

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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“GOD IS MORE THAN DOCTRINE”

Amazingly, God is more than doctrine. Perhaps that is an unusual statement but God has been reduced to a doctrine in the minds of many Christians and non-believers. Doctrines are the thoughts about something after the examination of facts. It certainly isn't wrong to study and learn about the Master but to move into the realm of feelings and emotions and expressions should be our goal. The Apostle Paul spoke of Knowing Him. The expression, “To Know Him”, is taken from a personal, intimate relationship between a man and woman. It is a covenant term. The discussion of doctrine, which has its place, produces speculation about God while personal fellowship produces factual doctrines of the heart. It's more about Who He is than what He is. Our goal is to Know Him. Love Him.

Pastor George Ferrington

“DEAR CHURCH,”

Your missionary is truly awed once again at the love of our Lord. His love is the most powerful force in this universe. It can come and consume a person's life if they will receive it, lift them up out of the pit of defeat, and plant their feet upon the Rock. When your feet are planted on this Rock, the winds blow, the rain descends, and the floods come but the house does not fall. This Rock is the knowledge of the love of Jesus. When you fully realize how much Jesus loves you, that revelation changes your life.

The revelation of His love lets you know it is not anything we do, but all about what He did. He came and walked on this earth as a man, with every temptation we have, but without sin. He then gave the ultimate sacrifice. He being the spotless Lamb, took sin upon Himself and shed His blood for us. His blood was placed upon the mercy seat to atone our sin once and for all. Church, every time I think of what He did for me, I cry thanking Him for such love.

When I began to walk in the revelation of this love, I found freedom. Before, I was always trying to be “good enough” to have that love, always falling short. The night I received my healing, I saw Jesus on the Cross. His face was so badly beaten; he did not look like a man. There was blood dripping from Him to me. He looked down at me as I stared up at Him. His eyes looked into my eyes and He said these life changing words I have never forgotten, “I am doing this for you!” Church, the love I felt that night was a power greater than any other. It touched my heart in a way that has changed my life forever. I did not need to try to earn it; it was a free gift to me. That night I was touched by the life changing love of Jesus. It reached down and touched this broken heart, and put it back together, completely healed. I began to walk in His love. It consumed me. I no longer felt the need to try and earn it but to just walk in it. The price has already been paid; all we must do is receive that love.

This trip has been a display of His love in my life once again. You know I am just a country girl from Louisiana with a heart full of the love of Christ. He sent me to a village in Sarawak, where no other white people had ever been before. The people stared at us when we arrived. We

did not know they have never seen white people. We stayed in a long house, slept on the floor, bathed in the river, ate the local food, and shared the love of Jesus. The tribe was so thankful that we came so far to share His precious love with them. We were so humbled and awed that our precious Lord would send us to this precious people.

We left this village and went to another. We did not have a service the night we traveled but had two for the next day. Between the services we went for a walk in the village. We saw a young woman sitting by the river bank alone. We talked to her and she shared with us that she was 16 years old, six months pregnant, and had left her husband on Monday because he was beating her. This young woman's face was full of hurt and despair. We told her about our service that night and asked her to come. She came. We prayed for her and asked her to come the next day to our Sunday service. Praise God! She came and the Lord really touched her life. The expression of her face was totally different. In place of sadness there was joy with a beautiful smile. We left to go to our hotel and change so we could leave for our next journey. Someone knocked on our door. We opened and it was her with her brothers and a few friends. She had been so touched; she asked if we could pray for them. We led them in the sinner's prayer and they were all saved. This was nothing but the power of HIS LOVE.

I could tell you pages of stories of testimonies but I want you to hear what I am saying in this article. It is all about revelation of the love of Christ. It is all about Him. All we must do is receive all He died to give us and walk in it. It is the power of His love that changes lives. I am living proof of the power of that love. I was a broken vessel that He healed, filled with that love and it taking all over the world to share that love. Just think Church, He took a Louisiana country girl with no formal education, to a village that has never seen white people to share that love. That is powerful. He does not need anything from us but to receive His love and walk in it. Let His love flow in your life so you can take the powerful life changing love of Jesus to those in need. I sure miss you Church. I will see you next month. Much love to you all.

Your Missionary, Bess Graham

“ABUNDANCE OF PEACE”

“But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” (Psalms 37:11) Also in Psalms 72:7, **“In his days shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace as long as the moon endureth.”** Have you ever wondered what the expression “abundance of peace” means. It is the same reference as “abundance of prosperity” which leads me to believe that our Heavenly Father intended for us to seek peace in Him in order to have all things fulfilled in this life. Matthew 6:33 tells us to, **“Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”** We have sought and sought and sought, but have not attained to the “all things” that is promised here. Could it be the we have not sought correctly? Perhaps we are not understanding what is being said here. I would like to share with you what the Lord is revealing to me on these subjects.

I heard the Lord speak into my spirit these words, **“It's not what you want, it's what you believe. It's not the desire of the flesh, but the desire of the heart.”** This was a revelation to me and I knew that I had to find the understanding in His Word. That is when I found that my prosperity hinged on finding peace in God. Romans 5:1 says, **“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** His Word has told us that the meek will inherit the earth. Meekness does not represent submissiveness to the world, but a

calm and subtle strength that does not need adversity to prove its merit. Our battles are fought in the wisdom of the Spirit, rather than with the strength of the flesh. Therein lies the answer. John 15:7, **“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”** As His Words abide within us, we will daily experience the renewing of our mind as it becomes more like unto the mind of Christ. Our will becomes the Father’s will as His will becomes ours. Then when we ask what we “will” it lines up with the Father’s will and it is done. How many times have you asked for something, knowing that it is not God’s will or that it is more than you actually need? You asked but you didn’t believe or have a conviction about the issue. Jesus never spoke, prayed or believed anything that was not from the Father. John 14:9-12, **“ . . . He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me for the very work’s sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father.”**

Jesus’ life on this earth was not one of mansions and great earthly kingdoms. It was not His mission to be an earthly king, this first time. His was a kingdom of love and peace. As such, though He was the Son of God, He was the Son of man, and He lived as a traveling evangelist, many times sleeping under the stars. Matthew 8:20 tells us, **“And Jesus said unto them, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”** The Creator of the universe willingly accepted meekness in order to set the ultimate example to us of God’s abundance of peace. Our Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalms 50:10) and has unlimited resources for our benefit. But He realizes what will truly benefit us from this point on throughout eternity. Great worldly riches may be our undoing. Fame and fortune could lure us away from God’s best for our lives. Some seek after it anyway, and are led far astray. God would have us to know who we are in Him, and operate in a spirit of meekness.

Having said all of this, and based on the knowledge I have of God’s Word, I realize that my believing has been more in line with my wants rather than His will. God’s Word abides within each of us, so if we will abide in Him, and recognize His will for our daily lives, then those things we ask for will be what God has prepared for us. We will prosper because God wants His best for our lives. When our wants line up with His will, then all things are possible. We will realize that God does not intend an abundance of prosperity for His children, but rather an abundance of peace. Therein we will find abundance in all things. **“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”** (Philippians 4:7)

Bro. Mike Woods

PRAYER FOR PEACE ON EARTH

Send Thy peace O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting, that our souls may radiate peace.

Send Thy peace O Lord, that we may think, act and speak harmoniously.

Send Thy peace O Lord, that we may be contented and thankful for Thy bountiful gifts.

Send Thy peace O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife, we may enjoy Thy bliss.

Send Thy peace O Lord, that we may endure all, tolerate all, in the thought of thy grace.

Send Thy peace O Lord, that our lives may become a Divine vision and in thy light, all darkness may vanish.

Send Thy peace O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we Thy children on earth may all unite in one family.

“The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house, says the Lord Almighty, And in this place I will grant peace, declares the Lord Almighty.” (Haggai 2:9)

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
994 Willie Hill Road
Gilbert, La. 71336**

**LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST
RULE IN YOUR HEARTS.
(Colossians 3:15)**