



Volume 9 Issue 5

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

May 2002

A LEAF UNDER MY WINDSHIELD WIPER

A leaf under my windshield wiper doesn't allow the wiper to do what wipers are designed to do—wipe the windshield while it's raining. It had just started raining when I turned on my wipers and was expecting a good clear view ahead of me. That little leaf had managed to obstruct the very area that I needed to see out of. It was raining too hard for me to stop and remove it, so I just tolerated it until I arrived at my destination. The rain stopped, so I didn't need my wipers any more that day. The next time it rained, I repeated the same ordeal, for I forgot to remove the leaf.

The Bible teaches that little things have profound effects on each of us. Those things that don't stop us, destroy us, or change the course of our lives. They just simply irritate us. Solomon stated it like this in the Song of Solomon 2:15, **"Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines; for our vines have tender grapes."** Notice that the little foxes eat the tender grapes. Each of us have tender spots that the devil watches for and rubs raw every chance he gets. Remember those blisters on your foot that keeps you from wearing a shoe and throbs just enough to keep your mind occupied on that spot. The next time a leaf gets under your windshield wiper, stop and get it out even if you have to get wet.

Pastor George Ferrington

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marcia Matthews and Daniel Williamson will be wed this Saturday, May 25th, at 4:00 p.m. at the Boeuf Prairie Methodist Church, Fort Necessity. All are invited to attend. Also, congratulations to Rebecca Matthews and Michael Walter in their graduation from high school. We wish you the very best in the Lord.

PRAISING AND WORSHIPPING IN GOD'S PRESENCE SERIES: "OPERATING IN THE POWER OF ZION"

The power that comes from Zion is given to the believer who operates in the God given principles taught in the Tabernacle of David. These principles were given in order to bring the believer into the **PRESENCE OF GOD**.

The **"Key of David"** is an operating principle of spiritual Zion that helps bring a believer into God's presence and thus into kingly authority and power. The **"Key of David"** helps the believer to understand how to receive and use spiritual authority and power in this kingdom. An example of this is found in a person residing in a kingdom and having the key of delegated authority and power. This delegated authority and power can only be given by the king of the kingdom. In the believer's case, the **"Key of David"** represents the authority and power of the Kingdom of God given by Jesus Christ, the King of Glory. It is a fact that the Kingdom of God is centered in and delegated to spiritual Zion (the Church).

In Revelation 3:7, Jesus speaks of Himself as the One Who has the **"Key of David"** that enables Him to open doors that no man can shut, and to shut doors that no man can open. In verse 8, Jesus declares, **"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it."** It is my belief that this open door is the **"Key of David"** that enables us to enter into God's glory, authority and power, and no man can shut that door. Jesus supports this idea in Matthew 16:19, **"And I will give unto thee the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven."** Are we not **"In Christ"** and are we not **"Joint Heirs"** with Him? The Apostle Paul believed that we were and said so in Romans 8:17, **"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together."** The Church truly has been given the same authority and power that was given to Jesus as He ministered in this world.

One of the great uses of the **"Key of David"** in the believer's life is the authority to come boldly before the Throne of God into His presence. We were taught through the Tabernacle of David that God has given us the authority and power to open that "door" leading into His presence. David worshiped in the Tabernacle through praise with the clapping and raising of hands, music, new songs, dancing, prophecy, etc. This brought David into God's presence and he recorded many Psalms before the Ark of the Covenant (presence of God). As we praise and worship, doing the same, we use the **"Key of David"** in order to unlock the "door" into His presence. As we praise and worship we can expect "spiritual release" when we use the Key. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in Acts 16:25 when Paul and Silas were locked up in a prison in Phillippi. They were in a most unpleasant situation in that prison cell where they were being mistreated. This prison cell was not a natural place to praise God—especially being chained to the wall with fetters. They had every reason to be discouraged and miserable. Instead, they used the **"Key of David"** to release them from their bonds. How? They began to praise God, singing songs of joy and praise unto Him, and this was the Key that unlocked the gates into the Court of His presence. God inhabited their praise and moved to unlock the fetters holding His sons in prison. He commanded His angel to lead them out and restore their freedom. Why? Because they were "abiding under the shadow of the Almighty." But this was not all that happened; because of their praise and worship, God also saved the jailer and his family. What mercy, what grace, blessed is our Lord and those who come to know Him. Peter understood this Key and writes to the Philippians, **"Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice."**

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

ROOTS

When a plant or living organism produces seeds, that seed somehow reaches the ground, and then it begins to insert itself into whatever the ground environment is. When weather, time and temperature are all correct, that seed begins to grow. Within itself. As soon as the seed comes to life, it needs moisture. All living things must have moisture. So it begins to form an underground extension of itself that has the ability to sense, search and locate the precious

moisture. As the plant begins to grow, it takes up more and more moisture and puts out more and more roots. As growth speeds up and the plant enlarges, it must now have some kind of minerals and elements that will combine with the plant tissue to encourage even more growth and a resilience that will toughen and harden the plant against winds, storms, pelting rain drops and blinding sunlight. All of this places a heavier burden on the existing roots to pump up more moisture, more vitamins, more elementary food stuffs, more minerals, not only to obtain and make available all these things to the plant, but in exactly the right proportion. Who gave this dumb plant the power and the ability to accomplish this?

The seeds of which we spoke are delivered to the ground in any number of ways. Some are carried by animals to a winter cache. Some are blown by the wind to lodge in a secure place to begin it's new beginning. We are all fond of what we call Brazil nuts. From a gigantic, high, sturdy tree in equatorial South America, in a place with just the right temperature and rain, stands the tree which produces these tasty morsels. From branches 75 to 150 feet high comes long, straight, leafless vines looking like cables. Straight down all the way to the ground. But short of the ground by some 5 to 10 feet. At the end of these vines is a watermelon shaped pod about 2.5 to 3 feet long. This tough colorless pod is where the nuts are. With one whack of the machete, the pod falls to the ground and smashes. Inside are rows upon rows of what we have come to call Brazil nuts. This is the seed. If it is not disturbed, it will fall to the ground and spill out the seeds inside, but so long as the parent tree lives, those seeds will never sprout. If some catastrophe befalls the parent tree, the seeds that have not been plundered by animals will sprout. The toughest will survive. All others will die.

One of the most dastardly plants of all time, that has plagued farmers for centuries, is johnson grass. Until very recently, it was said that if your farm came down with johnson grass or cocklebur, the best thing to do was to move off. Go somewhere else. That is because of the toughness of these two plants. Johnson grass seed that fall within a 13 inch circle of the parent plant will not sprout unless the parent plant dies. So even if you succeeded in killing the visible johnson grass, there were millions of seeds ready to replace the original. The cocklebur is also a viscious plant to be rid of. If you see a plant at the early stages, and pull it up, deep within that seed is another half. Another seed portion that will sprout and grow. If you let the plant grow and produce burrs, animals, farm equipment, and even people will help spread the seed around. We now have chemicals that will do away with these and other plant pests and make farming easier. Who do you think designed and created all of these myriad millions of differing plants and their ways of reproduction? One answer is that it is not someone called evolution.

Today's scientists and astronomers now know that the entire universe began as a single atom. God created this single atom, and made it to contain all of the minerals and elements and compounds that are now identified throughout the universe. He made this atom to multiply and explode and increase until the universe and our own bodies are the end product. He made us like we are. Our bodies, each one, contains the same materials, compounds, mixtures and all other related processes and products, as is found in every one of the bodies in space, and every living thing on this earth. When we eat foods, our bodies know just how much of every ounce needs to be converted into certain minerals, and then places those minerals in just the right place in our bodies. Just like the plant that has the ability to select certain of the compounds from the earth, and then send them in just the right quantities to the growing plant, that same plant, when eaten by us as food, then supplies just the right materials for our bodies. To some this may seem like a grandiose accident, but to anyone that does not believe that God is the Creator, Sustainer and Controler of every living thing on this earth physically, that person is in dire trouble. He either has forgotten, or he never knew the God of creation.

Of all of the things that God has given us on this earth, He has given us the power of choice. That choice gives us the ability to sink our spiritual roots deep into the Spirit of God and extract from it our daily, even hourly, confidence that we are His. That all of the wonderful promises in the Holy Bible, are true and they are for us. Our roots, sent deeply into the Word of God, will supply our spiritual bodies and life with all of the needs that we will have on this earth. A well-rooted Christian need never to fear the ravages of the day, or the demons of the night. Those roots that were sent searching for truths will have found all we need to survive and continue as God's own. God Bless Us All.

Bro. Vic Clayton

EVEN THE "BIRDS OF THE AIR"

A construction crew was building a new road through a rural area, knocking down trees as it went. The superintendent noticed that one tree had a nest of birds who couldn't yet fly.

He marked the tree so it wouldn't be cut down.

Several weeks later he returned to the tree. He was lifted up by a bucket truck so he could peer into the nest. The fledglings were gone. They had learned to fly. The superintendent ordered the tree cut down.

As the tree crashed to the ground, the nest fell clear. Some of the material the birds had gathered to build the nest was scattered about. Among the scraps of paper was one from a Sunday school lesson with the words; "He careth for you."

THE GEESE AND THE SNOWSTORM QUILTS

There was once a man who did not believe in either the virgin birth of Christ or the spiritual meaning behind it, and was skeptical even about God. He and his family lived in a farm community. His wife was a devout believer and diligently raised her children in the faith. He sometimes gave her a hard time about her faith and mocked her religious observances. "It's all nonsense; why would God lower Himself and become a human like us? It's such a ridiculous story," he said.

One snowy day, she and the children left for church while he stayed home. After they have departed, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump, something hitting against the window. And then another thump. He looked outside but could not see anything. So he ventured outside for a better view. In the field near his house, he saw, of all the strangest things, a flock of geese. They were apparently flying to look for a warmer area down south, but they had been caught in the snowstorm. The storm had become too blinding and violent for the geese to fly or see their way. They were stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter, unable to do more than flutter their wings and fly in aimless circles. He had compassion for them and wanted to help them. He thought to himself, the barn would be a great place for them to stay. It is warm and safe, surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he opened the barn doors for them.

He waited, watching them, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. Nevertheless, they did not notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. He moved closer toward them to get their attention, but they just moved away from him out of fear. He went into the house and came back with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread trail to the barn. They still did not catch on. Starting to get frustrated, he went over and tried to shoo them toward the barn. They panicked and scattered into every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where there was warmth, safety, and shelter. Feeling totally frustrated, he exclaimed, "Why don't they follow me? Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm? How can I possibly get them into the one place to save them?"

He thought for a moment and realized that they just would not follow a human. He said to himself, "How can I possibly save them? The only way would be for me to become like those geese. If only I could become like one of them. Then I could save them. They would follow me and I would lead them to safety."

At that moment, he stopped and considered what he had said. The words reverberated in his mind; "If only I could become like one of them, then I could save them." Then at last, he understood God's heart towards mankind. He fell to his knees in the snow, weeping. . . .

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives, like the

squares of a quilt, in many piles. An angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life. But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I had endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been.

My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness and death, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I had spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully; each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me. And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it had been.

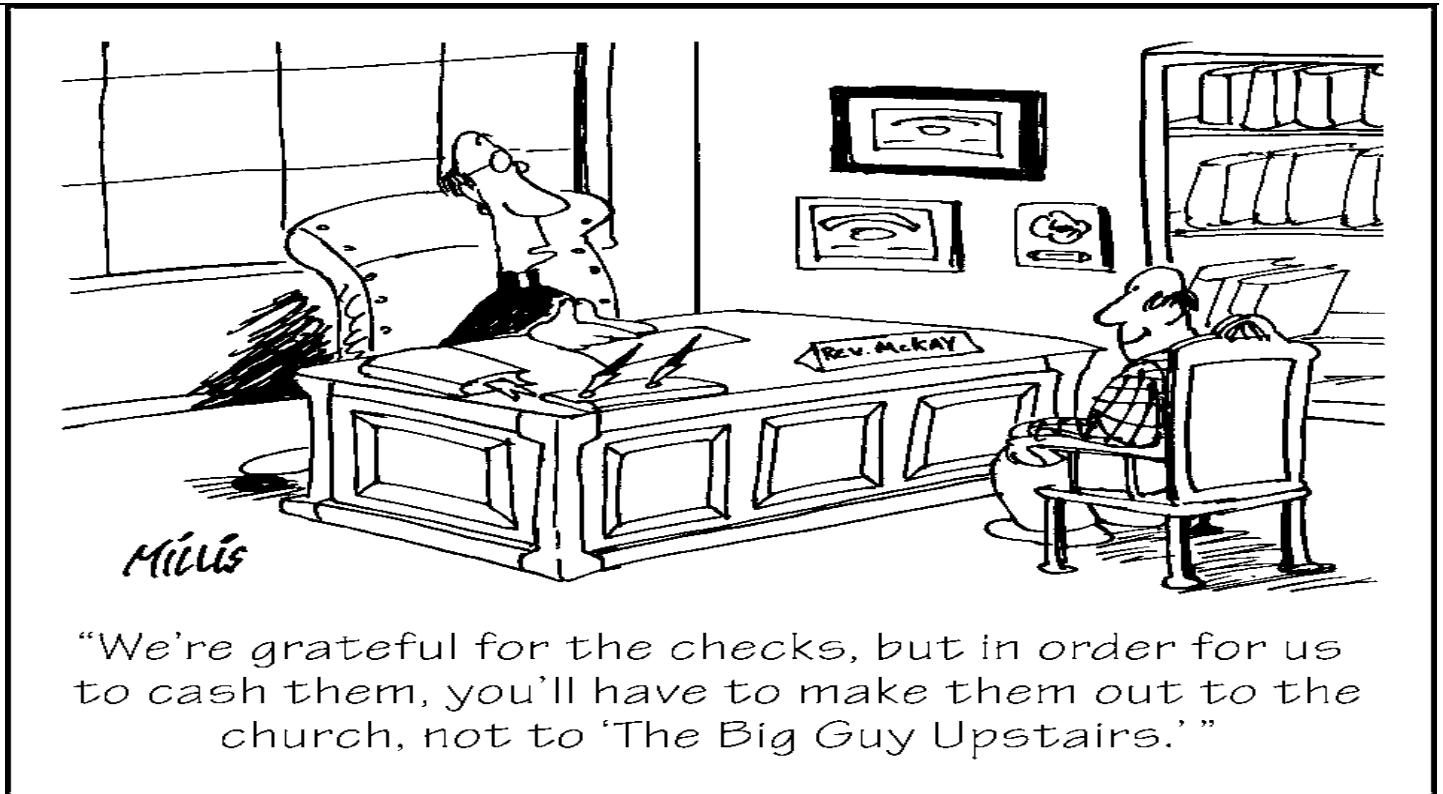
I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with eyes wide. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image. The face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you.

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through.

Philippians 4:13—"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."



Some trust in chariots
and some in horses,
but we trust in the name
of the LORD our God.



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
994 Willie Hill Road
Gilbert, La. 71336

