



# VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2001

**BLOWING DUST  
OFF PHOTO ALBUMS**

**YEAR OF RESTORATION**

**WALKING IN THE SPIRIT  
Experiencing the Spirit Led Life  
Part VI**

We've all done it, blown the dust off of our old photo album containing pictures of my army days. Wow! Was I really there? Seems like light years ago. Wonder where Brett is now? Wonder if he is still alive. Wonder what kind of vocation he chose in life. Boy, he really gave our officers a fit. For a few moments my mind gets caught up in yesteryear and flashbacks conquer the moment. I quickly evaluate that time era and today while wondering if I am on course in life.

We all have spiritual photo albums in our minds. The starting points, the turning points, the retreating points, the conquering points that have shaped our lives. The if's that seem to haunt us and the "yessssssss" that cause us to charge on. Sometimes it is the things we use to do that need to be reinstated in our spiritual lives. Remember those quiet moments. Remember the calm, relaxed, tranquil times that allowed our eyes to see into the very portals of glory and reap the peace of God into our hearts.

It's OK to reflect, remember, recharge, regenerate, rejuvenate, reactivate, realign, reestablish, renew and rededicate. It's all a part of looking at the old photo albums. Applying yesterday's exuberance and today's knowledge can really make a difference in our journey of life.

Pastor George Ferrington

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Kevin & Carla Blount are beginning a new young adult and adult couples class Sunday morning at 10:00. It will be in the fellowship hall. Please be part of this new outreach of our body.**

*Prov. 6:31 But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold: he shall give all the substance of his house. (KJV)*

The Lord has said, "This is the year of restoration."

The battles have been long and hard; He did not say they are over, only that this is a year of restoration. Restoration is the act of being restored. During the battles we have become weary and tired. This has affected our relationship with Father. This relationship is going to be restored.

Our part in this restoration is to continue doing what each of us has been called to do. This varies with each person; we each have a function in the body of Christ. The body can not be complete if each of us is not doing what we have been called to do. Restoration does not come to those who are standing on the sidelines; it comes to those who are going forth in the Kingdom. *Isaiah 42:22 But this is a people robbed and plundered; all of them are snared in holes, and they are hidden in prison houses; they are for prey, and no one delivers; for plunder and no one says, "Restore!" (NKJ)*

Many of our people have been snared; many do not realize they have been snared. They are in deception, they are hidden in the prison houses of deception. Restoration will open their eyes to the deception they are in. Our part is to call forth for restoration; our part is to stand for them in faith. Standing is not inactive, standing is joining our faith with God's faith to reach an end result.

Restoration will come to each of us who seek it. It will not come to those standing on the sidelines waiting for God to drop restoration on them.

God's desire for this year is to restore His people. They have been beaten down; now is the time for them to be built up. Now is the time for them to walk in the high places. Now is the time

In this month's lesson, we are going to take a look at how the soul of man operates under the leadership of his spirit person. The Apostle Paul makes a strong case for this idea in Romans 7:1-6 Amp, "**Do you not know, brethren-for I am speaking to men who are acquainted with the Law-that legal claims have power over a person only for as long as he is alive?**

**V2, For (instance) a married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he lives; but if her husband dies, she is loosed and discharged from the law concerning her husband. V3, Accordingly, she will be held an adulteress if she unites herself to another man while her husband lives. But if her husband dies, the marriage law no longer is binding on her [she is free from that law]; and if she unites herself to another man, she is not an adulteress. V4, Likewise, my brethren, you have undergone death as to the Law so that now you may bear fruit for God. V5, When we were living in the flesh (mere physical lives), the sinful passions that were awakened and aroused up by [what] the law [makes sin] were constantly operating in our natural powers (in our bodily organs, in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh), so that we bore fruit for death. V6, But now we are discharged from the Law and have terminated all intercourse with it, having died to what once restrained and held us captive. So now we serve not under [obedience to] the old code of written regulations, but [under obedience to the**

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# VOICES

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Since the beginning of time, evil people have been doing horrible things to helpless or weaker people. Then they chortle that the voices told them to do it. The major portion also claim that God told them to do those terrible things. This is nothing less than satanic forces using aimless people, whose minds he has muddled. The voices may be real, the directions to do such things may be clear, but they do not come from God! The purpose of these satanic forces is to bring shame on God, and godly principles. When God speaks to a person, it is not for the purpose of bringing hurt or shame or anguish to that person, but to bless them, and to bring good things to them.

Many Christians will relate that God told them to do thus and so, or they spoke to God and He said so and so. In most cases, what they are saying is that they were spoken to through the small internal voice that does not need to be identified. That person knows who is speaking and it is always to lead and guide that person to become a better person, and to bring about God's good will on this earth. There is no doubt as to the validity of these accounts. Paul recounts vividly how he was on the road to Damascus, to pillage Christians there, when Jesus spoke to him. Not only did Paul (Saul at that time) hear the Lord's voice, but so did those who were with him. Paul also saw the blinding glory of God, which blinded him temporarily. God was in the process of changing Paul's life forever. But everyone there that day heard the voice. The voice of the living God. Saul, after his recovery from the experience, became Paul, and the greatest of all the apostles, writing some half of the entire New Testament in his letters to various Churches, and his friends. Paul articulated the common sense portion of the work that was begun on this earth by Jesus. Paul's voice constantly prodded churches and individuals to "behave yourselves!"

In these days of political foment, and me-too "ism", we all need desperately to hear voices. The voices of reason, voices of conscience, voices of guidance by the ten commandments, voices of the life of Jesus Christ on this earth. When we find ourselves in a situation that wants to produce rage, or anger, or vengeance within us, we need to listen to that reason that says that what we are doing is wrong and to stop and change gears. We need to listen to the voice of Jesus, out of the past, where He tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, and try to understand just what that means. Under adverse conditions, or threats, one of the dry desert lizards has the ability to swell himself up with a kind of hood, that makes him appear many times larger to a potential predator; but, alas, it is illusion because he still becomes a meal for many. But that is how we often act. We would like to be able to swell ourselves up to many times our size in order to impress an adversary as to how bad a mistake he has made in tangling with us. So often, our bravado is like the lizard, all illusion. When the other person demonstrates his own brand of macho, there is a fight. When a size difference is noted, guns and knives often come into play to even up the impasse. Our neighbor then is anyone who is not us. If by some quirk of fate, we came to know the person that we just threatened or shouted some vulgarity to, we might be surprised to find out that he is probably a pretty nice guy. Maybe instead of trying to destroy you, your family, and your highly prized automobile, he just made a small mistake, a tiny relapse. A minor infraction. But never mind, you really got him told didn't you? That will teach him. He won't ever make the mistake of doing that again to you, who by the way are perfect—without fault.

We have just completed the first year of the new millenium, the third thousand years since the time of Christ. He spent His entire adult life on this earth, teaching us not to hate but to learn to love one another. When a situation arises, and our first instinct is to anger, right there we should listen to a voice, small and deep within us. That voice is telling us not to do the wrong thing, but to do what we know is right. That is the voice we should listen to. That voice will keep us out of trouble. That voice will stop us from committing some act that will bring shame on our Christianity. If you are a Christian, Jesus did not save you so that you could shout insults at your neighbor.

As our physical bodies grow older, we find fewer things with which to become upset, or disgruntled. Hopefully, that is because as we age we gather a little wisdom. With the diminishing of our muscular abilities, we are less likely to brandish them in the face of a real or imagined adversary. Age also causes us to recall incidents that may have occurred in our younger life, and we recall those outcomes. That makes us more cautious. We no longer want our mouths to write a check that our bodies cannot cash. Underlying this however, should be the incarnation of Jesus Himself, that we should love our neighbor as ourselves.

If there is someone in your life, for whom you do not have high esteem, don't get in his face and tell him how low down, no good he is, for that would make him your enemy for life. Your life, if he gets a chance. Instead, in your prayers, ask to God to change this person, and make him a better person, or one with whom you can get along. You would be surprised at what can happen. He might get saved, and then he will be your brother, or she will become your sister. The power of God, working through His Son, Jesus, can accomplish miracles. Things you would never believe.

If we do nothing else during our lifetime, we need to get used to listening to that small voice within us that is trying to lead us into better things, and out of problems. Listening to that voice can take us to be with Jesus when this life is over. May He bring blessings on us all as we heed His voice.

Bro. Vic Clayton

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# WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

## (Continued from Page One)

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, they died spiritually, and the soul of man from that point until Christ died for us was locked into a “union” (marriage) with the flesh. This marriage was possible because the spirit person had lost spiritual fellowship with God and so to speak, stopped functioning as the husband of the soul. (VI & 2, *“Do you not know, brethren—for I am speaking to men who are acquainted with the Law—that legal claims have power over a person only for as long as he is alive? For [instance] a married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he lives; but if her husband dies, she is loosed and discharged from the law concerning her husband.”*) The soul (female gender) possessed the “will” and thus without the leadership of her dead husband, the spirit (male gender), assumed the leadership position in the new marriage with the flesh. To make matters worse, the soul (woman) not only possessed the “will” but also the “womb” called the heart. The Word tells us that the mouth speaks from the abundance of the heart (womb). Simply interpreted, this means man’s words (seed) produce his actions, and that those words (seeds) are first planted in the heart (womb) before they become actions. At this point, there was no life in man’s works, they all came from the soul in union with the flesh, and were the result of “will power” not “spirit power.” The result of all of this was that mankind, both soul and flesh, could only bear **fruit unto death**. It was no longer possible for man to bear the spiritual fruit of God. Considering all of the above, a logical question arises—why did God give the Law if it had no power to save mankind? There are several reasons for this; the first was that He knew man’s spirit person was dead, and that fellowship with His Spirit was cut off until Jesus could come and regenerate mankind. So He sent the Law and gave it to man, and man interpreted it through his soul (mind complex). He not only interpreted it in the soul, but it was his soul that provided the “will power” for him to endeavor to keep the Law. And He (God) knew that the soul of man was the only part of man that He could use at that time to curb the sin nature residing in the flesh of mankind. This resisting of the sin nature in mankind’s flesh would be done through man’s will power in keeping the law. The Law of God was also a “schoolmaster” helping to establish God’s expectations for holiness in mankind. But at the same time it also was designed to teach man the utter futility of trying to establish God’s righteousness through keeping the Law. Last but not least by any means is the fact that God also sent His Word (Jesus) through the Law because He knew that the Law was a way for His Son, who would represent the human race, to establish right standing for mankind by being the first man to keep it. This one action of being born under the law and the first man to keep it would allow Jesus to complete the work that the first Adam had failed in. If Satan would have understood this, he would not have dared to crucify Jesus Christ. A righteous Jesus was crucified as a sinner, and that lamb (Jesus) had never sinned—He was bearing our sin. Jesus was taken into Hades and suffered it’s pains, but yet was without sin. He was bearing the pain that every man deserved there. What a mistake Satan made, he never realized that all the suffering and pain he was issuing to Jesus was being borne for lost humanity! What astonishment he must have felt as the Holy Spirit came to set Jesus free! Satan failed to understand “substitution” and the power of a “righteous” person bearing the burden of another. But it was not long before He found out about “resurrection power” as Jesus rose from the grave, the first fruit of man who would follow. In that one moment Satan lost his kingdom power over every born again believer.

Praise be unto God, Jesus was born under the Law and died for mankind in order that we could be counted with Him in the sacrifice of the death of the old man (flesh) and live to marry (unite) again. All of this is confirmed in Romans 7:3b-4, *“But if her husband dies, the marriage law no longer is binding on her [she is free from that law]; and if she unites herself to another man, she is not an adulteress. V4, Likewise, my brethren, you have undergone death as to the Law so that now you may belong to Another, to Him Who was raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God.”* The words “belong to” means to be united or married in the Greek language. This marriage to Jesus is possible only because our spirit person is regenerated with God’s life and our soul has accepted that leadership. This union with Christ makes us “in Christ” and “Christ in us.”

Another analogy that will help us understand all of this is to liken our whole being (spirit, soul, body) to the ancient Jewish temple of God’s habitation called the Holy of Holies. A thick curtain separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place where the priest ministered before the presence but not in the presence of God Almighty. The curtain seemed to enclose God’s Glory and presence within the Holy of Holies, thus barring His Glory from the Holy Place where the priest ministered. Men of that time could only know of things outside the curtain in the Holy Place. When Jesus was crucified on the cross, God’s appointed hour had finally come. The book of Hebrews tells us that the “flesh” of the Lord Jesus was the curtain and that when He died in our place the curtain was rent from the top to bottom exposing the Holy Place to the Holy of Holies (habitation of God). All of the above is confirmed in Hebrews 10:17-20 Amp, *“He then goes on to say, And their sins and their lawbreaking I will remember no more. V18, Now where there is absolute remission (forgiveness and cancellation of the penalty) of these [sins and lawbreaking], there is no longer any offering made to atone for sin. V19, Therefore, brethren, since we have full freedom and confidence to enter into the [Holy of] Holies [by the power and virtue] in the blood of Jesus. V20, By this fresh (new) and living way which He initiated and dedicated and opened for us through the separating curtain (veil of the Holy of Holies), that is, through His flesh.”* The analogy shared above is simply telling us that God has made His temple inside of every born again believer whose spirit person has been regenerated. The Holy of Holies is now located somewhere (Continued on Page 4)

## WALKING IN THE SPIRIT (Cont. from pg 3)

in man's inner spirit person, and the Holy Spirit of God lives inside the Holy of Holies. God's purpose and desire in all of this is for His Glory to be released in the form of mercy and grace through mankind unto mankind. This will not happen until the soul of man is renewed with the revealed Word of God, and the soul willingly accepts its position of union with the spirit of man. This is supported in James 1:21, "**Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**" In order to do this the soul of man must submit to the leadership of their spirit person who is receiving the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Only at that time will God's Glory be released from the inner man to the soul. When this happens, the believer develops the "mind of Christ," and becomes as "**those who have faith and keep their souls**" (Heb. 10:39).

When our soul is in our spirit's hands, we can be released from life's disturbances. Jesus said it this way in Matt. 11:29, "**Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**" And in Matthew 6:25, He says, "**Do not be anxious about your life (soul).**" Why is this so? Because while self consciousness is the soul's prime expression, yet believers actually lose their self in God. Because of this, they come to trust God with all of their hearts and will be able to believe that He will answer their prayers and supply their needs. Not only will the spirit led life cause believers to trust Him, it will also cause the believer to desire Him. They reach the point that they cry as the Psalmist did in Psalm 63:8, "**My soul clings to thee.**" And they cry, "**Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name!**" (Ps. 103:1)

In next month's article we will look at how man's spirit works in conjunction with the Holy Spirit in order to produce three (3) important functions of the Spirit led life. May our God richly bless each of you here at Christian Fellowship with spiritual enrichment and prosper you with His prosperity.

Gene R. Brown  
Associate Pastor

# TRUE FOCUS

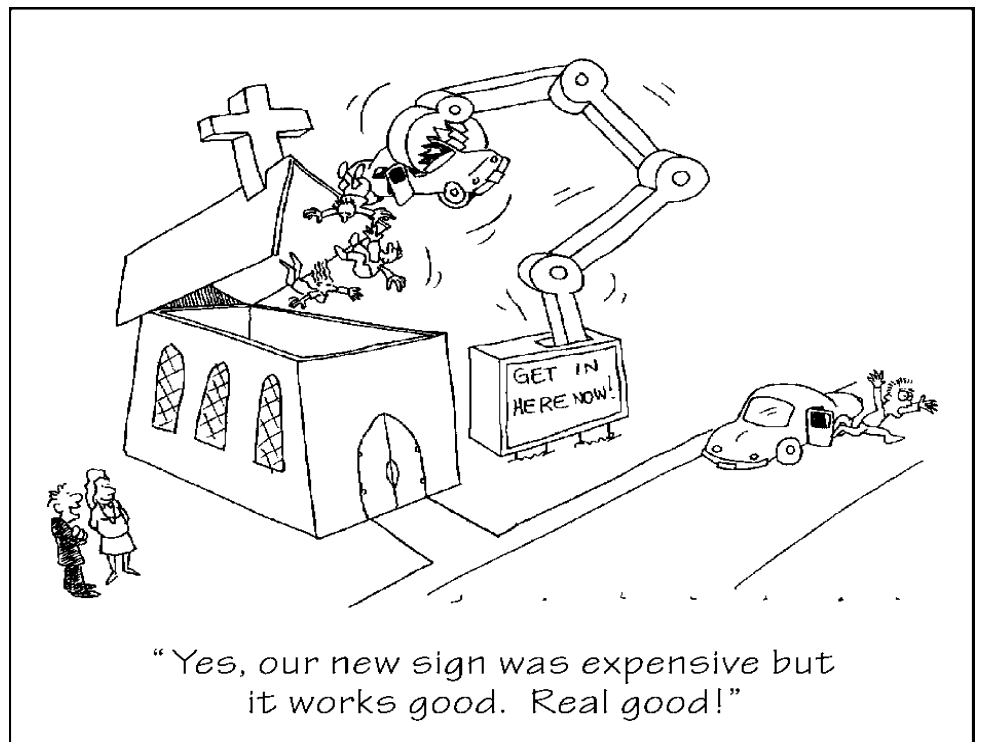
Our minds are daily bombarded with worldly affairs. Everywhere we turn, we find the carnage, filth, and negativity that has so overwhelmed this society. I must say that it is no wonder that a young man can hardly cleanse his thoughts in this day and time. To be pure and holy before God is probably the last thing we could ever hope to attain in our lives. Tonight, as I write this, the Lord is speaking to me about our focus. Our true focus. As I'm sure everyone has gathered by now, whenever we try to get close to the Father, things seem to get tough—even sometimes downright nasty. When we do wrong, we feel guilty. When we do right, we feel good about ourselves. When things aren't going too well, we think it's because we haven't prayed enough. Or somehow we haven't spent enough time thinking on the Word.

Now let me say something here that may sound a little different. When we try to focus our thoughts directly on God, what happens? Usually about a thousand other thoughts try to get in the way. I believe what the Lord is telling us is this. To focus our attention towards Him. Then even when we don't spend every moment thinking on the Lord, at least we don't have to feel guilty about it. The Father knows that we have jobs and families. There are other things in this life that we have to tend to. The Lord expects us to tend to our business. But He also expects us to minister to Him. Now you ask me how do we minister to Him? By setting your mind to do a few simple things. This is not a quick fix or a list of "to dos." This is our Holy Father I'm talking about. To begin with our mind set should be this. To be faithful in coming to church and also to bring our tithes to the Lord, not because of duty but because we love the Lord. To be sensitive to God's Holy Spirit, and to put another's needs above your own. To pray for one another always, and above all, to love one another as Christ has loved us.

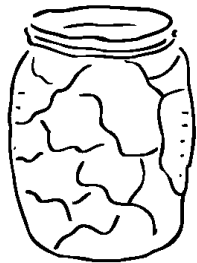
(Phil. 4:8) *Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is lovely, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.*

I believe if we set our minds toward the Father and think on these things, we will begin to see change. May you be blessed.

Bro. Neal Emfinger, Jr.

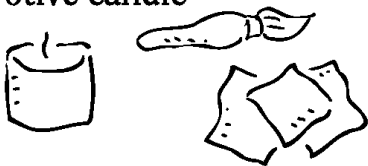


# Make a Stained-Glass Candle



## You will need:

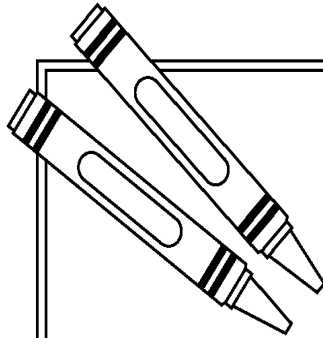
- an empty glass jar
- colored tissue paper
- white glue
- paint brush
- votive candle



## How to make it:

- Cut the tissue into small pieces.
- Paint the jar with glue.
- Arrange the pieces on the jar on the wet glue. Do not leave any empty spaces.
- Paint over the tissue with more glue. Let dry.

Place candle inside.



# Just for KIDS

## Worship and Celebrate

In our many different denominations and congregations, we worship in many different ways. Although we may worship differently, we believe in the same God! We go to one God in worship and celebration!

Use the code to find words and phrases of things that God's people do in worship.

A	🎵	F	🕯️	K	📖	P	🍷	U	🙏	Z	☺️
B	🎵	G	🕯️	L	🙏	Q	🙏	V	☺️		
C	🎵	H	🙏	M	🙏	R	☺️	W	👕		
D	🎵	I	🙏	N	🙏	S	🙏	X	☺️		
E	☺️	J	🕯️	O	🙏	T	🙏	Y	☺️		

1. 🍷 ☺️ 🙏 🙏 🙏 ☺️

2. 🍷 ☺️ 🙏 ☺️

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6. 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 ☺️ 🙏 🙏 ☺️

7. 🎵 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏

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11. 🙏 🙏 ☺️ 🙏 🙏 ☺️ 🙏 🙏 ☺️

1. Praise, 2. Pray, 3. Light Candles, 4. Play Music, 5. Give Offerings, 6. Sit Quietly, 7. Communion, 8. Lift Your Hands, 9. Read Scriptures, 10. Sing, 11. Say "Amen"



“Welcome aboard ‘Anointed Airlines,’ Pastors!  
What say we begin by testing your faith  
right away?! Please join us in celebrating  
our captain’s birthday...She’s 104 today!!”

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*There is one body  
and one Spirit...one  
Lord, one faith,  
one baptism.*

*Ephesians 4:4-5*

