer will be characterized by two things; light and love.

The Apostle John wrote of that light in 1 John 1:5-7. Some have taken what John wrote in 1 John to be him explaining the difference between a believer who is walking with God and a believer who has fallen away from God. They take this text to mean that, if we say that we know Him and yet walk in darkness, we are just a confused Christian who has gone astray. That is not at all what John was saying. In 1 John, John made it very clear that you are either lost or saved. You are a Christian or not. There is no in between. (Cont’d. on page 13)

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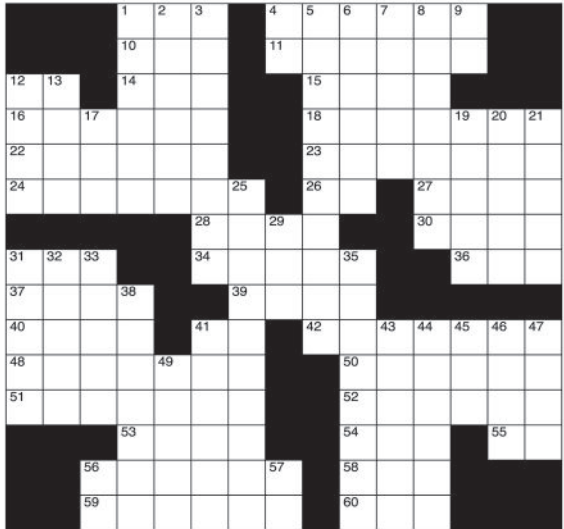
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CLUES ACROSS

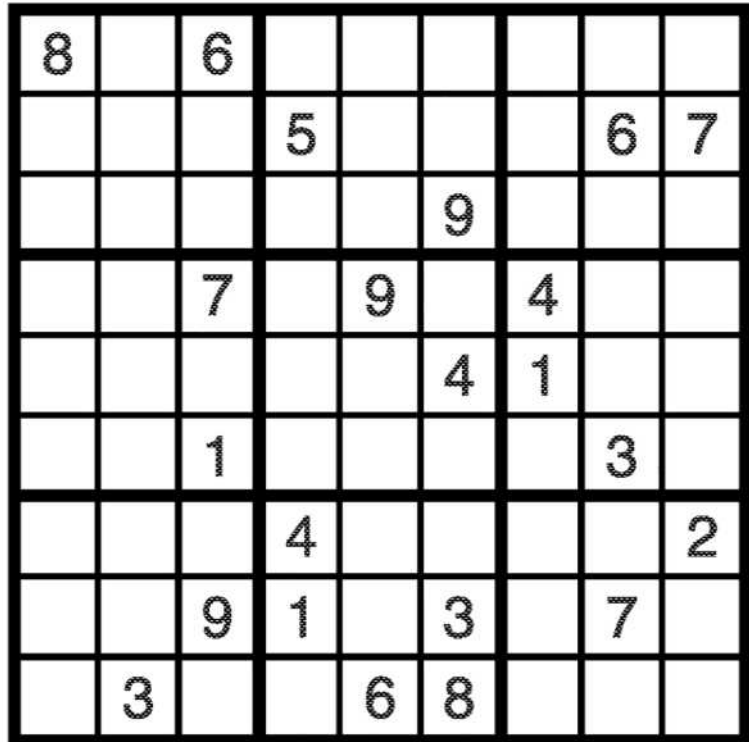
1. Similar
4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
10. No (Scottish)
11. ___ Aires, city
12. Morning
14. Senior's son (abbr.)
15. A notable achievement
16. European nation
18. Endings
22. Puts into place
23. Former
24. Grenadier
26. Sea patrol
27. Algerian port
28. Norwegian river
30. Precipitation
31. Sunscreen rating
34. New York is one
36. Patti Hearst's captors
37. Soft mineral with greasy feel
39. Retired Brazilian footballer
40. An Indian nursemaid
41. Atomic #24
42. Immobile
48. Insignia of royalty
50. Seeds from which chocolate is made
51. Begin again
52. Round root
53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
54. What newlyweds just said
55. Empire State
56. Give back
58. College hoops tournament
59. Unstable situations
60. Young women's association

CLUES DOWN

1. Administer a drug
2. Holy places
3. Contrary opinions
4. Blood type
5. Gags
6. Micturating
7. Silly
8. A type of "cuff"
9. Spanish be
12. Austrian river
13. Messenger ribonucleic acid
17. Consume food
19. California supermarket
20. Electronic communication
21. Cassia tree
25. Written works
29. Cool!
31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
32. One who was compensated
33. National symbols
35. Raising
38. A type of talk
41. Cloud
43. Middle Eastern peoples
44. Pouches
45. 007's creator
46. A cut of meat
47. Sports entertainment award
49. Christine __, actress
56. Relief organization (abbr.)
57. Canadian province (abbr.)



SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

FLOWER FRIENDS WORD SEARCH

A H A Y E G S G E A S V P B H A M B G B
N I M Y R F B L F M B F I M R G G C E N
E R F T F O T S B I H Y A N C N A F C
C T I T M E T A U U M Y P I M G V L G V
T E B M E A O A M B M I G A H A I N H Y
A E R B P I H M R M E A N I O G M D N B
R P S I Y L I V I G R D U C H P V O U C
T A N T E N N A E O I P C T P G L T H U
T D T C G T E C F B L M S O S O T R H I
O Y R B O T A L L A V T L H C E Y A A S
H B I O S F L E T E C L A Y R S L E B C
T R H U N T S E C T E F G F A D L T I F
D E U Y M E P I P N H M L L N R V H T I
N M E T S Y S O C E S Y I F G T F O A D
O T P D R N A V U H A S Y T A M E N V T V
V F V U B O A M O S S O L B C N L E G G
A V B U M B L E B E E S B I E R A R V N
R H V G M S I C S O B O R P P T R F L Y
Y V S F Y O I D O E T L Y U Y F V L A F
L C M I F O S M Y R A I P A R P A Y I I

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ANTENNAE
APIARY
BEETLE
BLOSSOM
BUMBLEBEE
BUTTERFLY
CHRYSLIS
COLONY
DRONE
ECOSYSTEM
FLIGHT
FORAGING
HABITAT
HOVERFLY
HUMMINGBIRD
LARVA
MANDIBLES
MIGRATORY
NECTAR
OVARY
PETAL
POLLEN
PROBOSCIS
STAMEN