

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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“THE STABLE WORD IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD”

There is a tremendous difference in fear and being concerned. It would be easy to become fearful if one only looked to the happenings in the world. The rampant sin of man has to be a shadow of the world before the flood came. The Bible states that things would have the appearance of Noah's day in the last days. Enough said about the wickedness of man. Our Lord has comforted us with His Word and has given us a peek at the last chapter and verse. We win. Righteousness defeats unrighteousness, love overcomes hate, light overshadows darkness and the Army of God prevails. That has to put fear in its place and our spirits shouting. No one understands the last days completely. We have to be there but the early disciples thought the same. Regardless, our faith is in the Faithful One and that is where we stand. Believers, keep your eyes on the Master and fear will pale away.

Pastor George Ferrington

“DEAR CHURCH,”

I went fishing the other day which is something I very much enjoy. As I was fishing, I began to reminisce about fishing with my daddy, who was my hero. He loved to fish and I loved spending time with him so he taught me how to fish as soon as I was old enough. He was quite the fisherman because he could catch fish when no one else could even get a bite. I listened when he told me his secrets. Daddy said every detail is important. You must use the correct hook, cork, sinker, bait, and depth. I fished with him many times and watched him catch one after another with me in the same spot and not even get a bite. I knew his secrets, but if I did not apply them, they did not work. He would tell me to pull up my line so he could see what I was doing wrong. He would change what needed to be changed and I would start catching fish. The day would end successfully because I followed his instructions.

You know, our spiritual lives are the same. Our Father knows EVERYTHING and He teaches us so much, but if we do not apply what He teaches us, “IT WILL NOT WORK!” He gives us His Word and makes it alive with His Spirit, the Living Water, but if we do not apply it to every situation as needed, it will not help us walk in victory. It will be like me fishing in the same spot as my daddy and not catching fish because I did not apply what he taught me.

As I meditated on this, God began to speak to me. He reminded me of things I knew about bream fishing. The male bream find the bed and sweep it clean. While doing this, they are too busy to eat. This may take several days. Next, the females come in and lay the eggs. They then leave and the males guard the nest. This is when they really bite. They are very hungry now because they have not eaten since they came to sweep the nest. They will definitely take the bait.

Of course, there is a spiritual application here. Satan is always fishing for more FISH to be

with him in the lake of fire. He knows his time is limited and he wants as many fish in his lake as he can get. He is a very smart fisherman, also. He has studied the fish and definitely knows when they are sweeping the bed and making the nest ready. Satan waits until just the right time to drop the bait. It will always be when you are the most vulnerable. It is usually when you are very tired and hungry or when things have been very difficult. He always knows the best lure to throw. One of his favorite lures to use is a comment to hurt your feelings, and he will set the hook by making you think on it and become angry. While he is reeling you in, he reminds you of the anger until it becomes unforgiveness. This leads to bitterness which is an offense in your heart and now you are caught. This is just one of the baits he has. Satan chooses the lure for the fish he wants to catch. Some of the other baits are jealousy, envy, strife, lust, adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, wrath, and the like. Remember, these are just the lures and he certainly knows just what to do to set the hook and then you are caught.

Satan is always fishing in God's water trying to catch His FISH and pull them out of the River of Living Water. He will throw every lure he has if the first one does not work. He will never stop trying to pull you out of the Water, the Spirit. He knows a FISH can not live out of the Water, the Spirit. Church, the Word plainly says, "He has given us power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all of the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19) "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4) "Nothing shall separate us from the love of God." (Romans 8:38-39) "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:19) "Submit yourselves to God, resist the devil and he will flee." (James 4:7) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7) "All things are possible to them that believe." (Matthew 19:26) "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) "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." (John 14:12) These are all bait stoppers for us. God gave us these Words of Life to keep us from taking the devil's bait. God wants us to be so full of the Bread of Life that we do not bite the enemy's bait.

Well everyone knows a good fishing story has to end by telling the story of the big catch. In Ephesians 6:11-18, God gives us the key to catching the big fish instead of him catching us with his bait. We must have the whole armor of God so that we can withstand all the wiles of the enemy. The helmet of salvation (to protect your mind with the Word of God and the blood of Jesus), your loins girded with truth (truth sets you free), feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace (not worldly peace but the peace that passes understanding), breastplate of righteousness (know you are in right standing with God only because of Jesus), sword of the Spirit (the Word of God), and the shield of faith (to quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked one). And then in Romans 8 we find a little more Bread of Life to feast upon. When we are led by the Spirit of God, we are the sons of God. He did not give us a spirit of bondage unto fear, but a Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry out, Abba, Father. We are joint heirs with Christ. This fills us up with the bread of Life and we do not have any space or hunger for the enemy's bait. We just keep getting bigger and bigger while feasting on the Bread of Life living in God's River, the River of Life, until one day you realize how much bigger you are than the devil. This is when

Romans 8:37, “Nay, in all of these things we are more than conquerors through Christ that loved us” becomes alive and you take the fishing pole from the enemy and have him for lunch. You know in life, the big fish eats the little fish unless the little fish outsmarts the big fish. Church, it is time for us to stand up and realize, “WE ARE THE BIG FISH.” He has no authority over us. He is under our feet. We are victorious. We have the mind of Christ. We are greater. We are the CHURCH of the true and Living GOD. Let’s protect these young fish and feed them the Bread of Life so they will not bite the enemy’s bait and will soon realize they are the “BIG FISH.” God Bless you all.

Love you bunches,
Your Missionary Bess Graham

“PLEASING GOD”

“And Enoch walked with God, and he was not; for God took him.” (Genesis 5:24) “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But 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.” (Hebrews 11:5-6)

Enoch is an unusual man—even before the time of Jesus Christ, Enoch is found to be faithful to God; so faithful that God invited him to come on home to heaven without having to taste a physical death. What a blessing! It is also a witness to us that remain of several things. First, that it is possible to find that kind of closeness with God. Second, that God desires and encourages us to seek Him in close and intimate ways. Third, that God rewards those that do so with long life (Enoch was 365 years old) and with blessings. And fourth, God establishes us as examples to others of what a faith filled life should be—not that we become the object of their praise, but so that He can be glorified through us. What did Enoch have or do that we are lacking today? Let me speculate just a bit.

The Word says that Enoch walked with God. That means he abided in God’s presence and under God’s leadership in all that he did. When he went to bed, he asked God for blessings and guidance. When he arose the next day, he approached God in praise and thanksgiving. As he went through each day, at work or in service, he sought God’s instruction and leadership. All the while, he rejoiced in the fellowship of His Holy Spirit. What did God do? He honored Enoch with His presence, His blessings, His life, His guidance, His power, His unction, His grace and His eternity. Enoch walked so close to God that God received him into Heaven. And Enoch will come back as a witness of the Christ during the tribulation along with Elijah. What a man of God. Yet the Word tells us that his testimony is this—that he pleased God.

I am convinced that our number one priority as a Christian should be to please God. Now that takes on a lot of responsibilities. To please Him means we dedicate ourselves to Him, much like Enoch did. The world today has accepted a “watered down” version of Christianity, such that you can serve God at your convenience, one or two hours on Sunday morning, no more thought or intent for the rest of the week until next Sunday. That is just not true. God is a 24/7 Father that is watching over us all the time. Not only does He desire to protect and bless us, but He wants to fellowship us. When we neglect Him, we miss those blessings, and we neglect the intimacy we can enjoy with our Father. Above all, the Father is not pleased that we do not want to be in His presence with all our heart. Remember King David. Although he sinned, God still

honored him because he never failed to seek God and extend his heart's desire toward Him. This pleased God, and He called David a "man after God's Own heart."

We know that we are sinful and unworthy of God's grace. But He has freely lavished it upon us. For His blessings to manifest in our lives, there must be a catalyst to put it into effect. I believe that we who diligently seek Him are applying our heart to His service and to our fellow man. He is pleased and His Word manifests to those that please Him. Many do not find this place of rest in the Father, because they selfishly seek after the things of this life and neglect the things of God. In Matthew 21, in the parable of the fig tree, Jesus cursed the fig tree for not bearing fruit when He expected it to. I do not want to be displeasing to God.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 tells us, "**Furthermore, then, we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.**"

I am not my own, I have been bought with a price. The precious blood of Jesus Christ. My life should be a witness of the glory of God and dedicated to pleasing God. How can I please Him? It pleases a parent to see his children do those things they have been instructed to do by their parents. Such is our Heavenly Father. He has instructed us in His Word on how to live and conduct our lives, in Him. Our obedience to His Word is pleasing to the Father.

Mike Woods

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**JULY 4TH
WHAT IS THE PRICE
OF OUR LIBERTY?**