



February 15, 2019

The Church of Second Chances

This past Sunday as part of our 20th anniversary celebration service, Kathy Wilburn shared part of her testimony and how Faith Fellowship began. It is evident from the beginning that a dominant theme for our church is that this is a church of “second chances” or maybe “new beginnings”. I do believe it is true that God is making “all things new”. I

believe Faith Fellowship is committed to trusting in God to give us a brand new start. We must press on to trust in Him and not rely on ourselves. The good news is that in Christ we receive the gift of righteousness through Christ that ushers us into a brand new beginning and the promise of a fresh start on life. It is the way to life through trusting in Christ.

For us to move forward and embrace God’s call to a new beginning, we must remember that our focus cannot be on our past. This new beginning is a chance to live and see things in a totally new way. God’s invitation is to a new beginning with Him and trusting in His Way through Christ.

It is interesting to note that when the people of God were set free from the bondage of slavery in Egypt (which corresponds to our life to the bondage to sin) they had not set out very long when they began to look back and long for Egypt, the land of bondage! It was not long after traveling the road to freedom they began to look back and complain:

“If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you (Moses) have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” (Exodus 16:3)

This spirit of looking back and complaining would plague the progress of the nation as they journeyed toward the Promised Land. Maybe this spirit is part of the reason that a whole generation died in the wilderness and never entered into the land of promise. This should serve as warning for us. I have found in my journey that holding onto the past hurts and failures can plague my progress of faith. Like I shared with our church family a few weeks ago about the caterpillar growing into the butterfly...

The butterfly says to the caterpillar, “*You can fly, but that cocoon has got to go.*”

I was moved as Kathy shared her heart for those missing because they were no longer with us to join in our celebration this past Sunday. I thought of this verse that might inspire us going forward:

“Since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down... And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith... Thinking of all the hostility he endured from sinful people let us not become weary and give up.” Hebrews 12:1-3

As we walk forward into the new beginnings God has for us, we need to KNOW the biblical promises that will help us discard the old “cocoon” and let go of the past. God is indeed doing a new thing at Faith Fellowship. Nothing in our past can compare with this new future focus of hope in Him!

Expectantly,
Pastor Garry

*“We are a **faith fellowship** of believers on our journey **together** with our Lord... meeting needs, mending hearts.”*