

Precious Gift
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I remember in high school I had to carry an uncooked egg around for a week. I was supposed to treat it like it was a human infant. I had to create a transport device that was safe, but also realistic for a human child to be in. I had to take this thing to band rehearsal, sports practice, and theater set construction after school. I had to keep it near me and carry it, along with all my books throughout the school day. I needed to make it “clothes” and change those clothes/diapers regularly. It was fun at first, but that soon wore off, and it became a burden.

For children born into a faithful family, the gift of faith is similar to a birthright. Your parents teach, guide and model the faith. When you wander, they call you back. Faith is a blessing at first, and the joy of knowing and loving Jesus fills and heals a soul wounded through the trials and uncertainty of the world.

But as the world continues to beckon, does your faith ever feel like a burden?

Faith is not fragile like a raw egg. At the same time though, it needs to be tended to, nourished, and fed. It doesn't need protection from the outside world, but it does need to be cherished by its “owner.” When we get tired of the rules of faith, burdened by the expectations, bored by the familiarity, or neglectful of its longevity, we risk being enticed by the world, or worse, having our faith die.

How many of us say, “I don't need church this week” in favor of something more urgent in our schedule? What threshold will matter enough to sacrifice feeding our soul, pouring into the community, and strengthening the foundations which our life, marriages, and character are built upon?

Consider the often slow and unsuspecting way the devil works. It starts as a Sunday here, a devotion there, a prayer here, and a moral failure there. We sacrifice the ways of Jesus for the comforts of the world on a daily basis, often without regard for the impact, and claim a confident assurance that “next time” we will be all in.

If your faith is ensnared with weeds or even weakened from poor nourishment, hear this truth: it's never too late!

Our God is the giver of all things, and Jesus is the only One with perfect faith. He perfects our faith through forgiveness and the nourishment of His body and His blood. We are so blessed!

Make this weekend your “next time” to come and receive God's gifts at church. Come and be present for others to find joy seeing you again. Invite that person you've been meaning to ask. It's your birthright, and God wants you to have it in full! Don't let our own familiarity or the idea that we can do it “next time” give away this precious and powerful blessing.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23