

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2006

KEEPING OUR FOCUS ON JESUS PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY "Finding the Will of God for our Lives"

The Muslim religion is angry, focused and determined to resist and destroy any religion and people that is not Islam. The suicide bombers are the strongest statements that a committed people such as the Islamics can make to believers who are Christians. These people are not in foreign lands—they are now our neighbors. Their agenda, as taught by the Koran, is to destroy the infidels. We Christians are the infidels to them. No man cometh to the Father except through the Son. Jesus Christ is the Son. He is recognized by the Islams as just a prophetic figure in history and not as a means of reaching God. Mohamad is their means of salvation, so they think. May I state at this moment that all Muslims are not evil and have the same agenda as do the most radical ones, such as Ben-Ladin, but their belief embraces the above mentioned. Satan's agenda is to undermine the knowledge that there is a redemptive Savior, Jesus Christ. Anger, hate, destruction and murder is not an attitude of God, but rather a completed work of the evil one. We as Christians should never hate the Muslim, but rather to look beyond the people to the source of their anger and frustration, who is satan. We should always be thankful that we live in a nation whose focus is Christianity, whose Lord is Jesus and whose hope is not a coming King but the fact that He has already come. Just as the Muslim radicals are bent on destruction, we must be bent on keeping our focus on Jesus.

Pastor George Ferrington

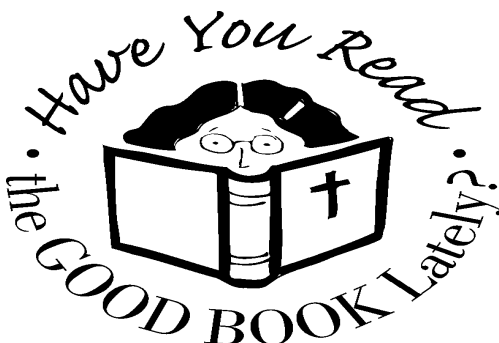
I have come to understand that we as disciples need to learn what the hub of God's will is, and then put His will on display through the lives we live. In the process of searching for His "will" I have come to see that the "normal" Christian life means miracles, spiritual intervention, and revelation. This in turn brings peace, joy, love and a sense of well-being and purpose like nothing else can. I'm sorry to say that for the most part we do not find these traits prevalent in Christians today.

It is my belief that written in the spiritual DNA of every believer is an appetite for the impossible that cannot be ignored or wished away. 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. I believe incorrect teaching and disappointment have robbed many of us of this reality. But in these last days, Jesus is moving in His people with the Spirit of 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. This is an amazing, unprecedented time to be alive, and you and I get to be part of it!

In order for us to be effective believers, we must go well beyond the Christian life we now are experiencing. 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 earth as it is in heaven. Many sincere believers pray, continually seeking God's will for their lives. I submit to you that the "will of God" is simpler and easier to know than we have thought. His "will" is revealed in Matthew 6:9-10: **"Our Father in 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. As I see it God's will wants the reality of heaven to invade this rebel-torn world, to transform it, to bring it under His headship. 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. Plus He wants them to operate in our homes, churches, businesses, and schools. 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. Energy, if freed up for the Kingdom, works in ways never seen before. Things happen regularly that are so extraordinary it's like stepping into the pages of a good novel. But it's not a made-up lifestyle; it's the lifestyle for which we were made.

In our next lesson, we will look at "Proving the Will of God" in our lives. Until then be blessed and prosper through faith unto the glory of God.



TODAY'S YOUTH

An elderly, prominent man, once said, "What a pity that youth is wasted on the young." He must have been close to death himself, to muse such an absurd statement. Why did he think that armies are best served by young

people in their late teens? If you want to get done something difficult and strenuous, get young people to do it. Not some wise old man. When Jesus went searching for the ones to whom He would entrust His future church, He looked for young, hard working men. These young men became the Apostles, and the carriers of the Gospel, to all the world. All but one were martyred for Jesus's message at different places around the known world. Armies recruit young people, and train them to function on assignment. Parents, from ancient times, taught their children in the beliefs of their nation. Schools reiterated the nation's dogmas. Today, only a minority of parents know enough of the Bible stories to pass them on to their offspring. Youth and young adults have no future unless they have learned about, and decided to follow Christian ways. Doom is the alternative.

If ever a generation needed love, it is today's! Youth and young adults are extremely blessed that churches are open, the Bible is still in print, and there are still no laws forbidding Sunday School attendance. There they will study and read God's Word, and meet others who, like themselves, are hungry for the truth. The result would be an entire generation of blessed kids. Kids and young adults that will form the next generation of the children of God. They will make mistakes, and they will sin from time to time, but they will also become aware that Jesus desires to forgive them. They will also become aware of His protection, and above all, His love for them. They will become the next "God's chosen people."

Satanic and demonic forces have great strength. In an average day they present hundreds, if not thousands, of things to entice young people. Young Christians must have even greater power. That kind of power does not lie within us, but is the force and power of Jesus Himself. Once we have begun to rely on this power, we won't built walls, or erect fences, or cower under shelters. But those that sow to the wind will reap the whirlwind. We can rely on Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to protect and watch over us. There is a veritable army of entrepreneurs out there, whose only function is to sow unbelief, to distort what is truth and make it unbelievable, or to implant doubt, and sinful and wrong motives on a daily basis.


If you are a parent reading this, I implore you to get your child into Sunday School. Better still, take them and attend yourself. When they have heard the ancient Bible stories, and how God related to man, down through the ages, they will be far better off when the time comes to make decisions in their own lives. Right motives do not exist from thin air. There must be training. Would you prefer your child to be trained in Sunday School, or on the street? A young person today is exposed to a cacophony of propaganda, all aimed at control of that mental process. TV, radio, films, a spate of electronic gadgets, all drumming one main theme. There is no God, it all happened accidentally. Schools, universities, all higher education, have made no bones about the extent of their disdain of anything biblical. It is all evolution. Any student that rebels on this thinking, fails in his class.

We are rapidly dividing our country into just two camps—those who believe in God and Jesus, or those who don't. This may seem an oversimplification, but even the Bible declares that in the end times, there will be an us against them type of division. Today, this division is marked by political declaration; one day soon, it will be believers against unbelievers. However, the Bible says very little that could be taken as prophecy about the USA. Prophets of the ancient times never once thought that there was another land over there. But God knew. What place will we occupy in the end days, we don't know. But rest assured that there is a place, perhaps one that we would reject, if we knew.

I do sense that at this time there is way too much emphasis on the middle east, for it to be coincidental. That may be part of the plan. We know so little, and God is all knowing. Let's just live for this day. Young people today in the USA are growing up in the most healthy way possible. This does not automatically turn them into super-men, but great health and abundant food tend to produce a generation of very capable people. There must be a purpose.

Young people of today, will write the history of tomorrow. How they do that will be determined by what is in their hearts. Dark hearts produce black acts. A heart of light produces good things. Let us carry out the good things of the coming years. God bless us every one.

Bro. Vic Clayton

PRAY FOR OUR

MILITARY

WHAT'S FEELINGS GOT TO DO WITH IT?

I remember, early in our faith walk, we frequently said, “What have feelings got to do with it? Absolutely nothing.” What we were referring to was our salvation, healing and/or prosperity. It does not matter how saved we feel, if we believe Jesus is our Savior, we are saved. It does not matter how healed we feel, if we believe Jesus is our Healer, then we are healed. If we believe Jesus is our provider, then we are prosperous. It is settled in Heaven, so it is also settled on earth.

We have taken feelings out of the equation until we have almost eliminated the miraculous from our thinking. How so, you may ask? I am glad you asked that question.

Hebrews 11:1 (AMP): **“Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title-deed) for the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality—faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.”**

The ancient Essenes, a religious sect of Jesus’s time, taught that “thought” was power (they said thought had greater power than lightning). “Feelings” was direction, and “emotions” was unity. Thoughts and feelings without emotion was an incomplete action. This is where a lot of the Church is today. We have the thoughts and feelings, we know the Word tells us that we were healed (. . .for by His stripes we were healed), and we know the direction is through Jesus, but we have failed to include the emotion factor.

The emotion factor is seeing ourselves as healed, as saved, as prosperous. The emotion factor is “knowing that we know.” It is the super-natural; it is the miraculous; it is what “brings God on the scene.” In our Western Civilization, we think of emotions and feelings as being the same; or we think of emotions as our feelings of sadness, hysteria, grief, etc.; but if emotion is unity, as the Essenes taught, then emotion is what brings about the super-natural in our lives by unifying our thoughts and feelings.

In our scripture, faith is the emotion, it unifies what we hoped for (the thought) and the conviction of their reality (the feeling).

John 1:1 (J. B. Phillips): **“At the beginning God expressed himself.”** God had a thought, to bring the world into form. John went on to say that **“All creation took place through him (Jesus)”**; Jesus was the direction, the feeling of the Father’s thought that brought creation into existence. In Genesis 1:2 (AMP) we are told, **“ . . . The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters.”** The Holy Spirit was the unifying emotion of creation, He hovers and broods over our thoughts and feelings until we receive our manifestation.

Now, meditate on that until you receive your miracle. What have feelings got to do with it? Nothing. . . and everything!

Bro. Ray Jennings

THE COAL BASKET BIBLE

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading his old, worn-out Bible. His grandson, who wanted to be just like him, tried to imitate him in every way he could.

One day the grandson asked, “Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you, but I don’t understand it, and what I do understand, I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?”

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, “Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water.”

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, “You will have to move a little faster next time,” and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

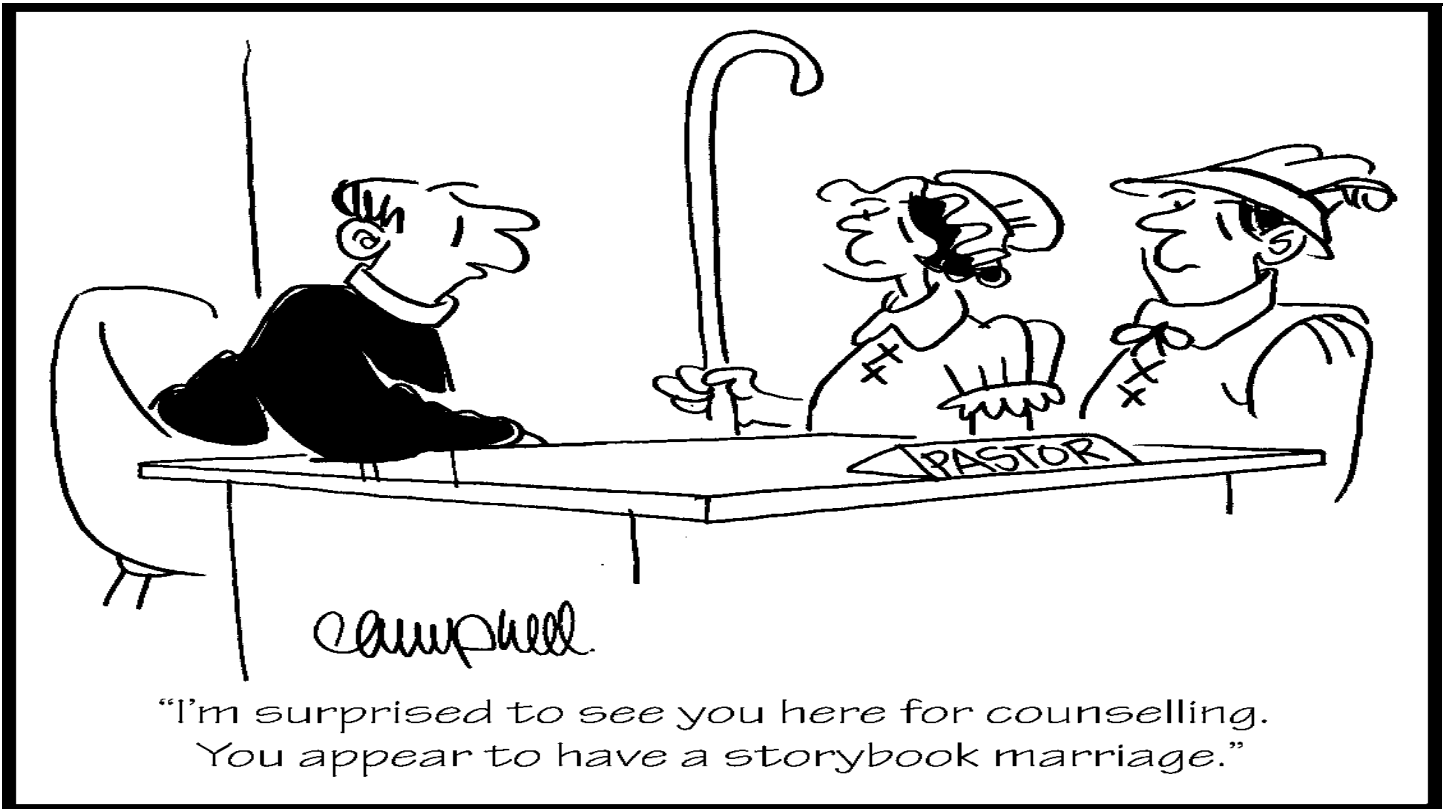
This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was “impossible to carry water in a basket,” and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, “I don’t want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You’re just not trying hard enough,” and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got very far. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, “See Papa, it’s useless!”

“So you think it is useless?” The old man said, “Look at the basket.” The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty, old coal basket, it was clean.

“Son, that’s what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out. That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His Son, Jesus.”

Take time to read a portion of God’s Word each day, and remember that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save us. We are



"I'm surprised to see you here for counselling.
You appear to have a storybook marriage."

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