

# **VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

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## **“MAKING A DIFFERENCE”**

I often use an illustration concerning a person's refrigerator. It goes like this. What if someone stole your refrigerator and you knew were it was but through your timidity and reluctance refused to reclaim it and resorted to living out of ice chests? One day as you were replenishing the ice in the chest the thought comes over you, why am I doing this? You, in disgust, go and get your frig and wonder why you waited so long. There are situations in life that require our attention and action. We have to reclaim the stolen, whatever it is, and learn to guard the unstolen. The Bible states that satan comes to “KILL, STEAL AND DESTROY.” Not everything is stolen by the devil though, sometimes lack of acting responsibly causes this. When we fail to obey God's Word, become wreckless with our fellowship and become too busy to love our Master, we get in this pickle. You probably know where I am coming from. If it is time to reclaim, do it. If it is time to reestablish, do it. Life is short, live responsibly.

Pastor George Ferrington

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY      APRIL 12, 2009**  
**SERVICES BEGIN AT 11:00 AM      NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**COME CELEBRATE OUR LORD!!!**

## **PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY** **“An Experience Requires a Manifestation”**

### **The Great Tragedy**

I believe that I have made it plain that in order for us to understand, we must obey revelation and put it into practice. As an example, let's say that I teach you to lay hands upon the sick, and you receive a revelation concerning the laying on of hands. I may stand up on the following Sunday, and do the best job I can to illustrate the plight and need of the poor. People all across the room may be moved in their emotions. But if they don't do something practical within the next two or three weeks – perhaps finding a sick person and praying for them, then the Word is open to being taken from their heart. It is the heart of a believer that has the power to transform our lives. **REVELATION TAKES US ONLY HALF WAY; EXPERIENCE LEADS US ALL THE WAY!** The great tragedy is that if you don't move into experience, that revelation remains locked in your mind and you think it's active in your life but its not! The next time you hear a message about laying hands on the sick you might say, “Amen, I understand. I sure wish the rest of the people in this room understood,” even though you have done nothing to help the sick. Hearing revelation

without having the experience of that revelation will lock you into a form of religion that denies the power. This leads me to talk about religion that denies the power of God.

### Embracing Heaven on this Earth

There are many denominations and Christian movements that would fight to the death to defend divine healing, or prophecy, or any of the supernatural practices revealed by Jesus. But they never see divine healing, prophecy, the new song or any other supernatural manifestations happen in their lives or churches. They understand the concept, and agree that it happens. It is in that conformity that they wait on God, and may even say, "If its God's will, He knows where I live, and He can give me that grace gift." They have the revelation, but can't point to any proof of its validity in their personal experience. They can't show anyone how to do it. Why? Because their mental concept insulates them from the conviction that anything more needs to happen. Their conformity develops anesthesia that deadens their sensitivity to their personal transformation into heaven's reality. Their problem rests in the fact that they are robbed in their belief of an experience. They have reached a point in their lives that they can only recite former revelations. They have embraced religion with no power! A good example of what I am saying is found in John 3:12-13 AMP: **"If I have told you of things that happen right here on the earth and yet none of you believes Me, how can you believe (trust Me, adhere to Me, rely on Me) if I tell you of heavenly things? V13, And yet no one has ever gone up to heaven, but there is One Who has come down from heaven – the Son of Man [Himself], Who is (dwells, has His home) in heaven."** I'm sorry to say, most believers tend to only think of heaven as a place that is out in space somewhere instead of a place that co-exists with us. We have a difficult time comprehending and wrapping our hearts around these verses, and so we let them become nice, encouraging statements with no practical application to our lives. But this is not the case; they are much more as we will see. In verse 12, Jesus is telling Nicodemus; **". . . that after I have illustrated this new birth to you and you have failed to believe, how can you believe if I tell you of heavenly things?"** The key to this mystery is found in the words **"heavenly things."** The problem with Nicodemus at this time is found in John 3:5: **"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."** The "Key" to the mystery of **"heavenly things"** is the "new birth" that allows a person to enter into the Kingdom of God which is heavenly oriented. Nicodemus was not born of the Spirit at this time in his life, thus he could not understand heavenly things.

Another way of saying this is found in 1 Corinthians 3:1-2: **"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, [even] as unto babes in Christ. V2, I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able."** Just what does Jesus mean in verse 13 when He says, **"And yet no one has ever gone up to heaven, but there is One Who has come down from heaven – the Son of man [Himself], Who is (dwells, has His home) in heaven?"** Here we see the incarnation of Jesus Christ Who has come down from Heaven but continues to say that He is the Son of Man, Who still has the spirit and mind of heaven. What implication does this have for me? Doesn't it mean that, like Jesus, we should live in a posture of dwelling in heavenly realms while we live toward the afflictions, infirmities, and difficulties of the world around us? Shouldn't we function as ambassadors of another world, living in the realm of faith, which is the realm of the Spirit, which is called **"The Kingdom of Heaven"** on earth?

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

## “DEAR CHURCH,”

I sit in awe so many times thinking on how awesome our Lord is. The Word is so real and living. Truly, all things are possible to them that believe. I am just a country girl that fell in love with Jesus, became a broken vessel to be molded and shaped by Him, and stepped out in faith to be His servant. He took that empty vessel, filled it with His healing love and is now taking it around the world to share that LOVE with hurting people. All He wants is clay that is willing to be molded by the Master Potter. You do not have to have a degree or a bunch of head knowledge, just be an obedient vessel and follow Him. He will use any clay that is willing to get on the Master’s wheel and be formed into the vessel He wants you to be. When the vessel is molded, it then has to be fired and sanded. This process can be painful but in the end, the vessel is beautiful and ready for use.

Everywhere we go in this world now, we find hurting people. Things are difficult. People are losing jobs, not knowing how they will pay their bills and meet the needs of their families. They become desperate and lose hope. We, the church, must be able to give them hope. If we have been on the Potter’s wheel, formed into the vessel He wants us to be, and then filled with His love by spending time with Him in the secret place, we are full of hope. This hope, which is in the Word of God, is the only hope that will survive the end times.

Psalms 91 is one of my favorite chapters in the Word. It is a powerful Word to us, the Church, from our Father. “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” My Father revealed His shadow to me while I was on the mission field in Cameron Highlands, Malaysia. My friend and I were going on a walk when she finished her work. While waiting, I sat in a swing on the side of the mountain singing praises to my Lord as I beheld His beautiful creation. As I sang to the Lord, black storm clouds formed all around me. I said, “Lord you know we want to go walking, stop the rain.” He spoke to me, “Be still!” I saw the most awesome thing. The Light of God shone down on me and He reminded me of Psalms 91. He showed me that His shadow is not darkness but LIGHT. He is Light and when you are in His shadow there is no darkness. My friend came out and saw this. We were both awed at what we saw. The storm clouds were overtaken by the light and we took our walk.

In this time, Church, we must be under the shadow of the Almighty, in the secret place. We need His Light to shine for us so we know where to go but not just for ourselves. So many people need the Light to shine for them. They have lost hope because their hope has been in the world system. We need to be under the shadow, His Light, so it shines from us to show them the way to have hope. The Word tells us that everything else will pass away, but My Word will last forever. It is the beginning and the end.

Let the Master Potter have His way with you. Dwell in the secret place abiding under the shadow of LIGHT and shine so others can have hope. You may be the only chance they have to see the LIGHT.

The mission trip is going good. We have had many services thus far and have many to come. I want to tell you one quick praise report. I told you, when I spoke at the church before I left, about the young woman who was going to commit suicide after losing her fiancée to sudden death on the mission field. I shared how God used me to share His healing love to pull her back into His loving arms. I have shared with her throughout the year on the internet giving her words of encouragement. I went to her church last Sunday. She was waiting for me. When she saw me, she came running. She grabbed me and hugged me so tight. I just cried thanking our Father for letting me see her once again. How great is our God. Be blessed Church. Let the LIGHT shine!

Much love to you all, Bess

## FOOD FOR MY FELLOWSHEEP

### “State of the Heart”

**“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”** (Psalms 51:10) February was heart health month. Knowing the major risk factors—smoking, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, physical inactivity, obesity, and diabetes—are important in considering the health of your heart. But did you know the attitudes we hold in our hearts affect not only our physical health, but the health of our relationships? Prayerfully consider this examination of conscience—and see if a new heart is what Father would like to give you.

**Do I have an open heart?** Can I embrace new people, experiences, or ways of looking at

God? Does my heart reach out to strangers but bristle when people I know make requests?

**Do I have a prayerful heart?** Do I seek quiet time, reflection, and study? Do I fill my days with busyness to avoid listening to God and others?

**Do I have a peaceful heart?** Do I need to rid myself of grumbling and complaining about everyday frustrations? Am I able to let go of outcomes I disagree with?

**Do I have a quiet heart?** Does my heart waste itself on the small stuff, losing sight of God's love for me? Is life a series of virtual communications that fails to share God's truth: that in quietness and trust is my strength?

**Do I have a hopeful heart?** Can I recognize all the positive influences in our world? Do I live each day in the realization that eternal life for me is already in progress, as a child of God?

**Do I have a grateful heart?** Am I aware that all I have been given is truly a gift? Do I appreciate the gifts and talents God has bestowed on those around me?

**Do I have a loving heart?** Do others recognize that I am a follower of Jesus by how I treat people? Is inner goodness shown by my outer actions?

**Do I have a forgiving heart?** Am I ready to give up grudges, resentments, and old hurts? Can I look past being shunned and mistreated by others in my community?

**Do I have a serving heart?** Do I share my spiritual and material gifts with others? Am I willing to do what needs to be done, regardless of reward?

Blessing, from Marcia Williamson

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*We Shall See and Behold  
His Glory—Soon and  
Forevermore*