

**"CONFIRMED, AFFIRMED, MORE THAN EXPECTED!"**  
**THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION – THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**JONAH 3:10-4:11; PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30; MATTHEW 20:1-16**  
**Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.**

**We would love something, for nothing - but that is not life. We would like more than we have, more than those who we think do less; that is human. But how much more do we really want? Do we really want more fairness? As we share today in the parable of the laborers, as we celebrate the Rite of Confirmation and the Affirmation of Baptism, we are reminded, we are blessed anew, it is Jesus who confirms us, affirms us, every day; that our very salvation is not dependent on when we hear the good news of Jesus Christ, or what we do in the field. Thanks be to God, our place is not based on fairness; our new beginning in grace is more than we expected! Thanks be to God, God gives as God chooses, to whom God chooses, when God chooses. In a world that tempts us to expect more; go for it: Affirm the One who affirms you first, with more grace than ever expected!**

1. We are confirmed, affirmed, with more fairness than expected, as we receive a new beginning in God's grace! Jonah 4:9-11; Matt. 20:8-15
  - A. We would like life to be fair.
  - B. Jesus' parable does not sound very fair, and that troubles us.
  - C. Jesus' parable does not sound fair, and that is what saves us, affirming for us a new beginning in God's grace!
2. We are confirmed, affirmed, as Jesus makes things more clear than expected, giving us a new beginning in grace! Phil.1:21,27; Mt.20:1-7,14
  - A. We like it when things are clearly explained to us.
  - B. How much more clear can Jesus be about all we are to do, as we hear his invitation and call?
  - C. We are confirmed, affirmed, in all Jesus makes clear, more than expected, in all we are promised, with a new beginning in grace!
3. We are confirmed, affirmed, with more grace than expected! Mt. 20:8,15
  - A. We are confirmed, affirmed, with more forgiveness, more eternal life, more hope, more new life, than ever expected!
  - B. We are forever confirmed, affirmed, with more grace than expected, with a new beginning, each and every day!

4. It is only human for us to want a little more out of life - a little more recognition, a little more control. Today we give thanks we are confirmed, affirmed, with more of God's love than ever expected, more than we ever dreamed, forever confirming and affirming us, each and every day with a new beginning in God's grace!

**Thoughts & Insights Confirming the Faith**  
**of Those God Confirms Today!**

*Inspiration From The Confirmation Class of 2017*

I know that being a follower of Christ means that he will always lend a hand when I need one, and I will always have a shoulder to cry on when I am feeling sad. I know I am not perfect, and so does Jesus, and he still finds it in his heart to forgive me. I know that Jesus matters to me and that I matter to Jesus. My heart tells me this. My heart tells me that without Jesus, something in me would feel empty or lost. My heart also reminds me that no matter where I go, Jesus will always be right by my side no matter what. *Amelia*

My Great Grandma Blue, is very strong in her faith. The most important part of praying to me is being able to talk to God. God gives us strength and helps us. Jesus matters to me because he is God's only Son and he gave up his life for others. I want Jesus in my life, he gave his life for me, he is the way to heaven. If I could ask Jesus anything, I would ask him: Why did you die for us? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do people kill each other? Why is there so much poverty and suffering in the world? *Cody*

It matters so much to me that Jesus loves me, it makes me feel safe. Just knowing he is watching over me, lets me know I have someone to talk to. I am a Christian because God is so amazing. You can be having a bad day and he will play just the right song, or you will hit all the green lights. I am a Christian because our God is a forgiving God. Everyone makes mistakes. I am a part of God's family, so I try to be nice to others no matter what, so if they are having a bad day, I am able to help and make their day a little brighter. *Jonathan*

I know Jesus is always there for me even when it does not involve sports. In hockey... there are times where I block a shot or it feels like I pulled a muscle, and I pray to not be seriously injured. In those times that I am unsure if I am hurt or not, I close my eyes, and pray, and then I find myself saying, why are you asking for God's help when you know he is already with you. Praying helps me in my life, too, because if I wasn't able to talk to him I would keep getting more and more stressed. I know Jesus loves me and will go out of his way for me and I love him back for that. *Lucas*

I believe God has a plan for me that I am learning little by little. I believe in God because he does not discriminate. He welcomes everyone with open arms. I know that with God I can be strong and courageous. I do not have to fear what is to come. I can live in the moment and know that I am never alone and he is always with me. I don't have to be perfect. My definition of perfect and God's definition of perfect are two different things. I am always perfect to him, and that's what matters. There is never a moment where he loves me less than the day before. *Alex*

I know Jesus is in my life because I have everything I could ever ask for and much more. Being a Christian is the center of my life. One of the many amazing things about Jesus is that he forgives us of our sins and gives us another chance. One of the ways that God reminds me of his grace is when I am out doing one of my favorite things, fishing. To think God made all of these things around us, for someone like me or you to enjoy is simply amazing. No matter how many things are in the way between God and I, He still loves me. I try each and every day to worship, praise, and put God first. *Braeden*

God created me. That is more than a good enough reason to live my life every day, to the fullest potential. Jesus died for me. He died for everyone. Christ has risen, and we await his arrival once more. God always listens. God is always there. He never has a voicemail waiting for me. God is my cheerleader. I am blessed to be surrounded by people who care for me and love me. God knows exactly what I deal with. God wants me to succeed. He makes such a wonderful cheerleader, "his love never fails, never gives up, and never runs out on me." I need God and Jesus in my life each and every day. *Zoey*

I remember there was one time where I questioned if God really loved me and was actually there for me. It was when my grandpa died and I remember thinking why would God let him die. It was only a couple days to Christmas. I also didn't understand why he let everything bad in the world happen. I know now no matter what happens in my life, it isn't because God doesn't love me. The most important part to me is that I trust when I'm talking to God that he's listening to me. I know no matter what I talk to him about, he's the only one who 100% isn't going to judge me for being me. That's probably my favorite thing about Christ; that he accepts anyone and everyone. *Madison*

I believe that the Lord will continue to strengthen me and to allow me to grow into the best person I can be. My family wanted me to get involved in God's house because my family always knew that God would always have a place in his house for me and my future. I believe that being a Christian allows me to know that God will always support me, even when I make the wrong choice he will be there to guide me through the rough patches in life. Being a part of God's church I get to have a large family and everyone in the congregation will support me through my life. I take pride in being confirmed in front of all my friends and family of the congregation. *Linnea*