

# VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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## DRAWN TO GOD

THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF A TRANSFORMED MIND  
Putting the Will of God on Display

### "The Importance of Recognizing Revelation"

The Word states that God is love. If God is love then His love cannot be given out in measures and His love cannot be divided up into portions. It's hard to believe but God loves everyone equally regardless of their status or relationship to Him. Religion cannot accept that statement but it is still true. God loved you just as much before you were born again as He does now, "WOW." In the natural, it may seem at times that God has those that He loves more than others, such as David, a man after God's own heart, but He doesn't. David is an example of a man with a passion and pursuit for God. His failures never interrupted either. A man of pursuit will always appear to be a favorite of God but we're only seeing one side of the equation. God's response to this type person is certainly noticeable, for great reward is bestowed on this person. The Word states that reward is placed on the person who diligently seeks the Master (Hebrews 11:5-6). Each of us is given the opportunity to position ourselves as an intimate child with our Lord. Go for it!!!! It's life changing.

I want to review this lesson by asking a question that I have already asked. What is the nature of revelation? I answered that question in this study by saying, "revelation's nature is to open up new realms of living, new realms of possibility, and new realms of faith to people with needs." Plus I stated that it is absolutely impossible to have heaven's reality, much less use it in ministry, without receiving regular revelation from God. With the importance of revelation studied and understood, I am now compelled to ask another question. How do we know when God is speaking to us? First of all, when God speaks to us there will be a freshness to the message. Plus, it will always be better than anything we could have thought up. And the message from God will always agree with His Word, and will never contradict it in any way. And last but not least by any means, I usually find His message will be so awesome that I find it impossible to accomplish in my own strength. His thoughts will so overwhelm you that you will want to draw close to Him.

Have you ever found yourself in confusion or trouble and have someone give you a word from God that brings a supernatural invasion of peace or joy into your soul? The truth of the matter is, you might not have all the answers you need, or you might not even be able to comprehend the full meaning of the words from God, but you find yourself not caring. Why? Because the words you heard were revelation, and you know that they are from God Himself. Proverbs 14:6 reveals one of God's mysteries to us, ". . . **knowledge is easy to a man of understanding.**" Some people get torrents of revelation and others don't. Why? First, it depends on how we build our support structure. There are **pillars of truth** in the Word that form a strong basic foundation. It's necessary that a believer have these in place if he wants to receive revelation from God. Once they are in place, God delightfully adds to them and builds the house. A man or woman of understanding accepts God's additions and doesn't question them. They are not double minded about them. And because of this understanding, they attract greater understanding. The believer who treasures something God says, will build a foundation for even greater revelation.

#### LEARNING OBEDIENCE

There is another way to attract revelation and that is to obey what we know. There is a story in the Bible of a man who came to Jesus and asked Him what to do to gain eternal life. Jesus answered him and said, "**What does it say to do?**" The man answered and said, "**Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself.**" Jesus answered the man and said, "**Do that and you will be fine.**" What did the man do? He pressed Jesus for more, but Jesus would not give him any new information, but instead pointed him back to what he already knew. The man's first responsibility was to obey the revelation he had. Until believers learn to walk in obedience, they will not receive any new revelations. I believe obedience is a sign to God that we want to go to the next level and are ready to take the next step in that direction. Obedience brings the believer to the place that Job knew about, "**He will seal up that instruction in our heart in the night while we sleep.**"

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

MARCH 23, 2008

SERVICES START AT 11:00 AM

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

COME CELEBRATE OUR LORD!!!!!!!

# HAVE WE MATURED?

It's a viable question. Paul said we should have matured to where we do not need the food of babies; but we have need to return to the basic principles of faith.

The other side of the coin, so to

speak, is that we mature to a place where we leave the basic principles of faith behind; we become too spiritual, too dignified, and too mature to continue practicing the basic principles of faith.

What are the basic principles of faith? Laying on of hands, healing the sick, prophesying, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues, and discerning of spirits. I remember a time when we, the body of Christian Fellowship, went looking for a "victim", someone that needed prayer, deliverance, healing and many other forms of ministry. What happened to those days?

Could it be that we have matured past those basic principles? Is that what Jesus is expecting of us? Have we become so spiritually minded that we are no earthly good?

I believe it is time we returned to our roots, to what excited us in the early days of our spiritual growth journey. I believe it is time we prayed for opportunities to come across our path daily to minister to God's people. It is time we were as bold to be obedient as we were in our spiritual infancy days.

It was in those days we believed anything was possible to those that believed; it was in those days that we were bold enough to practice what we preached.

Today we talk about what happened in the past; what about what is happening today? There is no reason we should not be seeing the same things today as we did then. Has the Spirit of God changed? No, it is us. Have healings stopped? No, it is us. Have prophecies stopped? No, it is us.

There is no doubt that we can and will operate in the power of God and see the manifestation of His power in our lives. We have all we need within us to see this happen; to see it happen today! Not next year, not next month, not next week, not tomorrow, but today!

Stop and think about what is happening today, we **are** seeing the power of God at work. Think about the answered prayers, think about the healings, and think about the manifestation of God's Spirit in our lives. The difference between twenty years ago and today is just our putting in practice what we practiced then.

We have matured, now we can use that maturity to advance the Kingdom of God here on earth; to know when the Spirit of God is moving on us to do something to destroy the works of the enemy, to recognize when the Spirit has put someone in front of us to be ministered to, someone that needs what we have to offer. We have so much to offer those in need; all we have to do is put in practice what we know to do.

God is calling us to operate in His power, to manifest His power on earth as Jesus did when He walked here on earth. We have the same power in us as He had! It is time we acted as little children and mimicked our heavenly Father as we mimicked our earthly parents.

Have we matured—too much? I think not, we just need to do what we know to do! And church, we know a lot! One man, Jesus, changed the course of history, what can we do as a church? We can and will change history! It may be by praying for someone's healing of cancer so they will live a full and complete life; but it is a change of history, and it happened because of us.

Now, go out and release the Power of God on earth! You can do it! Yes, you! You were commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ, go—go—go!

May the God of truth and fidelity bless you and all you put your hands to!

Your Servant,

Ray Jennings

## DEAR CHURCH, (Cont. from Page 4)

They live in this torment every day of their life. Never knowing where a bomb has been placed or if this person is a suicide bomber. Our prayer is, "Use us Lord to give these people encouragement from you. They need you Lord. Reveal Yourself to them."

We have had many services since we have been here. Every one has been teaching a closer walk in the Spirit. We have spoken on the power of praise, drawing apart unto the Lord, how to hear from the Lord, and receiving dreams and visions. Last night was our last service at Pastor Joe's church. The people were so encouraged. One lady, who was a catholic, and has been coming to the church for a while, came up and asked for prayer for salvation last night. Pastor's wife said they had been praying for her for some time to be saved but she had not made a commitment, but our Father touched her and brought her into Himself last night. Glory! Another lady came up after the service to give me a praise report. She was in the service Wednesday morning and heard me teaching on praise in the midst of a storm. She had come up for prayer when the service was over for back pain. The pain left during the prayer but returned after she got home. She said she had her work to do and then she teaches piano to children in the evening. She said the pain was excruciating and she could not do her work. She remembered the teaching and began to praise as she did her work. When the first student came for his piano lesson, she was sitting on the piano bench and realized the pain was

# THE PROMISE OF THE RESURRECTION

We have already learned that the term “resurrection” means to come alive again, or to be risen from death. As Christians we have confidence in the fact that we will only suffer one death, that is the physical death of this fleshly body. The second death, spiritual death, is reserved for those that do not accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives. The world argues that this is foolishness and that Christ cannot be the Son of God, but if He is then He did not come back from the grave, but if He did, we cannot as flesh beings do the same. So, they allege, the scriptures are flawed and the promises of the Bible are untrue. Scholars and scientists have set forth some very well documented arguments in this regard, but we know that God’s Word is based on faith, not facts. If we will only believe, then all things are possible to him that believes.

**“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen; And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ, whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised; And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain, ye are in your sins. Then they also who are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive; But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”** (1 Corinthians 15:12-26)

The question that should be asked here is, “Do you believe the Bible to be the anointed and inspired Word of God?” If so, then you have no doubt that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. The preceding scriptures present the argument that if Christ did not resurrect from the dead, then we are all lost. Lost to what? You see, in Christ all things are set in place and in order. We all believe in a higher power. If that be God, then we are in need of a representative from God, a Savior. But that Savior must be able to deliver us from our greatest threats day by day. If what we know about the Word of God (which the Bible says is Jesus) is untrue in any part, then it is untrue in total, and our salvation is a lie. If we do not believe that God cannot lie, then how can we have confidence in anything He has said and done. Truly, it is a matter of believing the scriptures in total, or not at all. And what we believe about the Word is more than what we can read; it is more about what we feel by the Holy Spirit’s interpretation. So then there is an order by which we believe and receive the promises of God. The Word is God inspired, manifested in the Son of God to men, and interpreted to man by the Holy Spirit. The Word prophesied the coming birth, life and death of Jesus, as well as His resurrection from the dead. If any part of that was not fulfilled, then the entire Word of God is a lie. God would not and did not allow that to happen. By His great love, He has proven to us His ability to fulfill all that He has said He would do—now, then and forever. We can take confidence in the fact that He has completed His Word up to now, and will not disappoint us in the years to come. We have so many great and wonderful promises yet to come. By the Holy Spirit, He will reveal these truths to us His children. The greatest of all promises is the resurrection from death unto life. We know that this is accomplished because Jesus first was victorious over hell, death and the grave. Because He now lives and is seated at the right hand of the Father, we will also live eternally and be in His presence.

Why is the resurrection necessary? Because this fleshly body is imperfect. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 tells us, **“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.”** In the resurrection we are changed into His likeness. We have lived a Christlike life now; then we will become in His image throughout eternity. We may look like we do now, but we will be like him. That is the promise—we will be like Him, and like Him forever. Praise God!

Bro. Mike Woods

## DEAR CHURCH, (Cont. from Page 2)

That is one of the greatest gifts my Father gives to me as a minister, to hear someone

testify of taking what you taught and applying it to their life with results. The teacher of the Bible school was there last night and said how thankful they were that the Lord had brought us to this place at this time. He said that the fire had been built and the wind had blown on it and had it blazing. The Lord had used us to ignite the fire of the Spirit in this place and they were eternally grateful. God is so good. He will use anyone to fulfill His purpose, all you have to do is obey.

Thursday morning on our way to our ladies meeting, a suicide bomb went off right in front of us. I have never seen such a full size bus turn around in the middle of the street, especially so fast. Our driver turned us around and took a different route to the service. We got lost and were late because we had to go a way the driver was not familiar with. They were waiting on us. We went in and shared what the Lord had put in our hearts. Everyone came up for prayer. The Lord blessed them with His presence. They were so thankful to us for coming to share with them and said we really encouraged them. Thank You Lord for touching your children.

We had our last service this morning at Pastor Nehim’s church. He also teaches the Bible school. I spoke first and then Miss Mary preached. At the end we had four chairs put in the front and asked for three pairs of prayer warriors to come forth to pray for the people with us. We had taught on being sent out two by two and wanted them to be involved in the ministry. There were many healed this morning. Some testified after the service. One man came for prayer to heal his heart problems and wheezing. After the service, he stepped up to say that he was healed. He said, “I can breathe. Glory!” God is so good all the time. He wants us to lay hands on the sick and expect healing.

This has been a life changing time for me. I can honestly tell you that I have not been afraid. The first day my heart beat fast for a moment when we heard the first bomb blast, but the peace of God came and consumed me and that peace has not left me. I have grown even deeper in love with my Lord. Truly, you can do all things through Christ Who strengthens you. His love does bring peace that surpasses all understanding, even in a foreign nation in the midst of war. I have been in awe at my Father’s peace He has given us. I know you know it, but I will tell you, my eyes have been wet with tears as I have praised Him for His presence with us throughout this 11 day stay. He never left us nor forsook us but was with us every second of every day. He opened the doors for us to come into this land and honored us with His presence. Thank you all so much for all of your prayers. They are a great strength for us. I will see you all in May with plenty of stories to share.

## DEAR CHURCH, (March 3, 2008)

I am sitting on my bed in my room in Sri Lanka reading my e-mails being blessed by all of the sweet letters and words of encouragement different ones have sent to me. This 11 day stay has been an experience I will never forget. I did not share all that has happened here until

now because I did not want you to worry. Sri Lanka is in war and has been for 25 years. It is a battle between Hindu and Buddhist and of course against Christianity. We were sent an e-mail the day before we left India to come here from Pastor Joe Morrel, the pastor we are ministering with. It was to inform us that a pastor had been killed and his wife and two year old child had been critically injured. This incident occurred next to his church where we would be staying. He wanted us to know so we could pray. We both knew it was the enemy trying to stop us from coming. I told Miss Mary the Lord opened the door for us to go for a purpose and the devil would not stop us from carrying out the mission. We are under the shadow of the Almighty and nothing can come near us. I know His Word does not return unto Him void but it accomplishes what He sends it to do. Glory! I stand on the Word, the Rock of ages, not sinking sand!

I want to share a few of the things we experienced while we were here. The first morning we were in our room getting settled in. I was in the bathroom putting up a clothes line and Miss Mary was unpacking. We heard a loud explosion and the electricity went off. Neither of us said a word. My heart had a workout for a moment and then the peace of God consumed me. After a while the electricity came back on and Pastor Joe called us to make sure we were OK. He had heard the bomb and saw on TV that it was next to us. It was a bomb that had been placed on a bus. The driver saw the package and knew it was suspicious, so he got everyone off of the bus. There were nine people injured but no one was killed. The prayers of the saints have been such a blessing and strength for us here. It adds faith to our faith, and we have experienced the peace of God here in this place of turmoil. The Lord is a strong tower that the righteous run into and they are saved.

Sunday, we went to the church and had an awesome service. Everyone came up for prayer. The Lord showed many visions and gave personal words to many. These words from the Lord set many free and encouraged them to go deeper into their spiritual walk with the Lord. This day there was no bomb but there are soldiers with machine guns on every corner and in some areas many soldiers in a block. Many streets have bunkers with big machine guns in them. I am trying to get a few good pictures but it is hard because they do not allow you to take pictures. I am trying to slip a few so you all can see. It is an experience I have never had

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
994 Willie Hill Road  
Gilbert, La. 71336

