

## Sustaining Faith

### Deeper Tilling

In our study and preparation for this year, we discovered that the subject of faith is everywhere in the Scriptures. As a result, we will be attempting to cover a lot of ground, yet we will also pause and dig in. At times we will jump through the Gospels and Paul's letters, while at other times we will slowly walk through sections of Acts and James. We will do a word study and several character studies. There will be a lot of variety this year.

The sermons are only just the beginning. We invite you to dig deeper each week. We have enclosed a few Bible study methods that you may use to guide your deeper tilling. They can be utilized in individual or small group studies.

We hope that these various methods of sowing will produce an assortment of crops throughout the year.

- Inductive Bible Study – This is an excellent method for studying a small segment of scripture. It will work for most weeks this year. It is a systematic approach that produces results if patiently followed. It is important to move through the observation section without getting too bogged down so that you can arrive at interpretation and application. You will find yourself becoming more proficient as you practice this method.
- Word Study – This method allows you to achieve greater comprehension of a word or phrase. We often take for granted our understanding of oft used Biblical phrases. This method broadens and deepens our conceptions of these vital words.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> – We will study the “Fear of God.” One study idea is to use the Word Study method on Psalms 111-118 (the “Hallelujah Psalms”)

- Character Study – In this case, the inductive method is applied to the story of a Biblical character. You will be led through a series of questions regarding the character. New insights and life application often result even when studying very familiar stories.

We will study the stories of Zedekiah and Hezekiah this year.