

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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“SEARCHING FOR MORE OF GOD”

We all have a desire for more of God but that is an impossibility. Our relationship with the Father isn't divided into segments and the more we get of God the better we feel. God isn't a box that we can get one foot in and then another foot and then we finally get all the way in. When we are saved, we're all the way in and our actions, good or bad, don't determine how much of God we have. What we are in quest of is fellowship with Him. God is like the sun and we revolve around him. Our light and warmth are determined as to where we are in the rotation. We can purpose to position ourselves to receive what our Father wants and has for us and thus receive it. It appears sometimes that God has favorites and these favorites have more of Him but that's not true. Some of God's children have positioned themselves to allow the sun to reflect off of them and thus to appear brighter. It is impossible for God to love one person more than another although the positioning of ourselves allows Him to reveal Himself and declare His blessing in greater ways. Drawing closer to the Father is our goal but not getting more of Him.

Pastor George Ferrington

“PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY” UNDERSTANDING REQUIRES AN EXPERIENCE “Running with Revelation”

In Pastor Bill Johnson's book, “THE POWER OF A TRANSFORMED MIND,” he relates a story of three young people from his church who were at an ice cream shop one evening. All of a sudden they felt the presence and power of God come upon them, almost like a burst of fire. Immediately they realized that God was up to something, and they looked around for an opportunity to participate in the impossible. They saw a young man on crutches, and they approached him and struck up a conversation. The young man revealed that he had fallen from 15 feet in the air into 2 feet of water, breaking his tail bone. He didn't reveal it then, but he was a star running back at one of the local high schools. They prayed for him and suddenly he dropped his crutches and started jumping up and down. Then he took off running back and forth as fast as an athlete in competition. People in the parking lot stared in amazement and befuddlement. He kept yelling, “Praise God! Praise God! I've always wanted God to do something like this to me!” He was completely healed. Those young people put into practice their revelation of God's power to heal. Instead of having a simple evening at the ice cream shop, they sought out an opportunity for God to do a miracle. That's how we must learn to put revelation to work! If we don't, we will lost the power and opportunity that revelation offers us. Jesus warned, **“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and**

snatches away what has been sown in his heart.”

“The Living Seed of Another World”

When I speak of revelation, I see it as a living seed (revealed word) of another world that has the possibility of something great and wonderful. I also understand that when a believer receives the revelation of the Word, but does not understand it, the enemy has an open door to that seed and can abort it by snatching it away. The “key” to this is to correctly define understanding. In Western culture, we define “understanding” as cognitive reasoning that brings us to a conclusion by helping us to comprehend. But in eastern culture (biblical), understanding is an experience. The definition of understanding means to engage in activities that involves a person’s five senses. In fact, the Greek word for understanding in this verse means learning, which takes place through the five senses. It also means “doing” as in practical human experience.

Let’s put this in perspective. The biblical view of understanding means far more than to give mental assent; it means to practice in real life what one has come to know by revelation of God’s Word. The above explains why the Jewish leaders of Jesus’ day said to him: **“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”** (John 3:3) Understanding also means yielding to something before you can explain, define, or describe it. Biblical understanding far surpasses intellect, and Hebrews 11:3 supports this: **“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”** Please take heed

to what I am about to say, we don’t have faith because we understand, but we understand because we have faith. Once again we need to put this in perspective, it is imperative to accept and understand things without completely satisfying your intellect. When a believer reads the Bible, he or she doesn’t always understand what they are reading. The truth is, biblical learning takes place in the spirit first, and as we obey the Spirit of God, our spirit communicates it to our minds so we intellectually understand. But understanding is not required for obedience. A normal Christian is one who obeys the revelation and prompting of the Spirit without understanding. Understanding will unfold in the experience.

Gene R. Brown
Associate Pastor

“DEAR CHURCH,”

When I first arrived in Alaska, there was no snow. The temperature was very cold but no snow. I was told that the week before it had warmed up, rained, and washed away the snow. It just seemed to me that Alaska in the winter should have snow. Without the snow, everything looked dead and lifeless. I began to pray and ask the Lord to send the snow.

It began to snow and snow and snow! Glory! A white blanket of new fallen snow covered everything. The beauty I was beholding awed this country girl. Everything glistened as the sun was shining upon it. Wow! What a change in the looks of the land. One day it looked ugly and dead and the next morning I woke up to a winter wonderland. The skies were blue, the sun was shining, and everything was sparkling with magnificence, like a crown of glory. I began to cry

thanking the Lord for allowing me to see this awing scene once again. How great is our God! Such beauty He has created for us, His children.

While beholding this scene, the Lord reminded me of how we are when we accept Jesus as our Savior. We are like the Alaskan scene without the snow, dead and ugly, but the blood of Jesus washes our sins away and makes us like the new fallen snow. His Word says, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." He puts a blanket of new fallen snow upon us with His blood. We have that crown of glory put upon us and can glisten with His Son's light. All we have to do is ask for it and He gives it to us freely. Glory!

As I continued to meditate upon this the Lord showed me something else. In our lives we have times when the temperature heats up, fiery trials come our way; rain begins to fall, storms with thunder and lightening come crashing against us. The enemy causes the disturbances for one reason; he wants to try to melt our snow. He wants us to look like Alaska looked when I first got there, dead and ugly. Well Church, he can not melt our snow. He can bring darkness, storms, rain, and heat, but nothing he does can melt our snow, because our snow comes from the blood of Jesus and it never stops flowing for us. We have the ability to glisten every day of our lives when we accept Jesus as our Savior and become as white as snow by His blood. Do not let the enemy have the pleasure of thinking the heat (trials), or the rain (storms, floods, and showers of frustration) can melt your snow. This is heavenly snow and it does not ever melt. We have a continuous shower of it upon us every day after we accept Jesus. The enemy puts clouds out to try to stop us from glistening but he can not stop us when we are in the Son light.

Church, there is nothing more beautiful than the sun shining on the snow and it glistening with beauty. It just sparkles like diamonds that are very valuable. We are very valuable to our Father. So valuable that He sent His only Son to shed His blood for us so we could become like that new fallen snow. Just remember, when the heat rises or the storms come, the snow we have is heavenly snow that can not be melted or stopped by anything the devil throws our way. Just let the Son light shine and glisten from you like the valuable diamond you are for the glory of the Lord and to show others the way to go.

We know by the Word of God that we are in perilous times and the end is near. There are many people out there in this world who need to see the Son light on the new fallen snow in the midst of storms and the heat of fiery trials. Let the Son light shine and glisten from you so they can see the way out. Be blessed church. I love you all and remember, you are all with me on this missionary journey and the Son light is glistening on the new fallen snow.

Much love,

Your Missionary, Bess Graham

HAVE YOU PRAYED LATELY?

Before answering that question, consider this: There are many people hurting, even in our own community. There are wars and conflicts throughout the world, many of them involving our own troops. Cities are seeing crime escalate, as people become desperate. It seems our government officials don't know how to lead or what to do. Natural disasters and destruction seem to be commonplace these days. Does this sound familiar? In the final days, the Word says that these things will take place. But we who have Jesus as our Savior, have hope; and we can share that hope by the life we live before others. I

encourage you to pray and lift up our leaders, both local and national, that they may seek guidance of God, and accept responsibility for their decisions.

Also, remember to pray for your church family, Pastor George and his family, the elders, the praise teams, the teachers, and our children's ministry. These are challenging times, but we are called to meet that challenge in the Name of Jesus. Pray for Bess Graham, as she goes forth representing Christian Fellowship and the Body of Christ in a foreign land. Her faithfulness to the living God is a tribute to His love and compassion for us. She will touch thousands for the cause of Christ in the Name of Jesus.

2009 can be your best year yet! It is up to you to stand in faith, believing God's Word to be true. Today is the day—for according to the Word of God, we are drawing close to the time that Jesus will come for us, His bride, the Church. To God be the glory!!!

Mike Woods

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HE LIVES!!!!!!!