

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2010

EARTHQUAKES

There was an earthquake in Oklahoma last week which sent people running out of buildings and falling off of ladders. That's close to home. The second largest ever recorded occurred in Chile and over two hundred thousand were killed in Haiti as a result of an earthquake. That may not have our attention but the Word states that there shall be earthquakes in different places in latter times. Oklahoma sounds like a different place to me. Jesus spoke of earthquakes in relationship to His coming. It's true that we don't know the day or hour of His return but it is certain. Redemption draweth nigh. Jesus also spoke of a falling away of believers and this is occurring at an alarming rate in America. Church attendance is down to all time lows in America according to polls taken recently. If there has ever been a need to serve our Lord, the time is now. I encourage all believers to intensify their walk with the Lord and with excitement look for and anticipate His return. There are no greater words that can be spoken than, "WELL DONE THY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT."

Pastor George Ferrington

AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

"And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." (Mark 1:21-24) From these scriptures we can see that the authority in Jesus was recognized not only by the people in the synagogue, but also by the demons. When Jesus began His public ministry after being baptized at the age of 30, He immediately come in contact with demonic forces. Up to this time these demonic forces had basically operated unhindered for centuries. When Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days and gained His victory over satan, He established His authority in the earth.

Because Jesus overcame him, the devil and all of his demons recognized Jesus as Master. You see throughout the Gospels that demons recognized Jesus and cried out to Him. In Matthew 8:29 they cried out, **". . .What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"** Notice they know the time for their torment is coming! Colossians 2:15 tells us that Jesus in His ministry spoiled satan's party, **"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."**

From the time of His temptation until He surrendered Himself on the Cross, Jesus defeated satan at every turn. When Jesus died and rose from the dead, He entered into the heavenly Holy of Holies and obtained an eternal redemption for us. In other words, Jesus handed us His victory. Satan and his demonic hordes no longer have the right to reign as kings or to hold mankind in bondage. Because of Jesus, we are now able to face a defeated foe! Satan and his demons may still be called “princes of this world,” but they are dethroned princes, with no right to rule and reign over us. 1 Corinthians 2:6 tells us, **“Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect; yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought.”** Satan and his demons have been dethroned! This means they have been removed from their place of power or prominence. He knows he is defeated, but if he can keep people deceived into thinking they are subject to him, he can control their lives. Jesus died so that we could be victorious over hell, death and the grave, and all that satan can throw at us.

The reason so many Christians have problems with the devil is because they are trying to defeat him in their own strength. They want to declare war on the devil because they are not mature—they don’t have the wisdom Paul talks about. When you have the wisdom of God, you know that satan is already defeated. Jesus declared war and defeated him almost 2000 years ago. But to be victorious, people must understand that they have that authority in Jesus.

In the Great Commission Jesus told us to go forth into the world and “preach the Gospel.” He did not tell us to dethrone the devil. Satan has already been dethroned and defeated. By telling others about Jesus, we are teaching them to take the authority over the enemy that Jesus won for us, and to claim our victory in Him. The authority of the believer is the knowledge of what Jesus has completed for us, and the faith to stand in it. Satan cannot stand against it.

When God’s people get hold of this good news, satan can’t rule over them anymore. But as long as people don’t know any better, satan will keep ruling and deceiving in the world, even though he’s been dethroned. Satan can’t rule in your life as long as you know your authority in Christ. And if you preach the Gospel to others, he won’t be able to rule in their lives either. 1 John 4:4 tells us, **“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”**

Mike Woods

MISSIONARY REPORT

Sunday morning, October 31st, our Missionary Bess Graham will be sharing about her recent trips in service to our Lord. This should be an amazing outpouring of the love of God as we hear of His grace and mercy and the power of His Spirit working in the lives of His children. Don’t miss it.

Light Up The Night!!!

Sunday afternoon, October 31st, we will be hosting “Light Up The Night” (instead of Halloween) for our children of all ages (families included). There will be games, party favorites, food, face painting, prizes, and the children can dress up in their favorite costumes (non-scary please) for this occasion. The time will be from 4:00pm to 6:00 pm.

Adults are encouraged to bring food and gift items that Sunday morning to be included in treat bags for the children. Check with Judy or Cheryl regarding food, supplies and assistance. All are invited to bring a friend and have a great time celebrating the Kingdom of God.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

As has become our tradition, we will have Thanksgiving Dinner together in the church fellowship hall on Sunday, November 14th, at lunchtime. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring your dish (with something in it.) Ham and turkey will be provided. Let's enjoy this time of fellowship and sharing in the Lord—and let's hope it's a beautiful day so we can enjoy the playground and gazebo area. God is Good, and we have so much to be thankful for.

LET US PRAY

There are plenty of opportunities in the world today for us to be of the flesh and worldly. We have the privilege to be more than that—for greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. How we conduct ourselves speaks volumes about the God we serve. Do you openly profess Jesus and do you pray when asked for those with needs? Jesus said that when we are ashamed to confess Him before men, He will be ashamed to confess us before the Father. Those are His words, not mine. I encourage you to be a witness of Jesus and let others see His light shine in you.

“Father, I confess your holiness and your righteousness before the world. I command the enemy to flee as I confront him with the Word of God, and I claim all that You have prepared for those (me) who love You. May Your Word freely flow from my lips, and may Your power be on display in my life. I release myself to You, to be used of You, and may You be glorified in every area of my life. In the Name of Jesus, my Lord and Savior, Amen.” May the goodness of the living God always be part of your life, and may you live your life in subjection to His power.

THANKS!

I would like to personally thank each of you for the impact you have on my life. You may not realize it, but I am continually being challenged in my Christian walk to be more like Christ by the influence your witness has on me. “What witness is that?” you may ask. I have come to understand that we each have a part of our Heavenly Father within us, and it is that part of us that is recognized by other “children of God” as kinship and something to be acknowledged and accepted. To be faithful servants of God, we must each be receptive and prepared in the Spirit to minister life one to the other. When I meet you, I find my spirit touching and engaging the Spirit

of God in each of you, and I am made more complete and whole in Him through that encounter. It's like a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces mesh and form the perfect picture of Him, for it is only through Him that this can be accomplished. Thank you for who you are in Him.

Bro. Mike

**MAY YOU BE ABUNDANTLY BLESSED
AND FILLED WITH THE GOODNESS OF
GOD—HIS DESIRE IS THAT YOU BE
BLESSED AND FILLED—IN THE NAME
OF JESUS—AMEN**

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**OFFER UP A NEW SONG
UNTO THE LORD FROM
YOUR INNER SPIRIT!!!!**