

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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ANOTHER LOOK AT FAITH PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY "Following Jesus In His Primary Mission"

Faith is like the tar baby, you just can't let go. Recently, a lady spoke a word to me that was almost prophetic. She said that a swing always returns. I have many years now in the "Faith" movement and I am returning to my basic beliefs, not that I ever left them. What I find different now is practical experience and application attached to it. You and I know that some things work and some things don't. We only learn this through a committed walk with our Father. Name it and claim it really sounded good but it didn't work. Committed faith and study of the Word does reveal what we can receive from the Lord. Zeal without knowledge and wisdom can lead to one's downfall. When things don't go our way, then we become angry at God and don't trust the Word. I still believe that God has our best interests at heart and will go to great lengths to bring it to pass if we keep our trust in Him. True faith is believing that God has already done it for us. When I have committed my life and trust to God, then I can believe that God has already done it for us. When I have committed my life and trust to God, then I can believe that He is at work sorting through my name and claim it. Where would we be today if all we believed for came into being? You and I have seen so many of the blessings of God poured out into our lives and we have never been found lacking or wanting. This is not a retreat from faith, but rather a deeper walk into it, a deeper appreciation of the way God shields us when we don't know what we are asking for or believing for. I am sure you can agree with the above writings if you have been faithful to the faith walk.

Pastor George Ferrington

If we are to follow Jesus in His primary mission, then it's only fair that we identify that mission. We saw this primary mission in the life of Jesus on this earth and we find it in the testimony of Scripture in 1 John 3:8, "**The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appears for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**" Yes, Jesus had an assignment, and it was to ". . . **destroy the works of the devil.**" I say to you, it was Adam and Eve's assignment; it was the disciples' assignment, and it is all believers' assignment today as well. There can be no doubt that the Christians today have been commissioned by Jesus to demonstrate the will of God, "on earth as it is in heaven." When this commission is carried out by the Church, then the result will be the transforming of this planet into a place radiant and covered with the glory of His power and presence. This view is not accepted today by most Christians, but I believe it is the very backbone of the Great Commission. Furthermore, if I am correct, it

BRINGING JESUS TO THE STREETS

It is my firm belief that the Church should be training disciples to minister signs and wonders as the

will of God to people everywhere. This training should especially be keen to teach these disciples how to operate in the supernatural (spiritual) outside the four walls of the church. One such school of ministry for disciples of Jesus is found at Bethel Church in Redding, California. Pastor Bill Johnson tells a story of how this is practiced by the students in training: "*One day after class a bunch of students from our Worship School went to visit a lady in the hospital. She had a brain tumor, was deaf in one ear, and was losing feeling on the right side of her body. She spoke with great difficulty, slurring her words, and she was in terrible pain. Instead of laying hands on her and praying, the students surrounded her in worship, singing songs, expressing their love to the Lord. Pretty soon the woman said, 'My ears opened!' The deafness had left. They kept singing and she said, 'My speech is clearer!' She started speaking clearly. Pretty soon she was moving her limbs around. She exclaimed, 'All pain is gone!' God overhauled her body when a worship service broke out around her.*"

When we do the will of God, we bring Kingdom reality crashing into the works of the devil. We initiate conflict between earthly reality and heavenly reality, and we are the bridge and connection point that makes this type of ministry possible. It is only through our prayer and radical obedience that we can assert the rulership of God.

This is a good place to ask a pointed question—Aren't you tired of talking about a gospel of power, but seldom if ever seeing it in action? Aren't you tired of trying to carry out the Great Commission without offering proof that the Kingdom message of power works? The truth is, too many of us have become like the vacuum cleaner salesman who comes to the door and throws a handful of dirt in on the floor and says, "I represent the New Whiz Bang Vacuum Cleaner Company." He continues by saying, "My vacuum cleaner is so strong that you have to remove pets and small children from the room. It sucks up everything in sight." But instead of demonstrating the vacuum cleaner, he simply hands you a brochure, and promises that

MIRACLES

Everybody knows that the days of miracles are past, right?

That was all for old time life and to make some good stories in the Bible, right? Anyone that believes that would not know a miracle if it kicked them in the face. Yes, a few miracles are told in the Bible, but that was primarily to authenticate Jesus.

None had ever heard of a blind man given sight before. Nobody

had ever heard of a funeral where the corpse rises up alive before. But does such a thing as a real, honest to goodness miracle happen today? Absolutely. So many of the miracles today are of small measure. But they are miracles nonetheless. Many would like to see some momentous event, and this happens often. But most miracles are the daily occurrences that happen just because we need them. Every child of God has had things happen that when the shouting was over, you just knew that God brought this about because of His love for us. You can't prove it, but there is no doubt as to who brought it about.

One of the most wondrous miracles is the miracle of life itself. All life. Man has done many wonderful things, right up to but not including the bestowing of life itself. Only God can do that. The recovery of a deathly sick person, upon whom everything possible has been done. Then waiting for the final hours. Then as a result of fervent prayer, the person recovers. Is there any doubt who performed the miracle? Miracles are not always forthcoming. I have prayed for people, and they passed on. I have prayed for others, and they recovered from the medical situation that they suffered from. We don't always know the answers to these mysteries, but God is still in control.

Believers will tell of repeated times that they or their loved ones have been in a desperate situation, and one more step would have spelled disaster. Suddenly, there is a force that stops everything, and they pass on safely. That is the power of the Holy Spirit protecting His own. Surrounding us with His hedge of protection. This may not qualify as a bona-fide miracle in some eyes, but in fact it is just one of several tiny miracles every day. Many people would call this good luck, believers know differently. Many times we have taken this protection for granted, to the extent that we neglect to thank God for His intervening power. The ancient Hebrews were guilty of just this failure, and they were dispersed all over the world. They too will one day be reunited as a nation. Then and only then will they know that Jesus is the Son of God. The gist of this is not only that a small miracle had been done in our behalf, but that He knows where each of us is at any given time. His Spirit goes with His children.\

These signs of His ability to heal, keep safe, or other protections, is not so wonderful because He did this in our behalf, but that He is showing us one more time and one more way just how much He loves us. His love for us can be measured by how open our hearts are. We will all need open heart surgery in that respect. The advances of the last 100 years or so, have themselves been miracles. For thousands of years, mankind has suffered various illnesses and diseases, without hope. Here in this last century has come the answers to some of the horrible things that mankind has suffered without remedy. Did we have smarter researchers or doctors? Or did God bestow remedies to us out of His great love for us all?

There have been terrible epidemics and scourges for thousands of years in the past. Man's only action was to haul away the bodies. Just a very few years ago, people who had worked very hard all their lives, simply got sick and died at an early age. To die at forty or fifty years old was not unusual. Today, many people who are 70, 80 or even 90 years old are living a healthy, happy life. Man's doing? This is a gift from God.

For centuries, millions of people have literally starved to death for want of food. Today, the USA alone probably could produce enough food for the entire world. Not only is more food available today than ever before, but it is of a quality that sustains life in a healthy way. The USA alone gives unknown millions of tons of food to the hungry, unproductive peoples of the world on a regular basis.

Just a very few years ago, most of the people of the entire world never ventured more than a few miles from the place they were born. They never knew that the rest of the world even existed. Today we can fly to distant places of the world in just a few hours. Man's doing or is this another gift from God? God has given us knowledge and vast understanding that has made this entire world a better place, but mankind has even more aggressively turned against Him.

If you do not believe that God is the source of all our wealth and strength, then you are going to one day leave this life as we know it and you will wake up surrounded by billions of other people who also did not believe in the miracle of Jesus, the Son of God, and the Savior of the world. Believe upon Him today, and let us all give thanks for His miracles to us. Bless us all.

Bro. Vic Clayton

PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY (Continued from Page One)

demonstrate or prove it by a move of His power. Please, let us try to get the point! It's like a Christian saying to the world, "I represent the King and His Kingdom. My

God and King will heal all your diseases, deliver you from all your torments, and get rid of the negative circumstances in your life. I can't show you how it's done, you'll just have to believe it. So long, and have a good day."

In next month's article, we will look at ways by which we can return to Heaven's reality. One thing is for sure, when we tell people that we represent the King and His Kingdom, but fail to act on it's message, we are improperly representing Jesus and His message.

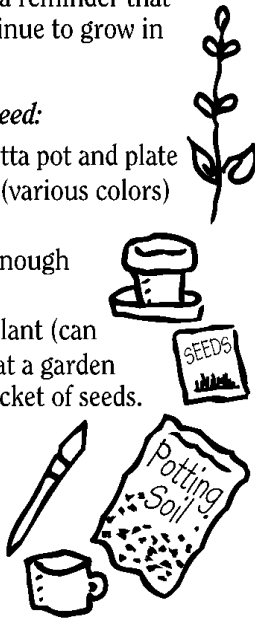
Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

Growing in God's Word

Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

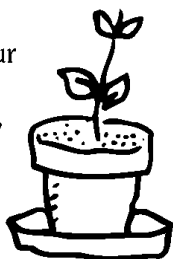
What you will need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant (can be purchased at a garden nursery) or packet of seeds.
- Newspaper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



What you do:

- 1) Spread some newspapers out on a table for your working area.
- 2) Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
- 3) Paint designs on the pot and plate. Make sure you clean your brush in the cup of water when changing colors.
- 4) When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the collar (top part of the pot) write: "Growing in God's Word"
- 5) Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With an adult's help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
- 6) Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant every day and keep the soil moist.
- 7) Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you, too, need care as you grow in God's Word.



GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

God wants you to be "planted" in His Word and to grow up serving him all your life.

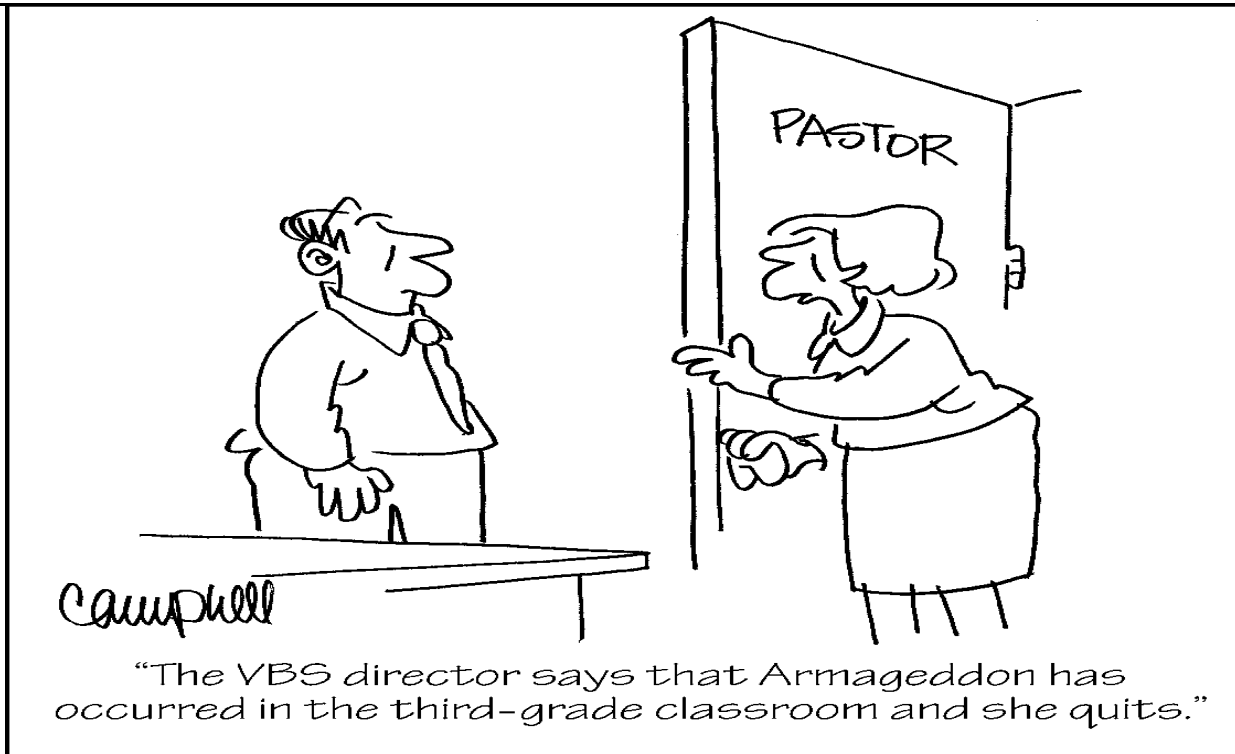
Unscramble each underlined word, and write it in the blanks below. Use the definitions as clues.

Psalm 1:3 NIV tells us what we should be like:

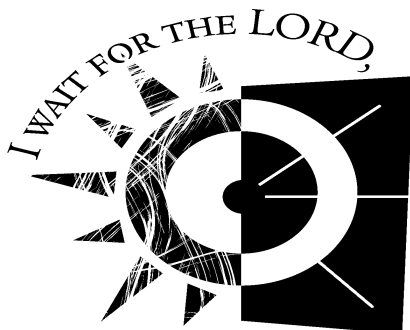
"He is like a (1) etre (2) dpeltan by (3) smatres of (4) rawte, which (5) ledsiy its fruit in (6) sonsea and whose (7) afle does not (8) rithew. Whatever he does (9) spropres."

1. ___ ___ ___ ___ (a wood plant with one main stem or trunk which has many branches)
2. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (rooted into the ground)
3. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (small rivers)
4. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (a colorless and transparent liquid)
5. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (produces, gives)
6. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (a time of the year)
7. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (flat, thin part of a plant growing from the stem — usually green)
8. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (to dry up or wilt)
9. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (succeeds)

Answers: tree, planted, streams, water, yields, season, leaf, wither, prospers



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MY SOUL DOTH WAIT,
AND IN HIS WORD
DO I **HOPE.**

Psalm 130:5, KJV