



## *The Lord's Mountain Mover's* **NEWSLETTER**

*"If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."*  
(Matt. 17:20)

February 2015

Issue 0016

With all the cares and concerns this world exposes us to it can sometimes become overwhelming at best. Many of us struggle to make ends meet financially and it seems just as we get a little ahead something happens to consume what we had worked so hard to save up. It is as though the "rainy day" always finds us out and our spirit becomes dampened.

Maybe you are one of the ones without financial problems, but yet you deal with other issues that can be just as overwhelming. Perhaps your challenge is dealing with someone in your life that can't seem to get it together. You are emotionally exhausted from countless hours spent trying to help this person overcome their struggles. You have problems focusing on your own tasks because this person is always on your mind and heart. Most of your prayer life is dedicated to this one individual and it seems as though God is not listening or responding.

Then there are those of you who are dealing with health issues. You have been dealing with the same thing for years and it never seems to go away. Or just as one health issue gets dealt with, another comes along to knock you off your feet. You spend most of your time fighting through the pain, seeking treatment, and longing for the day when you will be healthy and just feel fine. Your friends and family seem to distance themselves from you because they can't deal with "your" issues. The pain of your loneliness can even overshadow the physical pain.

Finally, there are those who deal with spiritual issues. Those issues that go deep down into the very core of who you are as a person. You are plagued by the same sinful thoughts day in and day out. No matter how much you fight against them they keep popping back into your mind. The battle seems endless and there is no end in sight. You feel as though God has left you out to dry, or even worse, that He doesn't see or care. You study and pray but it is as though you are drinking air and eating sand, you find no refreshment in these activities.

I want you to know with all your heart that we have a Heavenly Father who does see all these things taking place and does love and care for us even if it doesn't feel like it. He cares so much that He sent His Son to not only identify with our sorrow and grief but to walk with us through them. Take some time to read the Gospel of John and see how your Savior dealt with these issues. Stand above your circumstances, hold your head up high, fight the good fight of faith, and hold onto the hope of better things to come in the next life.

*When the world my heart is rending  
With its heaviest storm of care,  
My glad thoughts to heaven ascending,  
Find a refuge from despair.  
Faith's bright vision shall sustain me  
Till life's pilgrimage is past;  
Fears may vex and troubles pain me,  
I shall reach my home at last.*

(Charles Spurgeon)

In His service,  
Pastor Pete

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## THE WORD IN MOTION message

Most of us have a special passage in the bible that God has used to touch our lives. Maybe it was impactful because of where we heard it, when we heard it, or where it was delivered from. For whatever reason we could identify with what was being said and it continues to inspire us to this day. For me it was the seven things that Jesus spoke as He hung nailed to the cross, seven truths I will never forget. I want to share not only what He said, but why it continues to change me daily.

### Lesson One

In Mark 23:29 we find Jesus on the cross uttering these words, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”* The strength and power behind this request can only be understood by who and where these words were spoken. Jesus had just been beaten beyond recognition and now He was hanging on the cross as a spectacle for all to see. Posted between two deserving criminals here hung an innocent man, here hung the Son of God.

The first thing I learn from this is where forgiveness comes from, *“Father, forgive them.”* Forgiveness of sins comes from the Father through the Son. Just as the first sin committed by Adam and Eve was forgiven through the shedding of blood by God, so our sin and the sin of the world were dealt with by God through the blood sacrifice of His Son and our Savior. Hebrews 9:22 states, *“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding blood there is no remission.”*

Anyone seeking to reconcile themselves with God apart from accepting Jesus Christ as their blood sacrifice and Savior will find themselves separated from God for all eternity. It is the only way we can one day stand before a Holy God and rejoice with those whose sins have been atoned for. The door for eternal fellowship with God was opened by what took place that day on the cross. It was a horrific sight that all believers can both weep over and rejoice in at the same time.

If you have never received and experienced this forgiveness, then you will be hard pressed in this life to forgive and love those who have hurt you in some way. Jesus, speaking to Simon about the sinful woman in his home said this, *“Therefore I say to you, her sins which are many are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”* (Luke 7:47) It must be a vivid sign to God of self-righteousness when a person cannot or refuses to offer forgiveness to someone else, yet claims to be a sinner forgiven by Christ.

Jesus taught forgiveness through parables, demonstrated it to others, and gave it to people like the adulteress woman, the man let down through the roof, the paralytic man, the sinful woman, the man by the pool Bethesda, and so on. It is what He came to die for. If God and man were to be reconciled, it had to be done through the atoning work of the cross, it was the will of the Father and it became the will of the Son.

*“Father forgive them...,”* Why? *“...for they do not know what they do.”* Again I say that where and when these words were spoken bring the greatest strength and power to them. It was in the midst

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of His crucifixion, while the pain was still fresh, and while those who had helped to nail Him to the cross were below Him, mocking and casting lots for His clothing. That's when He prayed to the Father for their forgiveness. Why? "...for they do not know what they do."

These men were not blind to their actions. They knew full well that they had just finished nailing three convicted men to their crosses. They were soldiers and they had carried out the command of their superiors. What then were they ignorant of? They were ignorant of who they had just crucified and why? They were also ignorant of their own sinfulness and their need for a Savior. Would they have done it if they knew?

What comes to mind is this; if the only way for me to enter heaven was to personally crucify Christ myself, could I do it? Could I beat Him, spit on Him, mock Him, and nail Him to a cross knowing full well that He was an innocent man and the Son of God? It took the role of ignorant men to carry out God's plan of salvation. Although it is my sin that helped put Him up there, I doubt very seriously that I could or would do what was necessary for my forgiveness. It took an all-knowing and all-powerful God to carry this out.

My big personal lesson in this is; can I forgive like Jesus? Can I offer, or even think about forgiving someone who has wronged me in the midst of the hurt and pain, while the wound is still fresh? How often have I found myself having to find a place and some time to cool off so I could think and respond correctly? How many times have I held on to the hurt, waiting for a time when I could exact revenge and make things straight? How many times have I counted to ten seething all the while inside? If it was even once, it was too many.

Jesus was not teaching us to forgive when things were "even" or when it was "convenient" for us to do so. It wasn't laid out as an "if or when I feel like it proposition." Jesus was demonstrating that forgiveness should be offered immediately and without conditions. I am to forgive those who harm me when the harm is being done. This helps to alleviate any possibility of sinning against our offender. You can't truly forgive and still seek ill of the one who harmed you.

I am reminded of a story of an Amish father whose daughter was raped and murdered years ago. His first words to the media were: we need to pray for the man who did this, and for his family. Can you imagine having the inner strength to say something like that and mean it? Only someone who personally knew the forgiveness of God could exercise such compassion and love for someone they didn't know and had done such a horrific thing.

I pray that God never tests you or I like that. My desire is to exercise this type of forgiveness when the little things happen to me. I want this kind of response to be a status quo of my character. Next time someone offends me in some way I need to remind myself of this lesson Jesus taught while hanging on the cross. I need to recognize their ignorance, pray to Father for them and try to win them over as a brother or sister in Christ. Isn't that the core of the gospel message? Will you join me in this quest for a Christ-like character? I hope you will.

In His service  
Pastor Pete

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## BE A BARNABAS (Acts 4:36)

Growing up as a young adult, one of the things that I had struggled with was the way I said things to people. Especially to my parents, the people I was to respect the most. It seemed like I always had something to say in response to them, even when I should have just kept my mouth shut. My dad would have heart to heart conversations with me about using tact in my speech to get my points across and to achieve the desired results with others. Looking back on it now, I have realized part of the problem was I didn't have enough patience for the other person to comprehend what it was I wanted them to understand. I would try to say what I wanted to say in as few words and as quickly as possible, even interrupting them at times. I was disrespectful.

I believe this is something God also wants us to work on. In Proverbs chapter 15 there are 3 verses I like, and would like to share with you.

*“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly.”* Proverbs 15:1-2

I reflect on those verses a lot. I work around some people that can be difficult at times and these words remind me how to talk to them. I can reflect on times where I didn't have a gentle answer and it only made things worse. Like I said earlier, I believe it is a matter of patience, and patience is one of the first ingredients of love. It is amazing how differently a conversation can go when someone comes at us harshly, and if we respond in kind. Things can get pretty out of control real fast. But, if you have verses like this stored in the treasure of your heart, the Holy Spirit can bring them to your remembrance and the conversation can go in a more positive direction.

Likewise, when someone does something we do not like and we talk to them in an irritated way, we typically are not happy with the way things go. Having the word of God to direct our path, such as holding our tongue and talking to the person in love, we will always have better results. This is something we need to work on, even though we may slip up from time to time. We are all a work in progress, but are we all applying the word of God to our lives daily?

There have been many arguments in my life and I have realized that when I follow God's word, recognizing that I must be responsible for how I control myself, I can help control the outcome of those arguments by just choosing the right words.

*“The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but the hearts of fools are not so.”* Proverbs 15:1

I want to encourage you to choose your words wisely. Whether you are having a heated discussion, an argument or just trying to relay something with someone else that God has taught you in your life. James said that the tongue is like a rudder of a ship or like a spark in a forest. We have a lot of power in our tongues. Let's use them to lift each other up and to strengthen the kingdom of God, and let us do this that we may glorify our God!

Be blessed in Him,

*Brother Daniel Rodney*

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## *Our Prayer Requests for God's Children*

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who receive our newsletter through the mail. Due to financial constraints we have to revise the way we do our prayer requests. Starting with this issue we will be posting and maintaining all prayers requested on the internet so your brothers and sisters all over can continue to pray for your petitions and praise God for the ones He has already answered. For those receiving mailed copies you will be getting all the prayer additions for the month with each newsletter. You can keep the copy of the prayer requests from past issues to continue in vigilant prayer.

We are encouraged by the work that God has already done through so many people praying for the needs of those they do not even know. What a privilege we have to go before the throne of God with our requests and the requests of others. Let's keep praying and seeking His will for our lives and the lives of others. If you have a prayer request you would like added to next month's newsletter and/or posted on the ministry website please fill out the form below and mail it to us. We look forward to hearing from you and standing in the gap as a prayer warrior.

### **February's Prayer List**

R. White .....That the Lord will open doors for suitable housing upon his being paroled.

Alice S.....Chesapeake VA – prayer for personal issues.

Sheila.....Prayer for her health issues, finances, and God's direction for personal decisions.

Greg.....Praise report; God is in control, using me, and I am being blessed by Him. Woo Hoo!

Stephen.....Prayer for change in career course.

Justin .....Praise report; finished EMT school and looking for work.

Joshua.....Continued prayer for personal issues.

The C.U.R.E...Prayer for God's guidance and provision.

Greg F .....Prayer for answered prayer in his period of fasting.

J. Jackson .....Needs prayer for his court appeal and his family members. Also for F. Cruz – that he will have God in his life.

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The Lord's Mountain Movers - Prayer request

Person requesting prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Place request on Ministry website  Yes  No

Place request in Newsletter  Yes  No

(Use back of request if necessary. You can also use blank paper)

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Place request in Newsletter  Yes  No

(Use back of request if necessary. You can also use blank paper)