



# SUMMERDALE YOUTH NEWS

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Ray Reynolds

Minister to Youth & Young Families

summerdaleyq@gmail.com

## "A GROWING FAITH"

Why is it that we lack faith? Personally, there are days that I feel like I could fight the devil in a bare knuckled brawl, but other days I'm too weak to defend my faith. I have discovered that growing my faith is not due to one single experience but to an accumulation of experiences in my life. If I had been blinded by those experiences, I would have been doomed to repeat a trial or struggled in my acceptance of God's Word. Dwight Moody once said, "I prayed for faith and thought that some day faith would come down and strike me like lightning, but faith did not come. One day I read in Romans 10, 'Now faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.' I had closed my Bible and prayed for faith; I now opened my Bible and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since." What a great point!

Many of you know that I was brought up in the church. I read the Bible from my childhood. I attend Bible class, worship, and church events. I realize now that within me the Word of God was like a seed. The seed of the Kingdom was implanted within me as a youth. I knew from childhood that the Bible was more than just a book. I knew that God really did exist and that He loved me. Reason supported my faith, but faith can soar beyond reason. The Word is living and active within me. It cannot be repudiated. I can't quite explain it, but I know that God's Spirit is there guiding me and maturing me. I have found that God hears and grants my petitions as I pray because of that faith. Without faith prayer I would feel useless.

I have found that desiring to seek first the Kingdom of God brings many blessings. It brings true Christian joy unspeakable, full of glory, and a peace that surpasses all understanding. God has worked all things for my good in my life. I cannot tell you how often I have prayed thanking God for His providential care. Through His providence I have found my life ordered beyond my own insights. I have seen opportunities provided, doors opened, and bucket loads of grace. However, all of these experiences, which have led me to where I am today, have blessed my life in a way that makes me feel unworthy. I still feel that way here at Summerdale. You continue to bless me.

In the end, I realize that my faith is growing. I learn from each trial, each opportunity, and each experience. I realize that these things are preparing me for a future in Christ's kingdom. I have no way of knowing what lies ahead, but I know that God is with me. I pray daily for great faith that can help me grow more mature as Christian. I still need a growing faith.

God will guide us and lead us in the direction that he desires. We simply must yield ourselves to Him and commit ourselves to His cause. I John 5:15 says, "And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." We need to speak to Him because He is listening. He is ready to lead us. Are you ready to grow up with me? Let's ask the Father for some advice. Let's seek His wisdom! Have a GREAT week!

*You are loved,  
Ray*





# SYG NEWS & EVENTS



We offer two opportunities for our children during the week for Bible study. On Sunday mornings we meet on the front pew for a "Pew Packers" style class before worship. SONSHINE STUDIES will have singing, Bible reading, and an object lesson for pre-K to 5th grade. We also have Wednesday night Bible classes for all ages! The teenagers will be studying the L2L material to prepare for the 2021 convention in Orlando, FL. Please bring your children and teens to Bible study and worship.



There will be a Teen Christmas Party on Friday night, December 4, beginning at 7 PM. The super secret location is TBA. Dinner will be served and we will play dirty Santa (\$10 gift). There will also be an ugly Christmas sweater contest! Please RSVP with Ray by Wednesday night, December 2nd.

Breakfast With Santa will be held on Saturday morning, December 5th, beginning at 9 AM. This is an event for the 5th grade and under. It will be held in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP with Ray by Wednesday night, December 2nd.



Young Adult Christmas Party will be held on Sunday evening, December 20th, beginning at 6 PM. It will be held in the fellowship hall and we are asking everyone to bring a side dish or dessert. Please RSVP with Ray by that Sunday morning if you can attend.

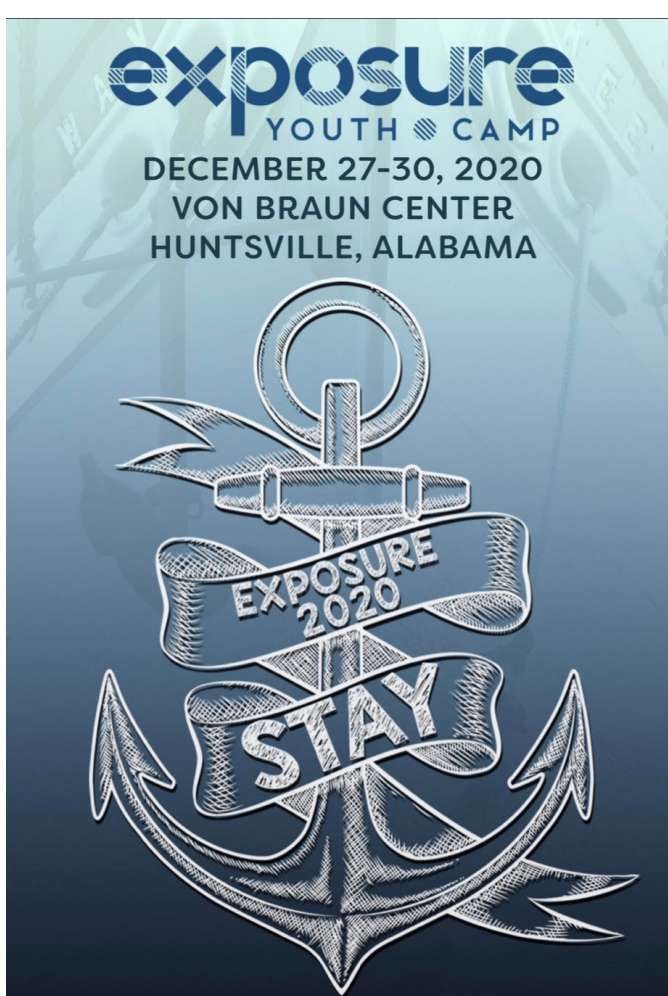


## GIRLS NIGHT OUT & GUYS NIGHT OUT

We are planning a girls night out and guys night out for Saturday, January 2. The date and location are TBA. See Misty or Ray for more details.



We've got questions. You've got the answers. Don't throw us shade. It's time to spill the tea. Each week one of our teens will be asked a series of random questions. We call it "7 Groovy Questions." You can find it on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube. The next video will be with Chase Joiner. Follow us and watch on YouTube.



Ray Reynolds -- (251) 923-8951 -- summerdale44@gmail.com