

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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“SPIDER LILIES IN THE YARD”

Old timers, of which I am not, have many old sayings and ways of reading signs that pertain to nature. The time of the month will determine the amount of dirt you have to put back in a hole that you have just dug is just one example. The amount of wasp and how they swarm at certain times will reveal the type of winter that is to come is another. The list goes on and on and most of these sayings prove to be accurate. One sign that I have noticed on my own is that when the beautiful spider lilies begin to grow and bloom in my yard it signals the arrival of Fall. They are beautiful and speak many things to me. The perfect order and timing of God is beyond man's comprehension. How does a flower know to lie dormant and spring forth at a given time? This can only be declared by our Maker. If the universe was one fraction of a second off in timing, it would be in total chaos and there really would be a big bang. The fool has said in his heart that there is no God according to the Word of God. Aren't you glad that you are no fool. To think that the King of the Universe lives in our hearts is as mind boggling as the arrival of the spider lily but just as comforting. Praise God that He is God.

Pastor George Ferrington

THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF A TRANSFORMED MIND

“Putting the Will of God on Display”

Seeking the Revelation of God's Mysteries

If we are to seek revelation of God's mysteries we must come to desire it by hungering for it and pursuing it with all of our hearts. Jeremiah said, **“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”** (Jeremiah 33:3) The Hebrew word “mighty” in the above verse is similar to the New Testament Greek word “mystery”. Both words convey the meaning of something that is out of reach, unattainable, and behind fortification. The truth is, God has hidden mighty and mysterious things for us, not from us. He has already allotted to us this mysterious realm of the Kingdom, but it doesn't come to just anyone. It comes to those who are open and hungry for it. Jeremiah used the word “call” which means “to cry out” to the Lord in a very loud voice. Please picture a person desperate enough to open his or her heart fully and cry out to God from their spirit. Only the deep part of man (his spirit) is capable of calling to the deep part of God. It is this opening of the (Continued on next page) heart that will

determine the level of revelation that will be received. There are few Christians that I know that will receive substantial revelations or visitations of God without reckless pursuit. Casual prayer gets casual revelation! Deep cries cause God to “hear you” and “answer you” and “show you” great and mighty things you do not know. The Apostle Paul says it this way in Ephesians 3:20, **“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”** He continues this exalting of the wonders of God in our behalf in 1 Corinthians 2:9, **“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”** The desperate cry of the heart of man is true prayer, and true prayer initiates the beginning of revelation of the mysteries that await the sons and daughters of God. Peter said it this way in 2 Peter 1:2-3, **“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by glory and virtue.”** From reading the above verses we understand that the spirit of revelation opens up our knowledge of Who God is, and His ways. This understanding of God and His ways bring about the release of power from heaven. Our reward is the fact that when a believer releases the power of heaven, he or she will have access to all things pertaining to life and godliness.

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Children’s Sunday School will kick off a new teaching on the Fruits of the Spirit on Sunday, October 5th, 2008

**To get into the Spirit, we will be hosting a Fruits of the Spirit Carnival Saturday, October 4th, 2008
At 4:00 p. m. to 7:00 p. m.**

We will have carnival games, cake walks, horse rides and carnival food (ex. Hot dogs, funnel cakes, and much more).

**Parental help for the games and events would be appreciated.
For more information call Michelle Jennings at 318-267-4711**

NEW CREATIONS IN CHRIST

A Study By Mike Woods

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17) When a person comes to Christ, he receives remission of sins. That is, his sins are blotted out. Not only are his sins blotted out, but his past life is blotted out as well. As far as God is concerned, nothing in his life prior to the moment he became born again is counted, or held against him. This is truly a miraculous thing that we should praise God for. There is no way that any person can compensate, in his own strength, for the sins of his past life. It is only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ that we are made clean and pure in God’s eyes. According to the scripture above, we become a new creature in Christ (a new creation.)

To benefit from this blessing, we must get hold of this scripture. That is to know, understand and confess that we are a new creature (creation) in Christ, old things are passed away and forgotten, and we have new life through the One Who gave us life. I have found that the constant confession of this truth actually brings freedom in my life. By that I mean, when I say, “I am a new creature (or creation) in Christ, old things are passed away, all things are become new”, then I find that I do not have some of the problems that most Christians have with the world, the flesh, and the devil. I have found that you will rise to the level of your confession. By calling yourself a new creature in Christ, that inner man manifests on the outside. Most people’s problems come from looking at themselves from the natural, carnal, fleshly standpoint. After all, that is the part they see every day in the mirror, and that is the part that others see. What you must do is see yourself from the spiritual standpoint—the spirit man as in the image and in the presence of God.

At the fall of Adam, the sin nature entered man. Since then he has endeavored to find purity and perfection and immortality (everything he lost in the Garden of Eden) by way of the flesh, and we know that it is impossible. Jeremiah 13:23 says, **“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?”** This indicates the futility of man’s efforts to escape his sin. But while you cannot change your fallen, sinful nature, God can! In the new birth, we find a renewing of our spiritual man, but not the physical man. Our physical body does not become born again, so it will want to keep doing all the wrong things it likes to do.

In 1 Corinthians 9:27, the Apostle Paul says, **“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”** Paul realized and explains to us that we are really spirit beings, but the body must be brought under subjection or it will control our mind, will and emotions. Then, even as Christians, we will find ourselves in trouble.

When your inner man is renewed in the new birth experience, the Holy Spirit of God comes to dwell in your spirit to give you power. In this way, you are able to dominate the outer man, and keep your flesh under subjection. That does not mean that you don’t have temptations to sin, and it doesn’t mean you will never sin. It does mean that you have willed to be free from the power of sin and the lust of the flesh, and the Spirit will give you power to be victorious. And when you do sin as a Christian, you can receive forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 tells us, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteous-ness.”** God is faithful to forgive, but we have to forgive ourselves. That comes from an understanding of God’s Word, and what It says about our relationship with Him. In Isaiah 43:25, we read, **“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”** If God promises to forgive you of your sins, and remember them no more, then who are you to hold onto them

So, how can you accomplish this? If you are a Christian, then you have the promises of God’s Word and the Holy Spirit to guide and teach you. Study, meditate and pray over God’s Word and let His Spirit lead you into His presence. You will find the peace of God, and an understanding of the new life you have as a new creation in Him.