** **West Union Baptist Church**

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*“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” John 14:6*

***September 2024 Newsletter***

Dear Members and Friends of West Union Baptist Church,

As we continue our faith journey together, the third part of our vision at West Union Baptist Church is to **Believe**. This isn’t just about saying we believe but truly standing firm on the Word of God. We need to hold on to His truth and not be swayed by the lies and tricks of the enemy. In John 20:29, Jesus tells Thomas, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." Jesus reminds us that genuine belief doesn’t depend on what we see. We’re blessed when we trust God’s promises, even when we don’t see the proof right before us.

The story of Lazarus gives us another powerful example of what it means to believe. When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had already been dead for four days. The situation seemed hopeless, and both Mary and Martha were grieving deeply. But Jesus had something else in mind. He said to Martha, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:25-26). Martha’s response, "Yes, Lord," was a strong statement of faith, even in an impossible situation. Her belief in Jesus’ power wasn’t just about understanding it with her mind; it was about trusting Him with her heart, even when the outcome wasn’t clear. Furthermore, Paul’s experience during a dangerous storm at sea also speaks to this. In Acts 27:25, he tells those around him, "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." Paul didn’t trust what was happening around him but what God had promised. This shows us that our belief should be rooted in God’s faithfulness, no matter our challenges.

Hebrews 11:6 reminds us that "without faith, it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Our belief is the foundation of our relationship with God. Through our faith, we please Him, and through our belief, we draw closer to Him. But let’s be honest—we all have moments of doubt. Just like the father in Mark 9:24 who said, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief," we might struggle sometimes. This shows that belief is a journey. We must keep seeking God, supporting each other in faith, and growing deeper in our trust.

As we move forward, let’s strengthen our belief, stand firm on the truth of God’s Word, and encourage one another to grow in faith. In a world full of distractions and lies, let’s be the people who say with confidence, "I believe God."

 In Christ, Adam