

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2007

THINGS THAT MATTER PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY "Repentance Changes Paul's Reality"

Each of us has to set in priority the things that matter the most to us on a daily basis. We start with the absolutes such as food, shelter and clothing and progress from there to what we consider the lesser. This is simply part of life. As a pastor, you are now expecting me to place our personal time with God as a priority and that I must do. The pace of life is so fast and hectic that we sometimes fail to realize where our strength and encouragement come from as a Christian. This is not to say that our Father condemns us for our often neglect, but rather encourages us to prioritize our time and center our lives in Him. "Living Fellowship" is a term that I have come to recognize as a means of communication with the Master. God doesn't have to have our fellowship, He desires it. We're not robots but living beings with wills that should always be surrendered to our Creator, thus producing fellowship with Him. If you find yourself hungering for something, it is probably a lack of fellowship. Enjoy life, fellowship the Father.

The opportunity as I see it is that most Christians have repented enough to be forgiven, but not enough to see Heaven's reality manifested on this earth. Meeting Jesus in conversion puts you at the entrance of an entirely new way of living. The problem is that there is a lifetime of miraculous experiences beyond the entrance of salvation that many believers will never experience. The sad truth is, they never enter their full purpose! They spend a lifetime rejoicing just on the other side of the river, but never move in to take the promised land.

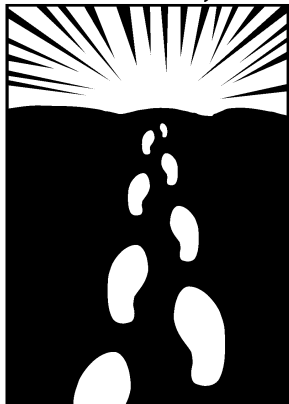
It's not enough to make it across the river into the promised land; we must go all the way and fight for the territory that God has promised to His Church. It seems that the idea of Kingdom power and spiritual conflict unsettles some people, but without power, the gospel's good news cannot be fulfilled. Jesus never made the gospel simply a doctrinal exercise. Paul came to know this and because of this he became very concerned about how God wanted him to present the gospel.

There is evidence that Paul actually changed the way he conducted ministry between one ministry assignment and the next. The Bible tells us about the time Paul was in Athens, preaching the gospel at Mars Hill. Mars Hill was where all the Greek philosophers gathered to debate all the issues of life. They loved to exchange ideas and debate intellectual ideas of the day, but their discussions were mostly meaningless and void of power or truth. Paul came into their midst and gave a brilliant message that is honored even today in Bible colleges for its conciseness. It was at the finish of the message that Paul gave an opportunity for the people to come and receive Jesus as the one true God. It is recorded that only a few came and got saved.

Can you imagine what a disappointment for Paul! This was after all, the Apostle Paul, the man who had stirred up entire cities with the message and power of God. This is the man who was tossed into jail for preaching the gospel or who turned the city of Ephesus upside down with the demonstration of God's power. Was he not the man who went to the third heaven, the realm of God, and saw things unutterable and beyond his ability to describe. But when Paul went before the men of Athens and preached the gospel in a superbly intellectual way with few converts, Paul changed forever how he would preach and minister the gospel of Jesus. This change was so complete that in Acts 18:1 the Word states: "**After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.**"

I am sure that Paul rehearsed and re-evaluated the services at Athens time and time again. The Bible makes it clear that on his way to Corinth, Paul came up with the answer as described by him in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 AMP: "**As for myself, brethren, when I came to you, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony and evidence or mystery and secret of God [concerning what He has done through Christ for the salvation of men] in lofty words of eloquence or human philosophy and wisdom; V2, For I to know nothing (to be acquainted with nothing, to make a display of the knowledge of nothing, and to be conscious of nothing) among you except Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and Him crucified. V3, And I was in (passed into a state of) weakness and fear (dread) and great trembling [after I had come] among you. V4, And my language and my message were not set forth in persuasive (enticing and plausible) words of wisdom, but they were in**

OUR
Journey
OF FAITH



JEZEBEL IN THE CHURCH (Part 7)

In the previous issues, we have explored the traits of Jezebel; her primary mission is to prevent or destroy the working of the Spirituals in the Church. She does this in many ways; but it is always by deception and possibly with the use of witchcraft. She will use others to accomplish her mission; seldom will she put herself on the front line in the battle, unless the spoils are worth the exposure. She normally works from the shadows convincing others to do her dirty work for her.

Jesus came to earth to destroy the works of the enemy; He has made it our primary mission to do the same. Every time we bring someone into the kingdom through salvation, release the power of God for healing, cast our demons and remove their influence, we are destroying the works of the enemy. Satan does not care how much the Gospel is preached as long as it is ineffective at accomplishing salvation, healing and setting the captives free; in fact, if he can have a group that is at odds with each other (a house divided cannot stand) he can accomplish more than he can with a group of his satanic worshippers.

Jezebel is working in the Church to destroy the works of Jesus Christ, just as we are (should be) working to destroy the works of satan. I believe we have seen how she operates and how to recognize her work in the Church. Her mission is to destroy the working of the spirituals in the Church; this means stopping what God has sent the Holy Spirit to do in the Church.

Through the ages it appears this has been accomplished more than it has failed. Just look at the different denominations we have, where they started or their roots and where they are today. There are very few that are operating in the power and authority that they once had. Why? Could it be that the enemy used a Jezebel to weaken and destroy what they were doing? I say yes! It may not have been a fully manifested Jezebel spirit, but be sure that Jezebel was an influence in the result.

Jezebel will usually be exposed by someone operating in a prophetic office, but she can be exposed by anyone operating in discernment. Because someone exposes Jezebel does not mean they have the power or authority to deal with her. In our scriptures Elijah exposed Jezebel, but he did not deal with her, God did. Elijah told her what God was going to do and why. God sent a king to accomplish His will; the king had some eunuchs cast her out of the window where she fell to her death and the dogs ate her as it was prophesied.

Jezebel in the Church today must be dealt with by the pastor or sometimes the leader of the group she has joined herself to in an effort to destroy the group. Since usually her ultimate goal is to stop the spirituals in the Church, it is usually the pastor that is given the power and authority to deal with her. If the pastor shirks the responsibility, it may be possible for another leader to accomplish her removal, but usually it either will not work or will cause a division in the Church. She will pit the leader against the pastor by indicating the leader is trying to usurp the pastor's authority.

It takes a very strong pastor and church leadership to effectively deal with Jezebel; she is extremely crafty and her source of power, satan, has had many ages to learn how to best utilize her in the Church.

It is best to expel those that are a full manifestation of the Jezebel spirit and to work with those that are being used by her to show them the error of their ways. The best possible scenario is to deal with her in the spiritual realm, which is another reason she wants to stop the use of the spirituals in the Church; then to let God be God and stop what she is doing in the Church. Several times I have seen this done, the result being the person being used either stopped attending the Church or meeting, or the person moved on to another Church or meeting to try to stop the working of the spirituals in that Church or meeting. Jezebel's end result is division and destruction in the area she is working. Again, I remind you that she can be exposed by almost anyone that has discerned what she is doing, but she can only be removed by someone in a position of high authority.

I hope you have learned how to recognize and deal with Jezebel through these articles. I appreciate your interest and bless you with the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Servant in Christ, Ray Jennings

DEAR CHURCH,

I will call this "My African Suntan!" We returned to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from South Africa on the 1st day of March. We were so thankful and excited about all of the things our Heavenly Father had done in Africa. We have received many e-mails from many of the churches we had ministered to. All were good reports of God's continued presence and flowing of Living Water. Reports of healings and lives being changed. We were in awe of how God started over two years ago with a vision to me and prayers and fasting of a church in South Africa to bring about a pouring out of Living Water to a dry and thirsty land. GLORY! GLORY! His Word does not return unto Him void, but It accomplishes what He sends it to do! Hallelujah! I am so excited to see the move of the Spirit so strong. HE IS ALIVE! GLORY!

After a long flight from South Africa, it was nice to cool in air conditioning. I went to take a bath and just relax. I was sitting in the tub just praising my Father for all He had done in Africa. He had just blessed us so. I even got to lay in the sun by a pool a few times and be in His presence as I enjoy doing at my home. He knows that is special to me and I was thanking Him for that pleasure. He spoke to me, "In this time in Africa, you have received a SON-tan on your heart. It is a beautiful pure golden tan. You received it every time you basked in my Son's marvelous light. Every service, every person you prayed for, every time you

Putting the Will of God on Display (Continued from Page One)

operating on me and stirring in the minds of my hearers the most holy emotions and thus persuading them], V5, So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men (human philosophy), but in the power of God.”

Men have tried to explain what Paul meant in the above verses.

Some say that he must have had a speech impediment, difficulty

talking, or lacked confidence before the people. Not so, Paul remembered Athens and now had decided to try something different. He was not going to share everything he knew because he wanted to make sure he would leave room for the power of God! Paul wanted the people's faith not to rest in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God! He was not saying that ministers should not strive to preach and teach well, or that they were not to share the wonderful things that God had shown them. In fact, in verses six and seven, he states, **“Yet when we are among the full grown spiritually mature Christians (who are ripe in understanding), we do impart a [higher] wisdom (the knowledge of the divine plan previously hidden); but it is indeed not a wisdom of this world nor of the leaders and rulers of this age, who are being brought to nothing and are doomed to pass away. V7, But rather what we are setting forth is a wisdom of God once hidden [from the human understanding] and now revealed to us by God — [that wisdom] which God devised and decreed before the ages for our glorification [to lift us into the glory of His presence].”**

Please notice that Paul didn't write, **“I wanted your faith to be in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”** Paul used the phrase, **“That your faith [would be] in the power of God.”** Believers today see a difference between preaching in Jesus' name and preaching with power. In Paul's day, there was seldom a difference. The gospel was power, and power was the gospel, and it was always ministered in Jesus' Name. Many today preach in Jesus' Name without any demonstration of power, and that kind of powerless, ineffective preaching must stop. We can no longer afford to give the theory without the reality. God's will is **“on earth as in heaven.”**

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

DEAR CHURCH, (Continued from Page Two)

I don't have to tell you I cried. Ha! Ha! Oh, what a blessing from our Lord. Church, He wants each of us to bask in His presence and wear beautiful pure golden tanned hearts. Every time you praise Him, worship Him, serve Him is a session in His marvelous light and adds to that beautiful Son tan. Keep your Son tan maintained. Let the marvelous light of that Son tanned heart radiate from you to others. Bask in the Light of the Word and lay in the Living Water of the Holy Spirit.

We will be in different parts of Malaysia and Singapore until the 10th of April and then will return to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Keep us in your prayers and know you are in ours. Where ever I am you are with me because I hold you in my heart.

Much Love, Your Missionary, Bess Graham

GOD'S LOVE **“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another.....By this shall men know that ye are my disciples.”** (John 13:34-35

We have been given the commandment to love. When God commanded us to love one another, He also gave us the love to do it! If you're born again, the love of God has been poured out in your heart. You don't need to pray for love. You just need to develop what you already have.

If you'll feed the love in your heart on the Word and exercise it, love will grow. How do you “exercise love”? By acting as though you do love! 1 John 3:14-15 tells us, **“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren . . . , Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”**

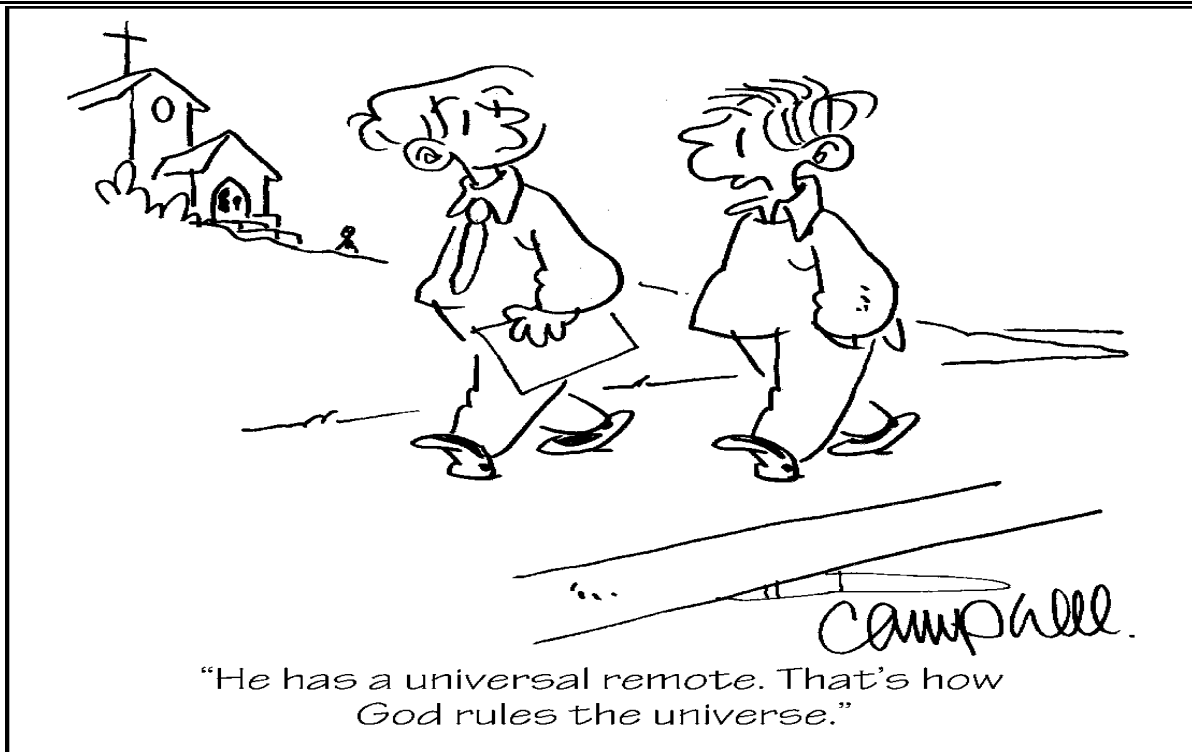
If you're saved, the love of God is in your heart. We know we're saved because we love the brethren. Now let's clarify something. It's the inward man who has been born again and made a new creature in Christ. Even though God's love is in your heart, you're still living in your body. And it wants to continue doing the things it always did.

That's one reason Paul said to “present your bodies a living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1). It's your body, and you have to do something with it. Many times we let our flesh dominate us. The Bible doesn't say God's love has been shed abroad in our flesh. It's been shed abroad in our hearts, and we have to allow love to come out in our words and actions.

There is a penalty for not walking in God's love. It doesn't matter how much faith you have. When you don't walk in love, your prayers are hindered (Gal. 5:6, 1 Peter 3:7). “But I can't do it.” Yes, you can. You just don't want to. If you can't then God's Word is a liar. He said you could love others because His love has been shed abroad in your heart. The love of God is there. But you have to act it out. Your flesh doesn't want to, but that's why we have to keep the body under subjection (1 Corinth. 9:27).

Have you hidden God's love in your heart. It's time to uncover God's love, put our flesh under subjection, and obey God's commandment to love. He has given you His love so that you can love others as He has loved you.

A Message By Rev. Kenneth Hagin, Sr.



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
994 Willie Hill Road
Gilbert, La. 71336



STAND
FIRM IN
THE
LORD ...

PHILIPPIANS 4:1