



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 2016

Issue 0028

The Blame Game

Last month I wrote a short article that asked the question, how did I get here? It discussed the fact that the choices we make eventually lead to consequences, some good, and some bad. There are some groups that talk about free-will yet when they find themselves in the muck and mire of their old sin they say, "The devil made me do it!" Where is the free-will in that? You must have agreed with the devil at some point, right? I will not go on any further about that except to say that we reap what we sow, plain and simple, and Scripture backs that up.

Avoiding the blame game. One of the oldest tricks in the book is to, "pass the buck", meaning that we find ways of shifting the blame or focus onto someone or something else. Remember that trick started in the garden, "It was that woman you gave me." That's the old double pass the buck. It was her fault and your fault that I did what I did. I stand before you a vindicated and innocent man! Good thing there wasn't anyone else in the garden or they too would have shared some of the blame that day. We have offended.

The problem with the blame-game is that it never leads to true repentance for the one who is at fault. Even when we accept some of the blame, we lack the conviction and sincerity necessary for repentance and therefore lack the forgiveness needed to restore our relationship with God and those whom we have offended. It is a, lose-lose situation for everyone involved and things only get worse from there.

Another problem with the blame-game is that it pushes others away. When we need the fellowship of others the most, we build walls that keep us from getting the help and support we so desperately need. When the body of believers should be pulling together to aide in the restoration process, they become fragmented and resentful.

Scripture tells us that we are to strengthen the weak, to lift up those who have fallen, to bear with the burdens of others. Why? Because not only can we not do this alone, God has designed the Body of Christ to work together for the benefit of all, not the destruction of the one or few. If the Body of Christ is going to operate as God intended it to do then we all need to do our part, like it or not! Stop having a pity-party because you screwed up or someone offended you in some way. Let's put away our pride and do what we are called to do with a heart that oozes the love of Christ, that love we experienced when we were forgiven.

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The person you help through the restoration process may be the very person you need one day when you find yourself in the need of forgiveness and restoration. Don't think that will ever happen! Well you are already on the way there my friend.

May the love of God be the driving force in your life today and everyday hereafter. God bless you all.

In His Service

Pastor Pete



THE WORD IN MOTION message

Sowing and reaping

The law of sowing and reaping is never more apparent than in the following Biblical account of Abraham's grandson Jacob. It is a story most of us have heard many times and we would do well to keep this at the forefront of our minds as a filter for our thoughts.

From the very start Jacob and his twin brother Esau were at odds with each other. Isaac's wife, Rebekah, is pregnant with these two boys and seeks the Lord for answers as to why they are struggling within her. The Lord answers her this way, *"The LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger.'"* (Gen 25:23) As she was delivering the twins Esau was coming out first but Jacob held on to his brother's foot. Consequently, he was called Jacob which means supplanter. Supplanter is defined as; 1) to supersede, 2) to eradicate and supply a substitute for, or 3) to take the place of and serve as a substitute for. Jacob was named for the character he displayed, even from his birth.

Jacob begins to sow from his character. The next thing we hear concerning Jacob is when he uses his brother's hunger to gain his birthright. Esau has been out hunting and is famished and needs something to eat. He comes in and asks his brother for some of the stew he was making. Jacob tells his brother the following, *"But Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?' And Jacob said, 'First swear to me'; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob."* (Gen. 25:31-33)

Jacob continues to sow from his character. Later on, as Isaac is growing old and is about to die, Jacob needs to make sure he gets the birthright before his father gives it to Esau. Jacob and his mother conspire to deceive Isaac as his sight is all but gone and cannot recognize one person from another. Rebekah puts Esau's clothes on Jacob and covers his arms and neck with the skins of a young goat so he will smell and feel like Esau. They even go as far as making Isaac his favorite stew. The following is the account of what followed.

"Then he came to his father and said, 'My father' And he said, 'Here I am. Who are you, my son?' Jacob said to his father, 'I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Get up, please, sit and eat of my game, that you may bless me.' Isaac said to his son, 'How is it that you have it so quickly, my son?' And he said, 'Because the LORD your God caused it to happen to me' Then Isaac said to Jacob, 'Please come close, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not.' So Jacob came close to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, 'The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.' He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he

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blessed him. And he said, 'Are you really my son Esau?' And he said, 'I am.' So he said, 'Bring it to me, and I will eat of my son's game, that I may bless you.' And he brought it to him, and he ate; he also brought him wine and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him, 'Please come close and kiss me, my son.' So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him...' (Gen. 27:18-27)

Do you see the level and detail of this deception? Jacob and his mother cover every possible avenue. Jacob even brings the Lord into his deception. A lot of time, effort, and planning went into deceiving Isaac into giving his younger son the birthright of the older. Would Jacob reap what he had sown?

After being blessed by his father, Jacob is sent away to Paddan-aram to find a wife. While on his journey there he runs into a girl named Rachael who is watering her father's sheep at a well. He is enraptured with her beauty and ends up returning with her to her father's house. Jacob finds out that Laban, Rachael's father, is a relative of his. After some formalities, Jacob strikes a deal with Laban to marry his daughter Rachael. He will work seven years and then receive her as his bride.

Seven years pass and the day finally comes. A wedding celebration takes place and Jacob goes to his tent where Rachael is supposed to be waiting. All the toil and years of service will be rewarded this night, Rachael would be his prize! Or would she? Jacob consummates the marriage with the woman in his tent, but in the morning finds out that he is now married to Leah, Rachael's older sister. Jacob is furious and asks Laban the following, *"So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?'"* The chicken has come home to roost. Better yet, Jacob has reaped what he had sown, and he is not happy about it.

The seeds we plant will someday bring forth the fruit they were designed to produce. Jacob had done his sowing and now, years later, he was reaping the consequences. God's law of sowing and reaping had rendered its judgment on Jacob's character and the things he had done to others. He was getting exactly what he deserved and it didn't feel good.

God is patient with us, even in teaching us valuable lessons about how we treat others. Our consequences may not always come from the victims of our deception, or whatever other negative things we sow into others' lives, but trust and believe this; they will come back to us. The shoe will be on the other foot and although it will fit perfectly, it will not be comfortable wearing it.

Next time something happens to you ask yourself, have I done similar things to others in the past? Or am I doing them now? Am I reaping what I have previously sown? God deliberately and lovingly teaches us these lessons. They are not given to us to destroy us, but to build us and others up. When we personally get to experience and feel some of the things we have done to others it can be a real character changer and that is what God is doing, changing our character. He is trying to take out of us what is wrong and put into us what is right, holy, and acceptable to Him and His character. He is trying to form in us that Divine Nature.

We are known by what we do, what we do is predicated on who we are. Seems like a conundrum doesn't it? How does this destructive cycle get broken? By God and the ongoing process of sanctification within us. The Apostle Paul, after explaining the battle within him says, *"Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!..."* We are new creatures through our union with Christ. (II Cor. 5:17) We gain new character by the trials and tribulations we go through, by the lessons God teaches us. (Heb. 12:7-11)

So the next time you find the shoe is on the other foot and it hurts, don't be so quick to take it off and relieve the pain and forego the gain. Ask yourself why it hurts so badly? Better yet, ask God why it hurts so badly? Let your pain create a compassion for others and a changed character within yourself. The pain will eventually fade away but the gain of a Christ-like character will go on for eternity.

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Remember this too. God's law of sowing and reaping works both ways. When we sow goodness, righteousness, love, peace, joy, etc. into the lives of others it will come back to us. Let's all do something nice today and all of our tomorrows, amen!

In His Service

Pastor Pete

BE A BARNABAS

A couple of weeks ago, I went to visit some family and friends in my old home town. I was invited to go to a service there at a church I had visited many years ago when I was a young Christian and wasn't as familiar with the scriptures. I remembered how well the pastor there taught and quickly agreed to attend the service. It is from this experience I want to share.

The worship in the beginning of the service was awesome. I enjoyed singing praise to God with songs I used to sing a long time ago, a few I have only heard a couple of times and some I have never heard before. I enjoyed the experience of worshipping with other believers that I didn't even know. After the service, the brother that invited me asked me what I thought. In love, I felt it was necessary to be honest. I told him that I really enjoyed the worship, but was a little grieved by the message that was shared.

The church is non-denominational and the Pastor was self-taught, never attending seminary. I myself have never attended seminary, nor would I claim to fix myself to any one denomination so this wasn't where I had any issues. Where I did, was when some of the primary verses used to teach were taken out of their original context, to teach something I don't think was intended by those scriptures at all. I think this kind of mistake is very common and I have heard the same verses used out of context many times before by other teachers and people I have had discussions with concerning the very topic that was preached on that day. While the pastor was teaching, he taught against one of the core doctrines I believe in. I was grieved by the teachings, but at the same time God taught me to be still and gather what I could while I was there.

Some of you do not have a choice where you worship or whose teachings you must sit under if you want to attend services. I think you may have already sat through a service where everything was awesome, except maybe you didn't agree with what was being taught. You have a choice of continuing your attendance staying connected to the body or separating yourself from what you feel or discern is a false teaching. My first choice would be to keep looking for another church where sound doctrine is consistently taught, but what if I didn't have that choice? Is the alternative better?

I don't think it is. I believe that the core and most important doctrine revolves around three main things. The Person and work of God the Father; the Person and work of Jesus Christ; and the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. This is the common ground of all Christian believers and it is, to me, the most important defining difference between religions and Christianity. When we get off into other doctrines such as Salvation, End Times, what day we should worship etc. it is my opinion that fellowship is more important. In the service that I attended the Pastor taught

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differently than what I adhere to when it comes to who is responsible for our salvation, and while I think that is a major doctrine and having differences in that area can cause great distress to believers, I don't feel it is important enough to cause me to separate myself from the body of believers at that church. He also taught a view of the end times that I don't agree with. Which is another common thread in the teachings of the scripture, but I still don't think God would be pleased if I separated myself or spoke in a derogatory way about the pastor.

So when the brother asked me what I thought, I tried in the most loving way I could, to tell him the truth about how I felt. I explained how I was grieved by the teachings and he tried to encourage me to meet with the Pastor to discuss my differences. I don't think I am as erudite as the Pastor, but I also don't think it would be my place to correct a man shepherding God's flock. I believe that would be the place the elders of the church should step in and give him the guidance or correction as needed. So I politely explained this to the brother and said I wouldn't do something like that, but it didn't mean that I wouldn't attend the services there ever again.

What is my point? Sometimes you might hear something you disagree with while you are attending the services. You may even disagree with something every time you attend. But should disagreements cause discord and separation within the body of Christ? No, I don't think so. However, inevitably it happens sometimes and God can use it to bring glory to His name (Acts 15:39). So if you feel like giving up because you just can't agree, stick with it. Or if you know of a brother or sister who has stopped attending because they don't agree with something, encourage them to be mature and loving and to come back to the place God has made for them. You never know how God will use your experience to lift up another believer when they need it the most. In so doing, let us glorify God together! Amen.

Be blessed in Him,

Brother Daniel Rodney

We want you!

That's right; the Lord's Mountain Movers Ministry wants you to be a bigger part of what we are doing in God's kingdom. We have received several contributions for your newsletter and thank those of you who have taken the time to send your submissions. We hope that more of you will share some of the talents God has given to you through writing, drawing, etc. Keep them coming. If you send something you need to have back, we will be glad to return it to you, just let us know.



Our Prayer Requests for God's Children

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Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who receive our newsletter through the mail. Due to financial constraints, we have revised the way we do our prayer requests. We are currently posting and maintaining all prayers requested on the Internet so your brothers and sisters all over the world can continue to pray for your petitions and praise God for the ones He has already answered.

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 us 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. Previous prayer requests are still there on the website for people to read. We are wondering if your prayer has been answered yet? We want to know and share it with everyone else who reads the newsletter, so keep us updated. We look forward to hearing from you and standing in the gap as a prayer warrior. Please note that we will be removing older prayer requests, especially when we do not hear about updates. The newest requests are at the top of the list and the oldest requests are at the bottom of the list. These will remain on our website prayer list.

January – February 2016 Prayer List

David G.....Pray for God's blessings and provisions and fund to pay for attorney for appeal and everyday needs. Pray the he can be reconciled back to his family.

John L.....Pray for his family's healing. He lost his son Michael who went to be with the Lord. He died of congestive heart failure in his early 20's.

Sandra M.....Pray that she does well in hip replacement surgery and gets back on her feet in recovery without any complications. **She is recovering, walking with her new hip and no cane.**

George W.Pray for his recovery from a serious car accident. Pray for the family members during this trying time. He is in an Ohio long term care facility. He is off of feeding and breathing tubes. **Better news today 12-06-15, he is responding to external requests (wiggle toes, squeeze hand, follow finger with eyes, etc.) with prompting.**

Roger CPrayer for him in his current situation that it will be resolved soon.

Anthony S.Pray that my brothers in Christ; get blessed, have a speedy trial and go home soon.

Steve T.Pray for God's favor over trial- strength in fasting prayer, soften his wife's heart and not divorce him.

Winifred W. ...Pray that the attacks on chapel, pastor get resolved and evening services are restored.

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Maurice A.Request urgent prayer for his young niece not to be tried as an adult and for his warrant to be dismissed.

Richard L.Please pray that he gets right with the Lord before he gets a life sentence, he is messing up bad.

J. JacksonRequest prayer for Soledad Prison and its staff. Prayer for the Jackson and Packer family that God would become the center of their lives and reunify them again. Prayer that I will be a good person and husband and we will have a good life together.

Greg.....Prayer for clear vision on what God wants to do with “The Cure” Ministry. Maintain ministry’s focus on God only. Also prayer for his marriage to Shelia as he gets ready to go home. Also prayer for Shelia as she recovers from a work injury. Update on previous prayer requests; Aaron passed SD Sheriff’s test, Stephen is working at a Christian Camp, Justin has a job at Toyota Dealership and is working for EMT position.

Sonhai H.....Requesting prayer for her and the family so she could talk to her brother Jonathan.

Brian D.....Prayer for his relationship with his father and as he strives to give up drinking.

DouglasPrayer for God to help him become the man that He desires and change his old ways.

Steven W.....Prayer for himself and his mother as his father passed away and the family is going through the grief process.

R. WhiteThat the Lord will open doors for suitable housing upon his being paroled. **Praise report: He has found a place to welcome him and is doing well, reconnecting with brothers as well as family.**

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!

Kenny J.Requests prayer for steady employment.

Gabriel SHis mom, Rosie, his Uncle and brother who need prayer for recovery from health issues.

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 FPrayer for answered prayer in his period of fasting.

Benjamin.....Guatemala, Praise report for Bibles that their church has received. Asking for prayer for his family, the church that they might finish the floor, the windows and doors.

Barbara MPray for her marriage and family.

Jamie PFavor with the Parole Board and upcoming hearing. **Prayer answered he has been released.** Pray that he is able to adapt to the changes ahead of him.

Linda DContinued recovery from health issues.

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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