

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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WHAT IF? THANKSGIVING

What if it doesn't rain in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and the Carolinas soon? These states are at the point of declaring a disaster if it doesn't rain real soon. They don't need just a rain, they need lots of it. The lakes that supply their drinking water are being depleted quickly. The Governor of Georgia has organized prayer meetings for the need. What if we were in that situation? When the scripture states that we are to pray for one another, I believe this need is applicable. I'm taking this opportunity to ask you to pray for these critical needs as if they were our own. I'm proud to be part of a nation that calls on God and does it unashamedly. The atheists in Georgia are outraged that the Governor would call for prayer. Sounds like the devil is upset, so what's new? Will you please take time as you finish reading this article and say a prayer for our brothers and sisters who are in

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Merciful and generous Lord, You open Your loving hands and bless us abundantly every day of our lives. Even when we go through dark times—suffering, sorrow, pain, desperation—you assure us that your loving, everlasting arms will not let us go. How generous are all your benefits, how supportive, how comforting to experience.

Today we join with “the great cloud of witnesses” who once praised you on earth and now glorify you in heaven, offering our deepest gratitude for all the gifts you so generously give.

Accept then our thanksgiving for your love, your grace and all the blessings you bestow on us daily. Through Jesus Christ

As I meditated on this week's lesson, and the holiday time soon coming, I began to feel a thankfulness welling up within me. What am I thankful for? I have a wonderful wife, two beautiful daughters married to two great guys, wonderful grandchildren, many friends and family members that I love dearly, and a relationship with a loving and merciful Heavenly Father. On top of that, we are all reasonably healthy and blessed. I have so much to be thankful for. **“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

All of these things and much more are a direct result of the blessings of God in our lives. Whatever the circumstances in your life, God is still on His throne and He has your best at heart. But to be happy one must be “contented.” That comes by understanding Who God is and how He relates to your life. Then, and only then, can we be truly “blessed.” **“But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptations and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.”** (1 Timothy 6:6-11) Then in Philippians 4:6 we read, **“Be anxious for nothing but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known unto God.”** The point I want to make here is the importance of acknowledging God's goodness in all things. **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”** (Romans 8:28) And then Colossians 3:17 tells us, **“And whatever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father in Him.”**

God instituted the giving of thanks and praise through the priests in the Temple. His desire was for the people to acknowledge Him in the fruit of their hands through burnt offerings and sacrifices, as well as praise. This carried through the Word in many varied ways. Today, in the New Testament founded on the Blood of Jesus, we have the privilege to individually come into His presence and worship and praise Him. We also can enter into praise and thanksgiving corporately at the Fellowship. His Holy Spirit is the guide that draws us into the Father and keeps us secure day by day. He has blessed us with so many physical and spiritual blessings, as well as eternal life. We have so much to be thankful for, but the greatest of all is our salvation. If we had nothing else in this life, we could truly say that we are blessed and thankful for the gift of salvation, to know that we will live throughout eternity with our Father God in Heaven. The noted author Max Lucado penned it this way:

WHAT A GOD!

Ponder the achievement of God. He doesn't condone our sin, nor does He compromise His standard. He doesn't ignore our rebellion, nor does He relax His

DEAR CHURCH,

I want to share a few things with you that our Lord has done in my life just recently. He has really been opening doors for me to come through and follow Him. His Word in Ephesians 3:30 says, **“Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”** has become very alive to me. Our Lord is so awesome. His Word says, “all things are possible.” He is showing me just how alive His Word is. Oh Glory! I have sure done plenty of watering those seeds with my tears. Roger told me once, those tears are symbolic of the Holy Spirit. You plant a seed, whether it is in intercession, preaching, or testifying and then you water it with the Holy Spirit. My tears have been flowing freely lately. Praise You, my Lord!

My birthday was in August. Two days before my birthday, I was cleaning in my room and found the card Jack had given to me on my birthday before he died. It was very special because he had bought a picture to go with it that said, “Time spent in a garden is spent hand in hand with God.” He had written in the card how he had watched me grow so close to God working in my little garden. I got emotional as I read the card and was really missing my husband. The next day I went to work. It was a long day. On my way home from work, I was talking to Father about how much I missed my husband and thinking of the card he had given me. I said, “Lord, it would be nice to get a present from my husband on my birthday.” I did not ask, I was just talking to Him. I arrived home at 9:00 PM. The phone rang at 9:38 PM. It was a call from someone telling me to pick out the laptop computer I wanted because God had told them to get it for me. I just began to weep. I could not even talk. I just thanked him. When I hung up the phone, I said, “Oh, God!” He reminded me of the scripture, **“Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all you can ask or think.”** I called the next day to see why the call came at that particular time. The reply was, “Because Father said so.” They did not know it was my birthday, only Father did. Church, He is so real. He gives even more than we can think of.

On September 1st, I went to San Antonio to meet Miss Mary. We were to minister at IBC, a bible college there. We were to be there until the 5th and then to go to Fort Worth to have a three day revival in a little church that Miss Mary has been ministering to for many years. The revival was supposed to be, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. On Tuesday, Brother David at the college, told us he had us scheduled to minister to the church at the school on Wednesday night. We were planning on leaving to go to Fort Worth on Wednesday morning after our service at the college, but our Father had another plan. We prayed and know we were to stay. Wednesday, we had lunch with Brother David, and he asked us to come to the TBN studio for an interview on Thursday. We told him we had a service Thursday evening in Fort Worth. Brother David said we will do the interview at 11:30 AM, and that we would still have plenty of time to get to Fort Worth. We called Brother Dendy to let him know we would be there for the service, but we would not be there early. Listen to what God had already taken care of. He knew the door He was going to open for us and had already prepared the way. Brother Dendy told us the services had been changed to Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We did not have to be concerned about being late. His Word is so alive. He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think according to the power that worketh in us. I did not know there was a TBN studio in San Antonio. We had no idea we would be interviewed, but God already had the door open before we got there. I am in awe of all our Lord has done.

The services we had were so powerful. God did evermore show up to bless His children. One night I was praying for a woman that was a diabetic. I had put my hand on her hands as I prayed. When I finished praying for her, she looked at me with tears running down her face and replied, “Sister Bess, look.” She turned over her right arm and said look. She had a scar from the middle of her hand to up on her arm. She said, “I had surgery here because of an injury and I have had no feeling or use of this hand since. Now I can feel and move my hand.” She was moving her hand. I did not even pray for her hand. I just laid my hand on hers. There is that scripture again, “Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think.” Glory to God! Church we can not even begin to imagine all of the things our Father has in store for us if we just obey and follow Him. He wants to bless us, all we have to do is believe and receive. All of the services we had were so awesome. Many were healed, set free, and saved. Our last service Sunday night, the 9th of September, started at 6:00 PM. The Spirit of God was so strong. So many people were touched by the love of our Father, that no one wanted to leave. At 10:20, we told them we had to go because we had to pack to leave early the next morning. We were so thankful to our Father for blessing His children so powerfully.

I am so thankful for all that my Lord has done in my life. He says in His Word, “that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” He has healed me of so many hurts in my life and revealed Himself to me with such love and is opening doors for me all over the world to share how real He really is. I am truly in awe. He wants us to desire Him more than anything else and when we do, He inhabits us with His presence in a mighty way. He wants us to fellowship with Him, just love Him and receive His love. Some may say that a four and one half hour service is too long, but when you are in His presence, you do not measure the time, you bask in the SONLIGHT! GLORY! GLORY! I want to maintain my pure golden SONTAN. I can never have too much SONLIGHT. This SONLIGHT does not blister or cause pain, it heals and produces fruit for the kingdom of God.

The last thing, if God can put this country girl on TBN, He can do anything. His Word says He can do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think and He is doing it in my life. He is no respecter of persons. Just bask in the SONLIGHT, praise Him and see what all He will do in you life. He died to give us abundant life, we just have to receive it by being obedient to His Word. Love Him church and let Him do in you what He desires to do. It is all good, because He is a loving heavenly Father. He gave His only Son so we could have that abundant life. RECEIVE!

Much Love, Your Missionary, Bess Graham

THANKSGIVING (Cont. from Page One)

Our sin is punished. . . and we are redeemed. God does what we cannot do, so we can be what we dare not dream—perfect before God.

All that we are or ever hope to be is because of Jesus. Yes, we can seek satisfaction in the secular, temporal realm. We will live a brief existence, then eternal damnation. But to know Jesus is to know the fullness of all that God, the Father is. And to have peace with Him is to know God's blessings at their fullest. Christians, we have no excuse but to give Him all glory, honor and praise in thanksgiving.

I am fully convinced that my God and Father loves me so much that He purposed to redeem me from my sins, now and forever. By accepting the completed work of Jesus, the Son of God, I accept His act of redemption for me, and now find myself fully vested in God's blessings. All I must do is believe in what He did, and by faith, ask for those things I have need of. It is the only action that I can make to receive any of God's promises. He did say to study and meditate the Word. Why? So that His Holy Spirit can guide us into all truth, teaching us God's ways, and wooing us into His presence. His Word is His promise (and contract) with us as His children. We can trust His Word. What a great God!

So as we prepare for our holiday celebrations, the food and fellowship, let us first find blessed fellowship in thanksgiving unto our God and Father. All that we are is because of Him. Give thanks unto Him, and see how much fuller and better our lives can become. **"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."** (Ephesians 5:20)

Bro. Mike Woods

PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY "KINGDOM RULE THROUGH REVELATION"

In last month's article, we looked at Matthew 16:19 which states, **"Whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven,**

and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." I continued by stating that Jesus' focus in ministry was simple yet profound; bind what has already been bound, and loose what is already loosed in heaven. Our task is to find out what is bound up there, and then bind it down here. Whatever is free to function in the heavenly realm needs to be released here.

I first realized the importance of binding and loosing more than 25 years ago. The scripture took on new meaning after I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. My spiritual eyes were open and I realized that this "key" was given to us by Jesus and it insured that the **"gates of hell would not prevail against the church"**. My new life in Christ was certainly different than those early days in a local denominational Church. It was not long before I was working for Christ in the removing of demons from victims. In those days, I was quick to bind the demons, but had not learned about the loosing of angels to assist in deliverance or in helping the victim in the following days. I was only using part of the "key" to the Kingdom. Because of this I found that some of the people would fall back into the grasp of the devil's power. Yes, I often told the oppressed set free that they needed to fill their minds with God's Word by renewing their minds. But I failed to realize that filling the mind with the Word of God takes time, and that it was certainly necessary for God's power in the form of angels to be present in order to protect them until the renewal of their mind could take place. My life and ministry began to turn around when I learned how to use the "gateway" of Heaven's reality in the ministry.

All of the above brings us to the place where we ask the question, "How do we know what is bound and what is loosed in heaven?" Another question arises, "Who tells us what heaven's reality is concerning our life or someone else's life on this earth?" I soon discovered that the only way to do this was to spiritually move through Heaven's gate and receive the "revelation" of the "House of God". God knows all, and the Spirit of God that lives in every believer knows the mind of God. This revelation knowledge can be brought to light only through the believer's spirit working with the Spirit of God. Human logic will not work here nor can it discern what is needed or how to act on God's behalf.

"THE KINGDOM RULE ON THIS EARTH"

God's desire has always been to release His truth to His people the things that are found in heaven but have no earthly parallel. This truth is released through His Word and Spirit. They must work together! The idea of no earthly parallel is supported in John 3:12; **"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"** Jesus is expressing a desire to reveal things to us about what's happening in the spiritual realm that have no corresponding earthly picture. This is why we are taught to **". . . call those things that be not as though they were."** It is imperative that as believers we know what is heaven's reality, and that we bind earth's reality by loosing (in faith) heaven's reality into our lives.

There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus' government and kingdom rule is increasing in this earth. Why do I believe this? Because the Scripture says, **". . .of the increase of His government there will be no end. . .,"** As this "kingdom rule" takes place the whole planet will be engulfed in the glory of God. The Church will receive new levels of revelation like we've never known. How? We will come into agreement with our God and Father for the release of unprecedented miracles. The power of God will be available for us to fulfill our destiny of being the House of God, the gate of heaven on this earth. Then, His glory will fall as rain to a dry and thirsty people, who have longed to be filled with the "living water." But, in order for the believer to receive this wonderful state of being, we must come to hunger for and receive heaven's revelation as part of our everyday lives on this earth. This will allow us to carry on with our earthly ministry as disciples with greater wisdom and power.



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