

# VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2010

## SEEKING GOD

Seeking God is a very misunderstood subject. Isaiah states that we are to seek God while He may be found. The words “seek and found” are the keys to understanding the subject. Seek carries the thought of rising early or putting that which is sought after in the highest priority. Seek also means to worship, so therefore worship would be the priority and would allow us to come into the presence of our Father. The word “found” comes from the word foundation or theology. Theology is the understanding of God’s Word. Foundation is the early structure of anything we are building; so we worship God to allow Him to build the foundation of what we believe. It is important to believe what you believe and always be willing to stand on that belief or foundation. The Word talks about structures built on the sand and are easily swept away by any wind or doctrine. The devil works hard to erode your foundation but he can’t touch the foundation that is laid by our Father through His Word. Isn’t it great to be planted on the rock?

Pastor George Ferrington

## FOOD FOR MY FELLOWSHEEP

Are you as happy as I am to see signs of spring everywhere? Sunshine has been a rather elusive luxury this winter; now the days are getting longer, and the colors of our Louisiana spring are popping up, sometimes in unexpected places. Does it surprise you to see a mound of daffodils blooming where an old homestead used to be? Untended for years, these bulbs still do what God created them to do: herald the season of renewal, of new life.

Last week we were blessed with several sunny days...but the TV weatherman daily predicted, “Monday will bring back a chance of thunderstorms—some may be severe.” Making conversation, I asked a dear person if he was enjoying the beautiful weather; his response was, “Yes, but it’s supposed to rain Monday.” My jaw dropped.

Did you catch what happened here? Appreciation and enjoyment of the present was effectively eliminated by worrying about the future! This farmer has every right to be concerned about our wetter-than-usual conditions; his livelihood depends on being able to plant his crop. But what is gained by worrying about the weather? Or by worrying about anything that is out of our control? So, I want to speak about the habit of worrying.

Yes, it is a habit. If you say, “I can’t help it, I’m just a chronic worrier,” then you have practiced worry, made it a habit, and are probably very good at it! Do you enjoy worrying? How’s that working for you? If you say that you are a pessimist, then you have practiced pessimism, and likely it is an ingrained aspect of your personality.

If you believe changing is impossible, well, stop reading right now. However, if you believe that with God all things are possible, the worry cycle can—and should—be broken. Ask yourself if

worrying is glorifying God in any way; that, to me, is a powerful motivator to change a behavior.

The Biblical basis for **not** worrying is well known. Jesus Himself admonished us to not worry, saying that it would add nothing to our lives (Matt. 6:27). He tells us that worry is one of the thorns that crowds His words out of our hearts and keeps them from producing spiritual fruit (one of which is peace!). He even lists worry as being as wrong as drunkenness and self-indulgence (Luke 21:34). I could go into all the physical ailments associated with worry, but that is a whole 'nother article.

I cannot rest my case unless I give you a way out, a plan for breaking the worry cycle. It isn't enough to tell yourself, "I will not worry." That will keep it on your mind constantly, like saying that you won't eat chocolate. The habit of worry must be replaced with something else—something even more powerful. I broke the worry cycle with prayer. And it can work for you— if you practice it like you have practiced worry.

I can hear it now— "But I do pray!" and I believe you. But what I am speaking of is quite different; I am advising you to pray whenever that anxious thought comes into your line of thinking. Your mind cannot entertain positive and negative thoughts at the same time. So whenever that obsessive worrisome idea enters your mind, turn that nagging thought into a prayer. If this means that you are praying about the weather, or your job, your health, your spouse, or your child 40 times in one hour, then do it! Whatever is plaguing you, take it to the Father.

This will not seem natural, or happen overnight. It requires conscious and consistent effort, as does any new learned behavior. As I said, you are good at worry because you practiced. Whether you are skilled at carpentry or quilting, golf or gardening, fishing or flying, you are good because it was important enough to you for you to practice. Knowing how much your heavenly Father loves you will give you confidence in your prayers; trusting His heart toward you and believing He has the best plans for you will cause a peace to replace the anxiety that has prevailed in your mind.

Once you get into the habit of "chronic praying," work on making your petitions positive. By this I mean for you to not speak the problem over and over, but instead to thank Father that He has the solution, and that things will work out. Jesus tells us to be careful what we hear, you don't need to hear yourself repeating the problem, and He probably got it the first time around. You need to hear that God is the God of answers and solutions, not calamities. Refer to some of the stories of amazing deliverances in the Bible, and that will take your belief in Him up a few notches.

What are some benefits you will see as you become a chronic pray-er? Your faith in Father will grow stronger. He will become larger, as your problems fade into the background. Your expression will change: A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance....Prov. 15:13. Your health, your overall sense of well-being will improve: A calm and undisturbed mind and heart are the life and health of the body....Prov. 14:30. You could even enjoy a good night's sleep! When you lie down, you shall not be afraid; yes, you shall lie down, and your sleep shall be sweet...Prov. 3:24. Your heart will change, and then your words will change, for your mouth speaks what is in your heart (Matt. 15:18).

May you all be abundantly blessed, and enjoy the explosion of spring!

Marcia Williamson

## UPDATE FROM MALAYSIA

Hello Everyone!!! It has been a wonderful trip this far. It was nice to see my Malaysian family. We were picked up at the airport and brought to our home away from home on Friday night. I was so thankful for Stanley Tan picking us up at the airport along with Melanie. He helped me to carry all of the bags up the two flights of stairs. Praise the Lord! Melanie and I talked until 3 AM. We slept in on Saturday morning.

Saturday I had all of my favorite foods, curry mei, fresh coconut juice, Chinese new year salad, and black pepper noodles. I do not know which was the best. We are welcomed with such love, what a blessing God has given this country girl.

Sunday was our first two services. The Spirit of God was so awesome at both services. Many people came up at the altar call. The Lord was blessing many of His children with a prophetic word. So many were set free and comforted by His love. Ms. Mary and I both were very pleased from the response of the Word God gave us for His children. It is just awesome to experience the power of the Holy Spirit at work to set His children free, heal them, comfort them, and fill them with His love. That is what this trip is all about—helping God's children.

We are very excited because the Lord has opened the door for us to go to Indonesia. Ms. Mary has not been in 14 years. She has wanted to go but had no open door. It is very difficult to get into Indonesia to share the Word. A few months ago, a man from Georgia called Ms. Mary. He prophesied to her that she would go to Indonesia and meet a woman there who would help her. She can not remember him but met him many years ago. She told me about it after he called. One of our pastor friends here in Malaysia that we visit every year sent me an email the other day saying that her senior pastor would not be there when we come to Batu Pahut because she is going to be ministering in Medan, Indonesia. My heart got excited. I wrote to her and asked her to talk to the pastor to see if she could get us in. Teo is taking us to Indonesia to preach. We know something good is going to happen because it is ordered by the Lord. We will be going on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April until the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. We are expecting the miraculous. Oh, Glory! I can hardly wait.

We are preparing to go to the airport in a few hours to take off for India. It will be Ms. Mary, Melanie, and myself. Melanie is my dear sister from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She is quite a woman of God and a true blessing to us. I know we will have a great trip here also. The people of India are always so appreciative of everything we do. India always makes me appreciate my home in the USA even more.

I had a very sad email from my daughter just now. My Aunt Mary Lee had a heart attack on the way driving from church causing a wreck....She did not survive. My heart is breaking because I am not at home with my family. I am praying for them with all of my heart. I know my Lord will comfort as no one else can. So many times in my life He has put His arms around me when I needed it and I am asking Him to put His arms around my loved ones for me since I am not there. Please keep them in prayer. I will stay in touch.

Love you all, Your missionary, Bess Graham

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY      APRIL 4, 2010**

**SERVICES BEGIN AT 11:00      NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**COME CELEBRATE OUR LORD JESUS!!!**

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**HE IS RISEN**