

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2010

MISS JAN IS COUNTED AMONG THE FAITHFUL

If rewards are given for the faithful, Miss Jan Barton will certainly be in that number. Brother Gene once said that two of the most important attributes of a Christian are being faithful to church attendance and tithing. That is offensive to those who do neither, but it is still true. Miss Jan embarked on the greatest journey known to man which is taking residence with the Father. She has now seen what we believe to be an eternal place of rest and contentment. The heavenly choir has graced her ears and she radiates in the glory of God. I often wonder what it is like to make the journey and look upon the hidden treasures of God. The Word teaches that eyes have not seen nor ears heard what God has laid up for His children. The life of Miss Jan was one of compassion and concern for others as well as sharing the Word with anyone willing to hear. The study of Jewish life and traditions was her love. The Star of David was worn proudly on her neck which reflected her love for the Jewish people. Her seat at our church can never be filled but her loving spirit beckons to each of us as we look upon the vacancy. An old saying is that she is gone but not forgotten and that is true. Miss Jan, we miss you but know that your joy is complete.

Pastor George Ferrington

TO THOSE NEEDING HEALING “Introduction to Divine Healing”

As a minister and disciple of the Word of God, nothing is more important to me than seeing the will of God done in the lives of His people. What is the will of God for each of His children living on this earth? The Lord’s prayer reveals His will perfectly to all who will listen and learn. His “will” is revealed in Matthew 6:9-10: **“Our Father is heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”** The will of God is simply this: **“On earth as it is in heaven.”** When we pray, **“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,”** we’re praying for the King’s dominion and will to be realized right here, right now. God wants what is “free” in heaven to operate here on earth—joy, peace, wisdom, health, wholeness, and all the other good promises in the Bible. Yes, free to operate here in your home, your church, your business, and your school. What is not free to operate in heaven—sickness, disease, spiritual bondage, and sin—should not be free to operate here, period. What happens when we make this our mission? Lives are set free, bodies are restored, darkness lifts from people’s minds, and the rule of the enemy is pushed back in every way. Businesses grow healthy,

relationships flower again, people reconnect with their calling and purpose in life, churches grow, and cities feel the effects of having the Kingdom flourishing within them.

We must remember, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us—making it impossible for us to be content with only what we can see, hear, touch, taste and smell. Our hearts know that there is much more. We are spiritually agitated by the lack of connection with the supernatural. Bad teaching and disappointments have robbed many of us of this reality. But I'm happy to say that in these last days, Jesus is moving in His people with understanding and wisdom—drawing the deep things out of the hearts of His people. He is bringing His “will” into the open—revealing to His people the irrevocable fact that our God is ALL POWERFUL. It's an amazing, unprecedented time to be alive, and you and I get to be a part of it!

In order to be effective believers, we must go well beyond the Christian life we have now. We must redefine “normal” Christianity so it lines up with God's idea of normal, not the definition we have accepted—based on our experiences or lack thereof. This normal Christian life begins with the realization that we were put here to **do the will of God** on this earth as it is in heaven.

“Ridding Yourself of Uncertainty”

To those needing healing I must say, “Before you can get a steadfast faith for the healing of your body, you must rid yourself of all uncertainty concerning God's will in this matter.” I believe one of the major functions of miracles and supernatural living is to offer immediate, irrefutable proof of what God wants to happen on this earth. Let me put it to you this way—healing demonstrates Who God is by showing what His reality looks like. Putting this into perspective is simple, there are only two realities. There is Heaven's reality which is God's reality, and there is earth's reality which is man's reality. But those who are sick and need healing must remember, appropriating faith cannot go beyond one's knowledge of the revealed will of God. Before exercising faith for healing, one needs to know what the Scriptures plainly teach: that it is just as much God's will to heal the body as it is to heal the soul. If you are seeking healing, you must know that God has already promised what you are seeking, and then and only then will all doubt and uncertainty be removed. Until we know what God's will is, there is nothing on which to base our faith.

In next month's article, we will begin in earnest to teach those things necessary to know God's will concerning divine healing. Until then, it is my earnest prayer that each of you be blessed and kept by the Lord.

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

GIVING

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit, says the Lord Almighty. Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land, says the Lord Almighty.” (Malachi 3:10-12)

You are all aware that this is a key verse of the Bible regarding tithing. Tithing is an important doctrine of the Word of God. Why is giving so important? And by giving I am not limiting your generosity to just tithing; because God has indicated many times in the Word how important it is to be a generous giver to the poor and the needy. Some of these are as follows: **“He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.”** (Proverbs 28:27) **“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.”** (Proverbs 19:17) **“Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.”** (Psalm 112:5) **“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”** (Matthew 10:8) **“Give and it shall be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”** (Luke 6:38) **“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”** (1 John 3:17-18)

The greatest commandment given by Jesus is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, body, soul and spirit; and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. How then can we love God if we do not have compassion for those about us in need. And it is easy to love those that love us, but it is more difficult to love the stranger or those that don't love us. Yet, Jesus came for the stranger and the poor and the hopeless. His ministry was to those that had very little, so that they could be made rich by His generous love. And His commandment to us was to go and do likewise, in order to prove His love in us.

“Remember this: Whosoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whosoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8) **“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops. Then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”** (Proverbs 3:9-10)

This begs the question, why does God need my tithe? The answer is, He does not need your money or offerings. But you need to give in order to prove your faithfulness to Him. God knew the greediness and selfishness of the flesh, as it was proven in the Garden of Eden. He knew that man must be willing to yield up himself and all that was meaningful in an ungreedy and unlustful way, in order to prove his devotion and worship to God. By making these sacrifices, the early church was committing all that they were unto God, bringing the best they had as a witness of their trust in Him. God reciprocated by giving His best as a sacrifice for the sins of all men, when Jesus came as the perfect Lamb, and was offered up on the cross. God gave the best that He had for us. We are called to give ourselves in every way that we can to evidence our faithfulness to Him and our love for each other.

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” (1 Timothy 6:17-19) Our giving as led by the Lord stores up treasures in

Heaven, which is our eternal reward. We will enjoy the fruits of that forever. Many are missing out on the opportunity to do so because they are so greedy and selfish in this life. Giving is a privilege that God has given us. And He has promised that it will not diminish our resources. We may not know or realize just how God blesses us, but His Word promises that our blessings are greater than we can ever believe.

As we embark on this holiday season, let us be aware of others in need. Perhaps you can't help everybody, but maybe you can help somebody. Let the love and the witness of Jesus Christ be on display, and may He be glorified through you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:19-21, 33)

Mike Woods

THANKSGIVING = GIVING + THANKS

AS WE EMBARK ON THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, REMEMBER THAT IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE, THAN IT IS TO RECEIVE. OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, GAVE HIS LIFE. OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN GAVE US HIS BEST, AND WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE OURSELVES FIRST TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, AND THEN TO EACH OTHER. AS GOD SO LOVED US, AND AS JESUS WILLINGLY DIED IN THAT LOVE, SO WE MUST LOVE EACH OTHER. WE CAN'T HELP EVERYONE, BUT MAYBE WE CAN HELP SOMEONE. MAY THE LOVE OF OUR FATHER BE ON DISPLAY IN YOUR LIFE, AND MAY YOU BE BLESSED, IN JESUS' NAME.

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**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!!!**