

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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PLAYGROUND
FOR THE KIDS

COME TO THE FATHER

As you have noticed, we have been doing some renovating and building at our church. Our new carpet, painting and all new exterior doors have really improved the appearance of twenty-five years of wear. The projector system is such an asset to our praise and reading of the scriptures. Regie and John deserve credit for their time and effort in making it work for our services. We are now in the process of building a playground for our kids. We will also have an area for families to have group gatherings, picnics and other functions outside under a canopy with tables, a BBQ pit and other fun things. Our playground is being bought from and installed by a reputable company out of Shreveport. We plan to fence the playground and have lots of things for the kids to enjoy. Some of us older ones might just have to test the swings when no one is looking. Most of these improvements are possible because of Bro. Vic Clayton, who generously left the church his estate when he died. When you enjoy the upgrades that we are doing, thank the Lord again for our friend and brother in Christ, Bro. Vic.

THANKS!!!

Judy and I would like to express our sincere thanks to our church family and friends for their generous outpouring of love, food and support at the death of my brother. Words cannot express how much we love you and only our Heavenly Father can adequately reward you for what you have meant to us. May He be the source of many blessings to you in Jesus' Name.

Mike and Judy Woods

“In that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.” (John 16:23) **“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”** (John 15:7) **“Praying always with all grace and supplications in the Spirit. . .”** (Ephesians 6:18)

We can see from these scriptures that prayer has several elements: 1) Prayer brings us into personal fellowship with our Father God, the Father of spirits—with the Lord Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. All three members of the Godhead are involved in our prayer life. In these scriptures we are instructed to pray to the Father in Jesus' Name through the Holy Spirit, either with our understanding or in other tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14-15).

2) Our prayer is to be based on the Word of God (John 15:7). If our prayer life is controlled by the Word of God, we will always pray in line with the will of God. The Word of God is the will of God. And we won't pray for anything outside of the Word of God if His words abide in us. This is where so many people fail in their prayer life. They are praying outside of the Word of God. But if you find scriptures that promise you the things you are praying for, you will always pray in line with God's will for your life. God will hear and answer your prayer when you come to Him according to the Word of God, because His Word never fails (1 John 5:14-15).

3) You cannot spend any length of time in prayer without being affected by it. Isaiah 40:31 says, **“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. . .”** We are living in a time when most folks need their strength renewed. This is spiritual strength initially, but whatever affects you spiritually is going to affect you mentally and physically. So when you are strengthened spiritually, your physical body and mind is renewed and made stronger. Isaiah also prophesied by the Spirit of God, **“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing. . .”** (Isaiah 28:11-12) The quietness—the unshaken, deep peace—that pervades the Godhead will overflow into your prayer life. This won't happen by just muttering a few lines of the Lord's Prayer out of repetition. This peace, rest and refreshing the prophet Isaiah spoke about come only from waiting in the Presence of God. They come from fellowshiping with the Lord in His Word. This fellowshiping is the act of conversing with God, just like you would talk to a best friend. God created mankind to have fellowship with Him. The sin in the Garden of Eden separated man from God, but He still desires that fellowship, and we should seek it with a passion. God wants to guide our lives into success day by day, if we will only consult Him with our life decisions. He wants to bless us, and keep us safe. But He will not force Himself upon us. We have to want it, and we have to be willing to approach Him in the correct way, with a desire in our hearts.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come.” (John 16:13) If you believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, then you should not have any trouble understanding that the

REBELLION TO AUTHORITY

When we think of rebellion we usually think of a young person, teenager, which is rebelling against his parents, teachers and other authority figures in his life. Rebellion is the opposite of the submission we discussed last month; it is intentionally going against the wishes and desires of the authority figures in a person or group's life, whereas submission is submitting to those desires.

Rebellion usually is either a person that does not understand or comprehend the whole picture or they do know what the authority figure wants and intentionally goes against it because they think they know better or they are the type person that is going to do what they want to do regardless of who or what it hurts just to get their way.

Rebellion has its roots in the Jezebel spirit. Because it has its roots in the Jezebel spirit does not mean it will only deal with females; it does not discriminate, it will use any person that will allow it to use them. In the account of Jezebel in the Bible, we learn that this rebellious spirit worked to get into a position of influence with a person of power, and then used that position to try to destroy the work of the Lord. Rebellion is against what is right and good, for the purpose of our study; in the true sense of the word we could rebel against evil, which would be a good thing.

Whether at work, in the home, or in the church when someone does not submit to the authority of the leaders it is rebellion. What if they are wrong? That is between them and God; He placed them in that position and they answer to Him. If we do not agree with their decisions, we have two options: pray for them to hear from God and make the decisions God wants, or find someone to submit to that we are in agreement with. Anything else would be rebellion, which the Bible says is the sin of witchcraft. You will notice that I did not say to pray for them to decide to do what you want done, pray for them to do God's will in every decision they make.

I have learned through the years through reading and talking to people involved in these situations that very seldom if ever does an organization grow when rebellion is at work; God will not place His blessing on rebellion and witchcraft. I have seen situations in businesses where there was a person working rebellion, that business has trouble growing and prospering. I have seen some of those businesses remove the rebellious problem and it was almost like a miracle, immediately the business started to grow and prosper. The same is true in a family or church. God will not bless rebellion.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider all of your decisions and actions—are you doing something that is rebellious in nature, is it something that goes directly against the authority of your family leader, your supervisor at work or the leadership of the church?

God wants to bless every aspect of our lives, but please remember He will not bless or have anything to do with rebellion. He will bless a person that is in submission, even if they disagree with the authority they are submitted to.

May God bless you in your submission!

Your servant in submission

Bro. Ray Jennings

COME TO THE FATHER (Cont. from Page One)

Even if the scriptures are still a little vague, you just take them at face value and trust God to perform His Word in your life. As you grow in the Word and in the Spirit, you understand more about His promises and they become more alive within you. But for any of it to work, you must seek the presence of God, to know Him as Abba Father, "Daddy", and to find an intimate place to fellowship Him. He not only loves to hear our praise, and our petitions, but He desires just our presence—just to spend time with Him. That may mean just sitting under a tree and thinking about Him, or stopping whatever you are doing and dedicating that time to just meditating on Him. He will honor every gesture we make toward seeking Him, and He has promised that those who seek Him will find Him. I have learned that the Father loves us more than we can even imagine, and He desires to do for us more than we could ever want or need. He only desires that we acknowledge Him and love Him in our bodies, souls and spirits. He can complete us if we will only release ourselves to Him.

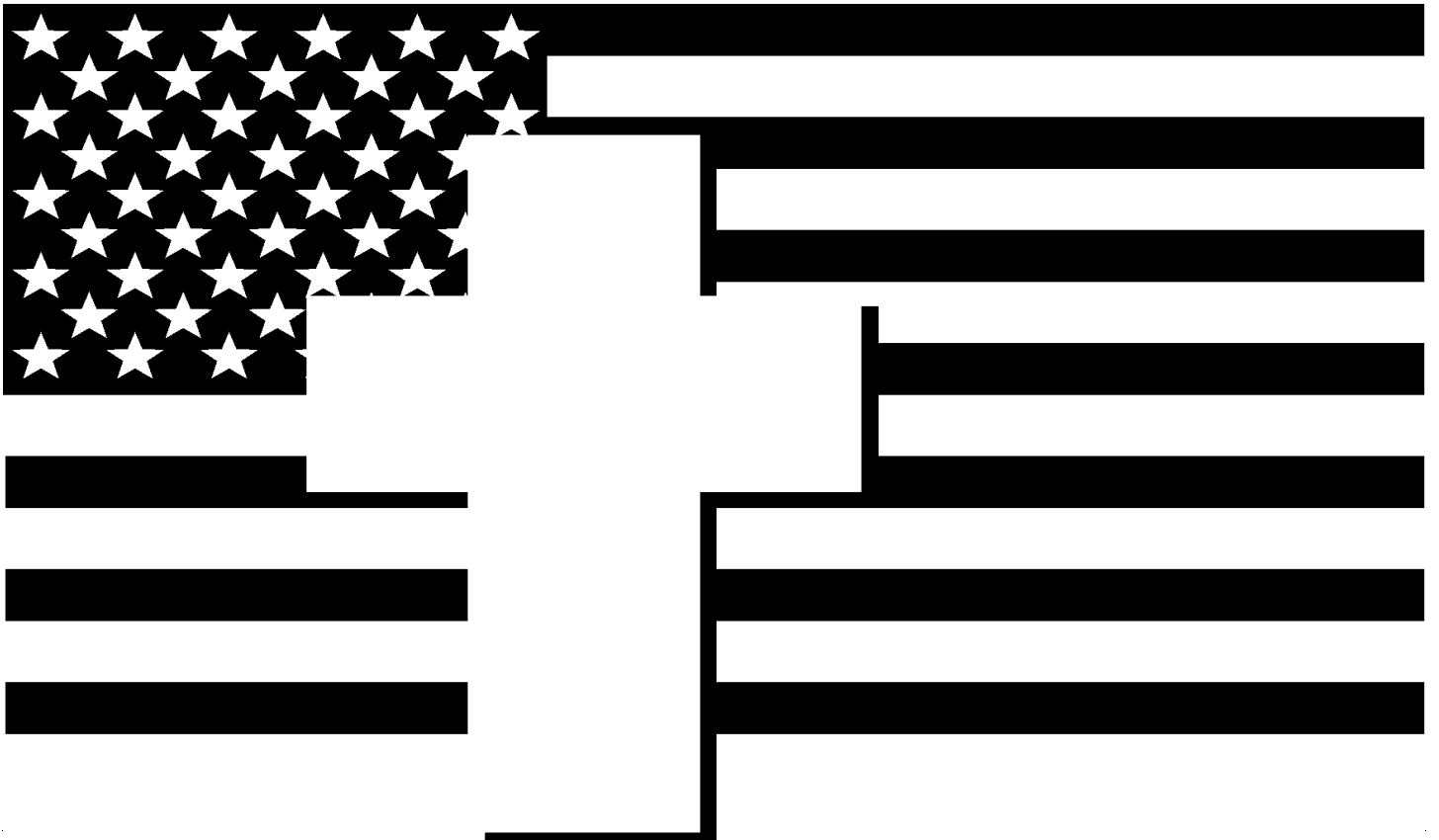
In conclusion, we are to pray to the Father in Jesus' Name through the Holy Spirit, either in our natural language or in other tongues. Our prayers are to be based on God's Word. And if we spend any length of time in prayer, we will be affected by it. If we spend a little time, we will be affected a little. If we spend a lot of time, we will be affected a lot. The Father is beaconing us to come unto Him, for He desires to fellowship with His children, in Spirit and Truth.

May our Heavenly Father Bless and Keep you,

Mike Woods

**DON'T FORGET TO
REMEMBER**

MEMORIAL DAY





CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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be with you.
As the Father has
sent me,
so I send you."