

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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PEOPLE BECOMING AWARE OF PRAYER

The Queen of Scotland once said the only thing she feared was John Knox, for when he prayed her kingdom was moved. Great evangelists of yesterday would send prayer warriors into an area before they arrived for revival meetings and cities would be shaken. Signs are beginning to appear in yards all over Franklin Parish stating the need for America to pray for our country. Sometimes we have to be backed into a corner before we realize something has to be done. As Christians realize the need and have the answer, something can happen. Just placing a sign in the yard won't do it, it has to come from the heart and be followed by an action. The Old Testament states that if God's people who are called by His Name will humble themselves and pray and seek His face, then He will hear from Heaven and answer their prayers. To me, the signs are a ray of sunshine in a dark world. Thank God that Christians do have an answer. I encourage everyone reading this article to begin praying earnestly for our country. We have the answer, let's exercise the action.

Pastor George Ferrington

PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY “True Spiritual Vision is Seeing Heaven's Reality”

As I see it, many who are born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit reflect no change in their approach to life on this earth. Yes, external behavior patterns may have changed, but they continue to be primarily cognizant of the material realm of earth's reality. I've given this a lot of thought and I have come to believe that this may be due to the way they relate to Jesus. I have found that there is a tendency to continue relating to Him as **“the man from Galilee.”** The fact of this matter is, first and foremost, Jesus is not a man. He was a man for a brief time who bore the sin of the whole world, and now has been designated the **“SON OF GOD”** as seen in Romans 1:4; **“And [as to His divine nature] according to the Spirit of holiness was openly designated the Son of God in power [in a striking, triumphant and miraculous manner] by His resurrection from the dead, even Jesus Christ our Lord (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”** Jesus is a resurrected being Who is the Messiah Who is the Anointed One. Where does this leave the believer? This question is answered in Philippians 3:10 AMP: **“[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him, [that with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually**

transformed [in spirit into His likeness even to His death, [in the hope].” We too are anointed resurrected beings and are not “mere men.” The Scripture testifies that we are changed by the way we behold His glory, and Paul tells us this in 2 Corinthians 3:18 AMP: **“And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, and constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] Spirit.”** All of the above teaching adds up to the fact, beholding Jesus as a natural man does little to change us into the new creation He has called us to be. The Lord testified to Caiaphas: **“hereafter [or from now on] you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”** (Matthew 26:64). Jesus was indicating a spiritual truth here: He was saying that after His crucifixion we would see Him in the power of His resurrection. Please hear me and the Word of God I quote; When we begin to see Him in this light, we will profoundly understand why **“He is not served by human hands”** (Acts 17:25).

After His resurrection, even the disciples had trouble recognizing Him. Why? Because they were more dependent on His physical appearance (earth’s reality) than His spiritual nature (heaven’s reality). Men have historically had the tendency to know Him after the flesh rather than the Spirit. This is confirmed by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:14: **“But the natural, non-spiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them (of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them) because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated.”** The Church is still resting on the foundational works of Jesus and needs to move on to the perfection and completeness that belongs to spiritual maturity. This is supported in Hebrews 6:1-2 AMP: **“Therefore let us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings and doctrine of Christ (the Messiah), advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity. Let us not again be laying the foundation of repentance and abandonment of dead works (dead formalism) and of the faith [by which you turned] to God, V2, With teaching about purifying, the laying on of hands, the resurrection from the dead, and eternal judgment and punishment, [These are all matters of which you should have been fully aware long, long ago.]”** Spiritual reality will not let us reduce Jesus to a natural-sense perception! The Lord is still reminding His Church of what He said to Philip: **“Have I been with you so long and yet you have not come to know Me?”** (John 14:9). We can never accurately perceive Him with just our natural eyes or natural minds. He can only be perceived through the Spirit. But when we do perceive Jesus through the Spirit, an amazing thing happens as revealed to us by Paul in verse 15: **“But the spiritual man tries all things [he examines, investigates, inquires into, questions, and discerns all things], yet is himself to be put on trial and judged by no one [he can read the meaning of everything, but no one can properly discern or appraise or get an insight into him].”** It is imperative that spirit led believers turn the tide away from soulical work based on religion found in the Church today toward Spirit led Christianity.

In next month’s article, we will teach on **“JESUS OPENED THE PRISON DOORS”**. We will see how Spirit led Christianity is based on the blessing of Abraham. Until then, may the Lord bless and keep each of you. Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

PERFECT PEACE

“You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”

(Isaiah 26:3) What is perfect peace? In my opinion, it is the peace sent from God. But as we have learned in past studies, God sends His very best to everyone—most just aren't in the frame of mind to receive what God has provided. So, the prophet clarifies in the scripture that the perfect peace of God comes to those “whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.” So, to have the perfect peace which comes from God we must have our minds (souls) fixed upon God, and trust Him with all our heart. Sounds easy, but we all know that it is a battle to overcome the flesh.

“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.”

(Psalm 37:4-7,11) I may be the king of all the earth, but without the peace of God I have nothing but a few years of glory. The successes of the flesh are only temporal. One hundred years from now no one will remember or care. But when you have the peace of God, there is no worldly way to describe the victory it brings to your body, soul and spirit.

Many in this world are overwhelmed with the pressures of life—making a living, paying bills, raising a family, keeping a job, and on and on. You may feel the weakness of your flesh creeping in, trying to convince you that you are a failure. In Psalms 73:26, we read, **“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”** Also in Psalms 29:11, **“The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.”** If we lack this peace in our lives, it's not God's fault. He has given us His perfect peace. We find in Isaiah 9:6 that God sent His Son, Jesus, as the Prince of Peace unto the world. With Jesus in our hearts, we have the Peace of God living within us. The promise of Jesus (the Word) is shown in John 14:27, **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”**

The dictionary defines peace as “a freedom from strife.” I believe God's definition of peace would be to know Him. **“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.”** (2 Thessalonians 3:16) We are in this world to serve Him and to serve one another. Jesus Christ through us destroys the works of the enemy. It is important for us to understand that we have nothing to be afraid of. Jesus has already gained the victory. We must walk this walk in Him, as He is in us. We are one with Jesus. Colossians 3:15 tells us, **“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”** Thou Jesus came in the flesh, He did not yield to the emotion of fear. He stood on the words of His Father, and kept perfect peace. When the storm came out in the midst of the sea, Jesus said, “Peace, be still.” The storm immediately became calm. The disciples were afraid, but Jesus wasn't. He had perfect peace in knowing the Father's will.

We are called to walk in our Father's will. His will for me may be different from what He has in store for you. What we do know is that Jesus is the Word of God that brings us life.

So in closing, the peace we receive from God “surpasses all understanding.” That makes it hard to describe this peace. The world has it's own definition. Ours is a way of life and living. The living God working through us to accomplish His eternal will. Our work and ministry under

the power of the Holy Spirit is to know the peace of God, and to minister that peace to one another. Therein, we will find the realm of obedience and service God has established in each of us, and we will know His perfect peace. **“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** (Romans 5:1)

Mike Woods

ATTEND TO MY WORDS

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart, For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.” (Proverbs 4:20-22) These verses give us the answer to all of life’s problems. God made the world with **words** (see Genesis chapter 1). Because God’s Word has creative power, it’s our remedy for any difficulty.

For God’s words to become life and health to us, we must continually practice these simple steps: 1) Attend to God’s Word. 2) Incline our ears unto God’s Word. 3) Let God’s Word not depart from our eyes. 4) Keep God’s Word in our hearts.

Christian Fellowship Word Ministries is founded on the Word of God. That Word is Jesus. He has blessed us and fulfilled His Word in us for nearly 27 years. Recently, His Word to us is that the days before us will be greater than the days that have passed. We joyfully receive His Word and trust His plan and purpose for the body of Christ.

It is important for us all that we seek the Father’s presence diligently and find His purpose for our individual lives. In these last days, your relationship with the Father and His Son Jesus will be the difference between success and failure, life or death. Jesus is coming soon—today is the day to be sure of your salvation. May you be abundantly blessed and filled with the love of God.

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SAVES**