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COMMITMENT

Commitment to anything usually carries a price tag—at least if it is worth your time. There was a show on TV about becoming a cowboy recently and it dealt with the excitement of a young man becoming a cowboy, the dream of his life. The horse, hat, boots and respect of fellow cowboys. The freedom of riding the range and carrying on an age old tradition. Beautiful blue skies, open range as far as you could see and all the solitude. That was the backdrop to the story until reality of everyday life was shown. Getting up before daylight, riding in an ice covered saddle, shoveling hay in twenty below temperatures and all the other hardships of being a cowboy. Once the glamour was gone, you faced the challenge of being a cowboy. Was it really what you wanted, are you willing to pay the price of being the best cowboy on the plains, are you willing to pay the price? This is true in real life and we face the same circumstances everyday. Life in Christ is such a commitment for it carries the same price tag. Once the pat on the back and words of praise have vanished, where are you and how do you feel? From a seasoned follower of Christ, it is worth it. There is no life apart from Christ.

Pastor George Ferrington

HELLO EVERYONE,

I pray all is well with each of you. I am so excited about the things our Father has done for me since I returned home from the mission field. He has awed me once again with the power of His love. I was in Alaska for two weeks with my family there before I returned to Louisiana. God has blessed me with such a wonderful family in Alaska. It is so awesome to be under the covering of this part of the Body of Christ. I shared the mission report with Family Christian Center and Praise Victory Fellowship before returning to Louisiana.

I had an extra blessing in Alaska this time because my best friend, Debbie, flew up from Missouri to visit her son and his family in Wasilla while I was there. Debbie, Cameron (Deb's granddaughter), and I took a road trip to Valdez and saw more of the beauty of Alaska. It was a fun trip. I am one blessed woman!

I returned to Louisiana on the third of June. My mother's family had a family reunion that weekend. It was wonderful to see the family. Some of my cousins I had not seen for 25 years. We will have our next reunion in Knoxville, Tennessee in 2012.

I have had many things to deal with since my return home. My air conditioner went on the blink (it is in the upper 90's to 102 already here), my sewage pump went out (which brought sewer water into my home) and my mother has been in the hospital being diagnosed with a lung disease. As I dealt with each problem, my faith grew. I know that the devil must be mad because I stomped on his ugly head and he is trying to move me. Guess what! I AM NOT MOVING! I AM STANDING ON THE ROCK! I KNOW WHO MY JESUS IS AND THE PRICE HE PAID FOR ME! I AM MORE THAN A CONQUEROR! I even laughed when I thought about what the liar is trying to do. I am going to share the love of Jesus with as many as I can and stomp on the enemy's head every day I live. I will not look at what he is doing but tell him what my Jesus did for me. GLORY!

I have an awesome praise report. You all know how much I have wanted to go to Israel. It has been my hearts desire for quite some time. I have had invitations before but it was not the right time. Two weeks ago on Sunday, I told my mom that I felt the Lord was going to take Beau (my son) and I to Israel this year. The next day my son received two tax refund checks from the IRS. I called to tell him and he was surprised. The next day he received another from the IRS and one from the State of California. He had told me earlier this year he was going on a mission trip with me so when I called to inform him of the other checks he told me to decide where we were going. I told him if he wanted to take me where I wanted to go it would be Israel. He told me to call Rick Bonfim Ministries and set it up. Well, you all know I cried, FOR A WHILE! I got a grip and called. I have been believing for 2 years I would go with Rick to Israel. The trip was full and they are going in March but I know I will be on the mission field so that was not an option. I was a little shocked but I said I know the Lord has a plan and I will follow it.

I left for Missouri to preach on Wednesday. My two grandsons went with me. Thursday, I spoke at Hunt Corporation in the Chapel. Bill Tucker is the pastor in charge. He takes a team to Israel every year too. Yes, you guessed it, he is going in November and has space available. I signed Beau and me up to go and gave the money. After the service was over I went to Debbie's office for her to finish what she had to do before we left for the creek where we were going for Creek Ministry. Bill came into her office and asked me to speak in Israel. He said they have Bible study and I was an anointed speaker and he would like me to speak on the mountain where the five thousand were fed and teach on that scripture. I just cried. God made that scripture alive to me and has made it very special. This is the scripture my Father used to bring healing in my life after Jack died. Oh, am I excited. Not only am I going to Israel but He is going to have me teach on the scripture that is so special to me. What a Mighty God we serve! In Ephesians 3 the scripture says, "Who is able to do abundantly above all you can ask and think!" WOW! He says He gives us the desire of our heart—we just have to believe and wait on His time. I encourage each of you to keep your eyes on the Word and do not be moved. All things are possible to them that believe. We are believers! Remember, my son was hit in the head by a falling tree in February before I left on the mission field, but I did not move from the ROCK! Satan lost because my son lived, he is not crippled, and now WE ARE GOING TO WALK WHERE MY LORD WALKED! GLORY! HE IS ALIVE!

We went to the creek to camp out on Thursday evening. I met many awesome men and women of God. We had the best time visiting and sharing at the campfire. Friday, Debbie and I took my grandsons to see the musical Noah in Branson. They both thought it was awesome. We returned to the creek.

The campsite is land that one of the men bought specifically to have people to canoe and camp to minister to the floaters coming down the river. The churches all get together and there is no denomination mentioned—only the common bond of Jesus. It is really a wonderful time in the Lord. They cook hotdogs on a grill, have chips, and drinks to offer to the floaters for free. People stand in the river to ask if they want free food, if so they pull them to shore and then ask them if they can pray with them or lead them to Jesus. It was so awesome. I looked up and saw my grandson, Buddy, pulling the canoes in for prayer. We preached on Sunday and then had a baptismal service in the river. It was wonderful. A husband and wife in their seventies was baptized together. There were many tears of joy shared as we watched the love of our precious Lord to His children. My grandson's and I left for Louisiana with hearts full of JOY!

We got home about 3 AM. Jack Hunter went with his mother to the lake, and Buddy and I went to my pool. While we were in the pool Buddy asked several questions about Noah and then he told me he wanted to be baptized. I asked him why and he told me because he wanted to have Jesus as His Savior and be baptized like He said. Needless to say tears of joy and adoration to my Lord began to flow. This missionary had an awesome week. He truly blessed me abundantly above what I could ask or think.

I also talked to my friend Ellen Vaughn and will be going to visit her this coming week. I am excited about his visit also. She and I met last year in Brazil and I have been believing to go and see her. I will be sharing with them on Thursday evening.

Next month, I will be going to Rick Bonfim's conference in Athens, Georgia, the 12th-14th, and on my way home stopping in Columbus to meet a brother in Christ, Pastor Dan Gates. I am very excited about meeting him. He has been in a battle with cancer and we the army of the Lord, prayer warriors, are marching on to victory with him as he overcomes by the Blood of the Lamb. Then on the 18th, I leave for Alaska with my cousin Greg. One of his dreams has been to go to Alaska so we are going to fulfill his dream. I am busy going but it is fun. I know I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me. It is His Word and His Word is true. Glory!@

Remember, satan is trying to make us take our eyes off of Jesus and look at what he is doing but we will not give him the satisfaction. He is a defeated foe. Peter walked on the water as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. Let's all be water walkers and keep our eyes on Jesus—THE WORD. It is true and mighty to the pulling down of strongholds. The Word has already defeated satan and it lives in us when we accept Jesus as our Savior. The Comforter, the same

power that raised Christ from the dead dwells in each of us, hold your head high in the comfort of that and walk in all that our precious Lord paid the price for us to have, VICTORY IN JESUS! Do not look at the storm, look at Jesus!

My hearts desire is to serve the Lord and be used by Him to share the power of His love. Keep me in your prayers as you all are in mine. God bless each one of you abundantly above what you can ask or think.

Much Love, Bess Graham

WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE

It is common for us as little flesh creatures to be easily distracted by the lusts of the flesh, and to allow the things of this world to control our lives. This is not God's best for us. He has purposed that we not be ruled by the world, but that we rule over the world system and it's ruler. What I have seen and experienced is that "It is easier to forget God in the good times than it is to remember God in the bad times." Some may be experiencing difficulty financially or with their health or relationships. God already knows and He has prepared for us a solution and a blessing—in His time.

Joseph was left for dead and sold into slavery by his brothers, cast into prison by his Egyptian master Potiphar, and forgotten for 13 years of bondage. Yet, he still acknowledged God as His master and he worshiped and served Him continually. Joseph had a dream of a life in God that would be better than his worldly surroundings. Perhaps he had given up on ever seeing his family again, but the higher purpose was to be found pleasing in the eyes of God. So, in the midst of his imprisonment, he was faithful to God and to his earthly masters as unto God.

Joseph had learned an important truth in God—"I am who I am because of the providence of God." Who are you and who or what made you who you are? Parents, friends, profession, life experiences—these are just a few things we can say molded us into who we are. But I can promise you, God had a hand in who and what you are. Joseph has been in bondage and prison for 13 years, but God has a plan. Joseph is about to have the opportunity of a lifetime.

Pharoah had a dream that disturbed him greatly. In Genesis 41:1-7 we see in his dream that Pharoah is standing by a river. He sees seven fat cows come out of the river and feed in the meadow. Then seven lean and sickly cows come out of the river and devoured the seven fat cows. Pharoah awoke and went back to sleep and dreamed again. This time seven ears of grain came up on one stalk, full and good. Then seven thin and blighted ears sprang up after them and devoured the seven full and fat ears. Then Pharoah awoke again and his spirit was troubled. He sent for all the wise men and the magicians to interpret the dream, but none could. Then the butler remembered that Joseph had interpreted his dream in the prison and he told Pharoah. So Pharoah called for Joseph from the prison.

Now Pharoah had never seen Joseph before, did not know him and before now could not have cared less about the prisoner in the dungeon. But God had a plan for Joseph. Pharoah asked Joseph if he could interpret his dream. Joseph said, "It is not in me; God shall give Pharoah an answer of peace." Even in the presence of Pharoah, Joseph was unshaken in his faith to God. He had not changed, but remained true to God. Pharoah told the dream and Joseph interpreted it—there would be seven years of plenty and then seven years of famine.

Joseph understood that "I have what I have because of the promotion of God." Like chess pieces on a playing board, God directs the course of our lives. We may veer off by our own choices or disobedience, but God still watches and He still directs. Joseph knew God was in his life, and he did not fear Pharoah. After interpreting the dream, Joseph gave advise to Pharoah. In verse 33-36, he tell Pharoah that he should seek out a wise and discerning man to rule over the process of storing up during the years of plenty to prepare for the years of famine. This was pleasing to Pharoah, and he set Joseph in the position that would be second only to Pharoah. Joseph had just gone from the pit to the prison to the palace. God promotes His children, in His time. Psalm 75:6-7 says, "**For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge; he putteth down one, and setteth up another.**"

The third thing Joseph learned is, "I have what I have because of the provision of God." In His Word, God promises to provide our every need, if we will only seek His face in obedience to His command. It is His good pleasure to bless His children. Joseph continually sought the presence of God, and this was pleasing in the sight of God. Did his newfound power get in the way and change Joseph? The answer can be found in the names he gave his two sons—Manasseh and Ephraim. In verses 51 & 52 we find that Manasseh means "**For God hath made me forget all my toil, and my father's house.**" And Ephraim means, "**For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.**" In all his power and status, Joseph acknowledged God as his strength and wisdom, and he worshiped Him openly and freely. He prospered and the land prospered under his management. When the time of plenty came, he stored up the excess such that Egypt was rich and powerful when the famine came because of its

food. **“Vs 57, And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph to buy grain because the famine was so severe in all lands.”**

Did Joseph feel gratified in the power and wealth he possessed? A better question is, do you feel gratified in all that you possess and have become in this life? We can see in the example of Joseph that God has a hand in our lives. He has made us to be who we are and what we have become. He is our providence, our promotion and our provision. To think otherwise is foolishness. By giving Him our lives and trusting Him in all our ways, He will prove His faithfulness to His Word and His promises. I remember the song we sing, “My life is in You Lord, my strength is in You Lord, my hope is in Your Lord, in You, its in You.” When we learn to fully trust Him with our everything, we will see the plan He has for our lives. Joseph was exalted in God’s perfect time—we must accept God’s time for our lives. When we can truly trust Him, we will know “When Dreams Come True.”

Bro. Mike Woods

JUST A REMINDER—OUR WEBSITE www.christianfellowshipword.org HAS CURRENT AND PAST NEWSLETTERS AS WELL AS SERMONS AND TEACHINGS IN AUDIO. LISTEN AND REFER YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO THIS BLESSED OUTREACH OF OUR CHURCH.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION—WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO? PRAY? WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS—PRAY! GOD NEVER INTENDED FOR HIS PEOPLE TO FALL DOWN—EXCEPT TO PRAY! NO MAN IS EVER SO STRONG AND BRAVE AS WHEN HE KNEELS TO PRAY!

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**PRAY FOR THE
BODY OF CHRIST**