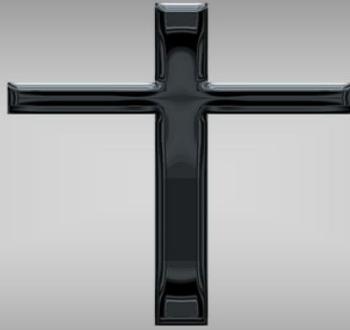


# THE CROSS



“A CHURCH WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY AND CHRIST IS LORD OF ALL”



The God of  
new beginnings  
has new mercies  
and new hopes  
everyday  
for all of us!

## How To Listen To God

These are a few simple suggestions for people who are willing to make an experiment. You can discover for yourself the most important and practical thing any human being can ever learn-how to

be in touch with God.

All that is needed is the willingness to try it honestly. Every person who has done this

*(Listen to God on page 12)*

### God Is On Your Side

*For what the law could not do, in that was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.*  
Romans 8:3 NKJV

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, thank You for being on our side. We Thank You for equipping and empowering us to accomplish everything You've called us to do. Give us a deeper revelation of Your love for us today so that we can live the abundant life You have prepared for us, In Jesus' Name. Amen"

*(Your Side on page 15)*

### The Church Age

The birth of the church began on the day of Pentecost. The Jewish feast of Weeks or Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after the Feast of First-Fruits also known as Yom HaBikkurim. The Shavuot also called Pentecost was the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples (Acts 2:1,2). The miracle of Pentecost is the Holy Spirit took residency within the disciples activating the spirit of God within them (John 14:17).

Jesus Christ loves us and

*(Church Age page 13)*

## 30,000 African American Men

The numbers are mind-boggling. And the statistics are there to prove it. That 30,000 African American men in the United States, every year, are diagnosed with prostate cancer. Why are there so many? Is it only African American men who fall into this abysmal category? What about the other ethnicities of men? Of the 30,000 diagnosed how many succumb to the disease? What causes prostate cancer, anyway? Is there any sure cure for the disease? Are there any pro-active steps that any of the 30,000 could have taken

to avoid falling into this group? You might think the numbers are merely highlighted to frighten and to gain undue publicity; and you may be right.

That is because it was precisely the question on the top section of the flyer that invited all men of Cross Street AME Zion Church to a Men's Health Event On Saturday, December 21, 2019. The event, sponsored by the Men's Ministry of the church, featured Yale Cancer

*(Men on page 14)*

January / February 2020  
Volume 24 Issue 1

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Desk	2
Fruit of the Spirit	4
Lord Hear Our Prayer	5
The Armor of God	6
Daily Bible Reading	7
Christian Season	7
Name of God	7
Sunday Church School	8
Words To Live By	16
Daily Confession of Faith	17
Spirit Lifters	18
Barbara Perry Speaks	19
The Beauty of Holland	20
Joyce Meyer	21
Bible's Bird's Eye View	22
Our Daily Bread	24
Activities	25



Visit our  
Facebook page

# From The Pastor's Desk



Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!  
I hope you are like me ready for 2020!

The Bible says in Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

God had plans for the Nation of Israel, and he has plans for us. As we look through the lens of faith ahead into the year 2020, we put all our trust in the promises of the Lord. We must know and understand that God has great things planned for those who love Him and serve Him.

God has great things for this Church in 2020! He also has great things for you and your loved ones in 2020! Yet, I believe it is vital that we look forward in faith, not in fear! 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV) 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and love, and of a sound mind. We don't need to live in fear, even in those times we may not understand God's ways.

If God knows the plans, then surely He knows how to lead us in the days ahead! I would encourage you to listen for His "still, small voice" as you navigate the unknown future.

His plans for you are perfect!

This is the Year to See It, Believe it, and Walk in it (Live it out)!

*The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. Genesis 13:14-15*

May you have a 2020 vision-filled New Year!

Pastor Harvill

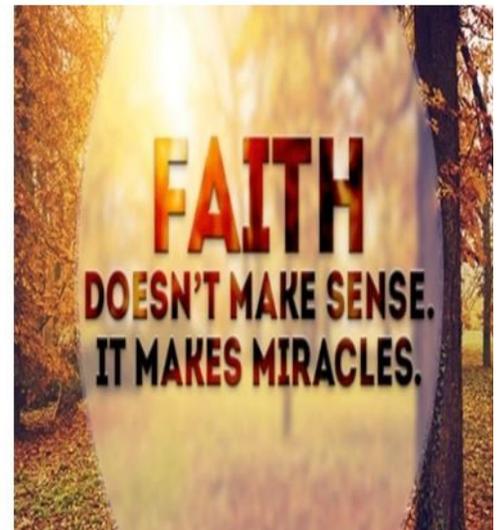
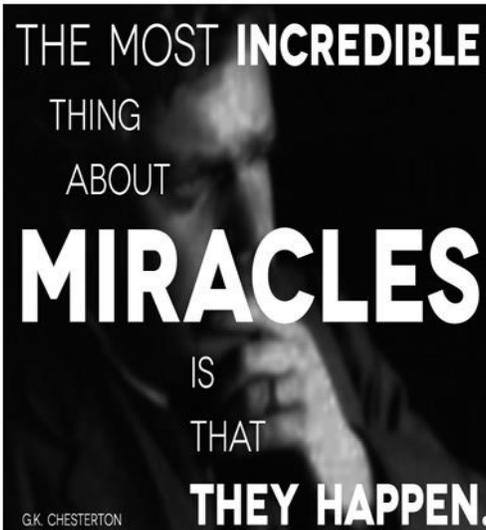
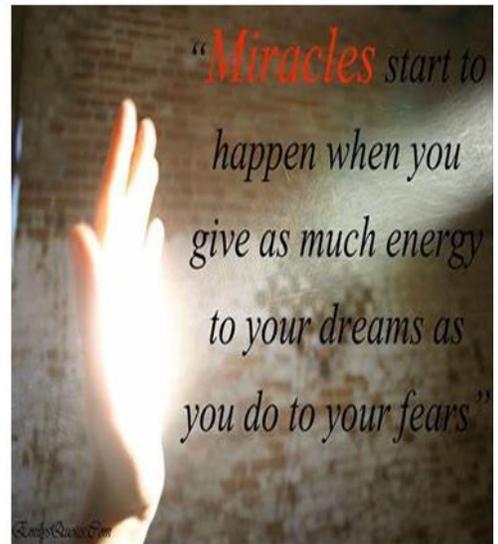
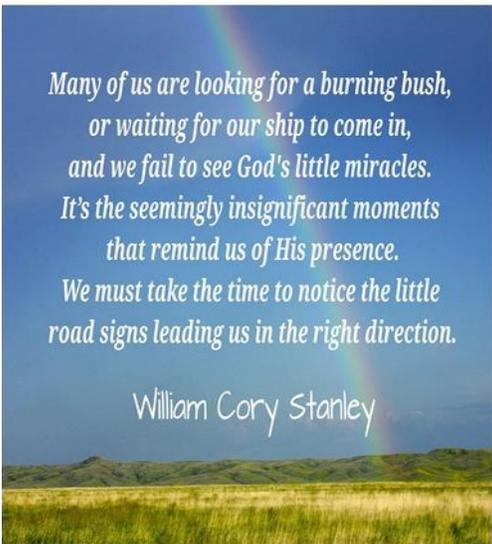
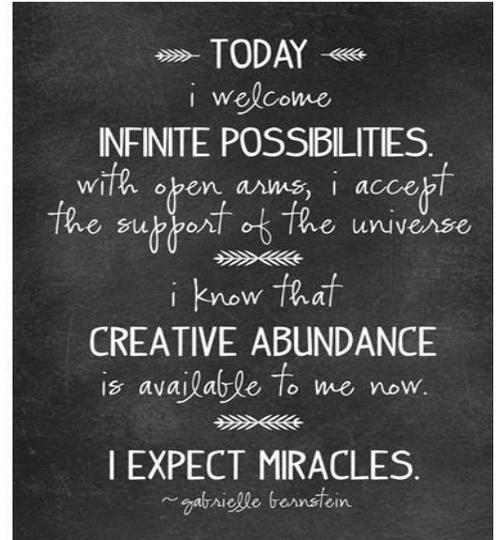
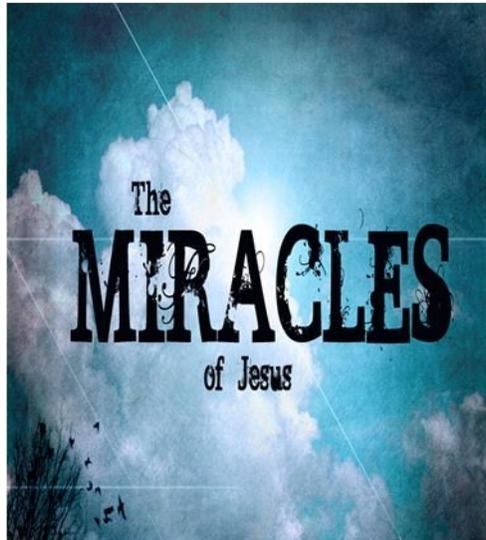
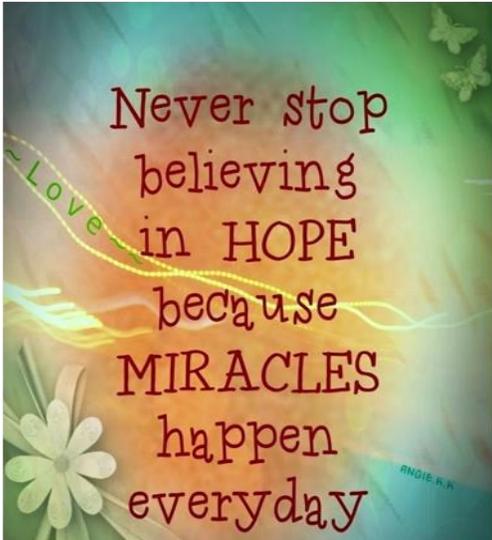


## Let's Get Radical

This is my church. It is composed of people just like me. It will be friendly if I am. It will do great work if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous. It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them. Its seats will be filled if I fill them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service. If I who make it what it is, am filled with these, Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all these things I want my church to be.

# 2020 Vision

## The Year of Expected "Miracles"



**The fruit of the Spirit** abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

***"But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: against such there is no law."*** (Galatians 5:22, 23)

The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

The fruit of LOVE when properly motivated "is pure, far reaching, forgiving. There is no limit to the good that LOVE does. God is LOVE. (I John 4:7)

JOY never fades, it is never destroyed by circumstances, it is unaffected by wealth or poverty, sickness or health. It is found in the presence of God (Psalm 16:11)

PEACE "is a tranquility of mind as a result of a right relationship with God". The PEACE of God in our hearts challenges sin at every turn and deals with it immediately in order to maintain that right relationship. (Ephesians 2:14)

LONG-SUFFERING means steadfastness of the soul under provocation. It means forbearance and patient endurance of ill-treatment, without anger or thought of revenge. (Colossians 3:12, 13)

GENTLENESS is sweet reasonableness, calmness and graciousness. It calms troubled waters, settles turmoil and heals strife. (James 3:17)

GOODNESS does good to others. It is kindness of heart and good deeds. It may not always be a gentle word, but a stern rebuke done for the good of someone else. (Psalm 33:5)

MEEKNESS disarms the stormy, tempestuous person. The qualities of mildness and gentleness in dealing with others. It is not weak. It is a high quality of spiritual strength. (I Timothy 6:11)

FAITH means faithfulness to Christ and His cause. It manifests itself in being a trustworthy steward of God. It is trust and obedience, belief in God's word and promises. (Hebrews 11:1)

TEMPERANCE is power, it is strength, having self-control. It means discipline. It provides balance to the Christian's life. It enables him to praise Him whether in discipline or testing. (Proverbs 11:1) (Information taken in part from World-Wide Keswick publication and Holy Scriptures)

Satan tries to imitate the real thing with an artificial fruit. As you can see, the artificial fruit is very much like the real thing and if we are not careful, we can fall into the trap of expressing limited love, temporary joy, numbness, insensitivity, manipulation, hypocrisy, half-heartedness, false modesty and choosing lesser goals.

### THE FRUIT, *The Artificial Fruit,* **The Weed**

LOVE, *limited love*, **hatred**; JOY, *temporary JOY*, **sorrow**; PEACE, *numbness, carelessness*, **anxiety strife**;  
PATIENCE, *laziness, insensitivity*, **impatience**; KINDNESS, *manipulation by kindness*, **pride**;  
GOODNESS, *hypocrisy*, **evil**; F A I T H F U L N E S S, *half-heartedness*, **infidelity**;  
MEEKNESS, *false modesty*, **self-seeking**; SELF-CONTROL, *choosing lesser goals*, **lack of control**  
(The Fruit of the Spirit, John W. Sanderson)

## Lord Hear Our Prayers

### A Prayer To Our Father God

Lord, we thank You that even though You know everything about us, knowing You still love us. You know our thought, our mistakes, our sins, and You still call us Your child. And because of Your grace toward us is beyond comprehension. More than anything else we want to know Your presence in our life. If there is any part of our life that we have kept from You, show us so we can invite You to reign there. Come into us, Holy Spirit, and revive our soul with rivers of living water and then flow through us to a dry and thirsty world. Help us to keep our eyes fixed upon You. Lord, be our richest treasure always. Help us to never make an idol out of anyone or anything or to allow possessions or the distractions of this world to get in front of You in any way. You are our Healer, our Hope, and our Strength. When we need freedom, You are our Deliver. You are our Shield from the enemy, our Counselor when we need guidance, and our Stronghold in the day of trouble. Truly, you are the God of miracles. Work Your miracles in our life today and keep changing us into Your likeness, In Jesus name we ask and pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

### A Prayer Of Blessing

Father, in Jesus name I lift up to whom is reading this and their family to You Father, bless the fruit of their hands, bless them with a new understanding, make them into a person able to stand before You even as Moses did, place them in Your rock, the head corner stone of Jesus Christ, place Your hand upon them, blessing each step they takes guiding their family in all truth. Then I ask that You pass by allowing Your presence to be known in such a deeper way that each mountain in them and their family's life are shaken lose and dry up from the root. Then take Your hand away and allow them to see the back parts of Your Glory which nothing on earth can compare, open Your heavens and pour out blessings upon them and their family that leave them in awe of Your might. Make them into a mighty force for Your kingdom. In Jesus name bless them in spirit, in body, in mind, and in thought. In Jesus name. In Jesus might, Amen, Amen, Amen.

### Prayer For Family & Friends

Father, thank You for the blessing of a family & Friends. Today, please keep the enemy at bay. Increase their faith. Protect them from falling into temptation. Grant them the opportunity to shine a light in the darkness and lead others to You. We ask that whatever is making our family & friends anxious today, we ask that You comfort them, and that they can rest in Your complete sovereignty. In Jesus name , Amen.

### Prayer For The Day For Strength

Father in heaven, we stand before You today in You omnipotent presence to ask that You grant us strength. We want You to give us the strength to power through all of the tasks today—whether little or big. It is by Your will that we live oh Lord. And we know it is also by Your will we not go weak today. We will not go lazy nor will we will fail to do all things set before us because You strengthen us, Amen. We thank You for Your everlasting presence Lord and in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Prayers by Barbara Perry

# THE ARMOR OF GOD

**EPHESIANS 6:10-18**  
"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

**The Shield of Faith** (Eph. 6:16)  
Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

**The Helmet of Salvation** (Eph. 6:17)  
Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

**The Breastplate of Righteousness** (Eph. 6:14)  
Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

**The Belt of Truth** (Eph. 6:14)  
Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

**The Sword of the Spirit** (Eph. 6:17)  
which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

**Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace** (Eph. 6:15)  
The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.



## Ephesians 6:10-20 (New King James Version)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,<sup>[a]</sup> against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak

## Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

### JANUARY

- 01) Genesis 1-2
- 02) Genesis 3-5
- 03) Genesis 6-9
- 04) Genesis 10-11
- 05) Genesis 12-15
- 06) Genesis 16-19
- 07) Genesis 20-22

- 08) Genesis 23-26
- 09) Genesis 27-29
- 10) Genesis 30-32
- 11) Genesis 33-36
- 12) Genesis 37-39
- 13) Genesis 40-42
- 14) Genesis 43-46
- 15) Genesis 47-50

- 16) Exodus 1-4
- 17) Exodus 5-7
- 18) Exodus 8-10
- 19) Exodus 11-13
- 20) Exodus 14-17
- 21) Exodus 18-20
- 22) Exodus 21-24
- 23) Exodus 25-27

- 24) Exodus 28-31
- 25) Exodus 32-34
- 26) Exodus 35-37
- 27) Exodus 38-40
- 28) Leviticus 1-4
- 29) Leviticus 5-7
- 30) Leviticus 8-10
- 31) Leviticus 11-13

### FEBRUARY

- 1 Leviticus 14-16
- 2 Leviticus 17-19
- 3 Leviticus 20-23
- 4 Leviticus 24-27
- 5 Numbers 1-3
- 6 Numbers 4-6
- 7 Numbers 7-10

- 8 Numbers 11-14
- 9 Numbers 15-17
- 10 Numbers 18-20
- 11 Numbers 21-24
- 12 Numbers 25-27
- 13 Numbers 28-30
- 14 Numbers 31-33
- 15 Numbers 34-36

- 16 Deuteronomy 1-3
- 17 Deuteronomy 4-6
- 18 Deuteronomy 7-9
- 19 Deuteronomy 10-12
- 20 Deuteronomy 13-16
- 21 Deuteronomy 17-19
- 22 Deuteronomy 20-22
- 23 Deuteronomy 23-25

- 24 Deuteronomy 26-28
- 25 Deuteronomy 29-31
- 26 Deuteronomy 32-34
- 27 Joshua 1-3
- 28 Joshua 4-6

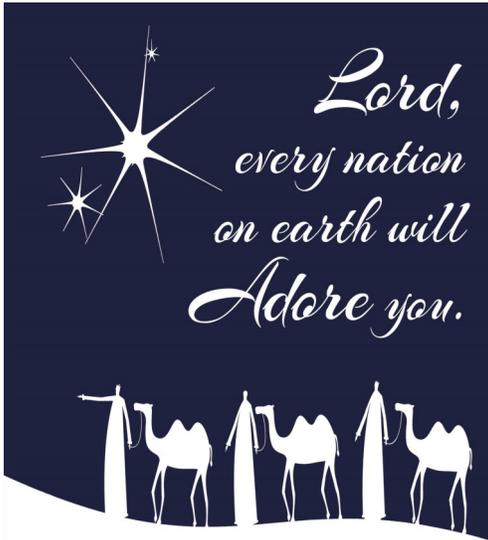
### MARCH

- 1 Joshua 7-9
- 2 Joshua 10-12
- 3 Joshua 13-15
- 4 Joshua 16-18
- 5 Joshua 19-21
- 6 Joshua 22-24
- 7 Judges 1-4

- 8 Judges 5-8
- 9 Judges 9-12
- 10 Judges 13-15
- 11 Judges 16-18
- 12 Judges 19-21
- 13 Ruth 1-4
- 14 1 Sam. 1-3
- 15 1 Samuel 4-7

- 16 1 Samuel 8-10
- 17 1 Samuel 11-13
- 18 1 Samuel 14-16
- 19 1 Samuel 17-20
- 20 1 Samuel 21-24
- 21 1 Samuel 25-28
- 22 1 Samuel 22-24
- 23 2 Samuel 1-4

- 24 2 Samuel 5-8
- 25 2 Samuel 9-12
- 26 2 Samuel 13-15
- 27 2 Samuel 16-18
- 28 2 Samuel 19-21
- 29 Samuel 22-24
- 30 1 Kings 1-4
- 31 1 Kings 5-7



**Epiphany** or The Season After Epiphany (4-9 Sundays) is a time for remembering the various times and ways Jesus was revealed to humans, particularly to the Gentiles (non-Jews) through the Magi (Wise Men) who represented other nationalities. It is a reminder of the universality of Jesus, the Savior of persons in every land. The first Sunday after Epiphany Day (January 6) is known as Baptism of the Lord referring to 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:29-34. This is an excellent time for baptism and renewal of the baptismal covenant. Appropriate symbols are water, the baptismal shell or font, a descending dove, and a cross standing in water. The emphasis for the remainder of the season is on the beginning of Jesus' ministry, the miracles performed, and Jesus' works and teachings.

**Color:** Green is symbolic of the freshness of nature, hope, life, and growth.

Name of God	Meaning	Application
<b>JEHOVAH – TSIDKENU</b>	The Lord Our Righteousness	Jesus is the King who would come from David's line, and is the one who imparts His righteousness to us.
<b>YAH, ORJAH</b>	"I AM<" The One Who Is The Self-Existent	God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, He is faithful. God promises His continuing presence.
<b>YHWH</b>	"I AM<" The One Who Is The Self-Existent One	God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, He is faithful.
<b>ADONAI</b>	The Lord My Great Lord	God is the Master and majestic Lord. God is our total authority.



## Sunday School is a Family Affair

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103  
 New Members Class meets at the same time.  
 (For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

### Come Grow with US!

#### A Long-Anticipated Celebration

**Devotional Reading:**  
 Deuteronomy 31:7-13

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 8:1-13

#### EXALT!

<sup>1</sup> Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. <sup>2</sup> All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. <sup>4</sup> So they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. <sup>5</sup> King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assemble before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. <sup>6</sup> Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. <sup>7</sup> For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. <sup>8</sup> The pole were so long that the ends of the poles were

*seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to this day.* <sup>9</sup> *There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites, when they came out of the land of Egypt.* <sup>10</sup> *And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord,* <sup>11</sup> *so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.*

<sup>12</sup> *Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever."*

**Affirmation:** "We celebrate God's presence among those who gather in God's name today."

#### ENGAGE

Unit II, "Dedicating the Temple of God," has four sessions that explore Solomon's dedication of the Temple in 1 Kings. Solomon honors God by providing a place for the ark, by offering blessings to God for fulfilling the promise to David, by praying that God would hear prayers offered in the Temple, by calling the people to keep God's commandments, and by offering sacrifices to God.

People have dedication ceremonies or grand openings for

many different occasion. How are these ceremonies or grand openings celebrated? When King Solomon called an assembly to celebrate the dedication of the Temple, the glory of the Lord filled the house of God. God was pleased with the work achieved, the way in which it was achieved, and blessed it with the divine presence. How do we know God is pleased with our work or service? What are the means by which we perform God-given tasks that show divine approval? Do we seek God through meditation and prayer in order to be aware of the tasks God has for us to preform and how these tasks may be preform and how these tasks may be performed so that God is pleased with the work? How do we discern God's presence in the church's corporate worship and work?

Respond to the following question and suggestions using one sticky note for each:

1. Recall how you felt in the fulfillment of a long-awaited accomplishment. Was there a celebration of the achievement? How was it acknowledged properly? To whom was appreciation and thanks given?
2. Use awe-inspiring photographs or movie scenes to initiate a discussion of how it would have felt to be in the presence of God's glory.
3. Share experiences you may have had with elaborate church structures. Discuss feelings and emotions these structures

*(Celebration on page 9)*

**Pray for all of our children, teens, young adults in this school years that God's hands will be upon them keeping them from all hurt, harm and danger. Also pray for all of our families, friends, and all of God's children.**

*(Celebration from page 8)*

may have elicited.

4. How would you plan and implement a classroom worship service that focuses on celebrating the presence of God?

## EDUCATE

The history of the building of God's temple is a fascinating one, especially dating back to King David, Solomon's father, who dearly desired to build a house for God but was not permitted to do so. God designated that noble task to his son, King Solomon. After David's death and Solomon's rise to the throne (1 Kings 2:12), he solemnly went about the sacred mission given him to build the temple, although David had "streamlined the process by stockpiling materials Solomon's builders used for the awe-inspiring structure (1 Chronicles 22:2-6)" (Standard Lesson Commentary, Large Print Edition, 2019-2020, Ronald L. Nickelson, Senior Editor, p. 162). The fabulous structure was completed by skilled builders and artisans over a period of 7 years and most elaborate. It was a time to celebrate!

**1 Kings 8:1-3:** The festival celebrated in the seventh month (v. 2) was appropriately the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-43), a traditional weeklong celebration remembering the Israelites' journey from Egypt to a permanent home in Canaan. The ark had long been a great symbol of God's presence with the Israelites. The moving of it here represented the long-awaited provision of a permanent residence for God among God's people. God had provided very specific instructions for moving of the ark, (Exodus 25:12-14) and they took them very seriously, as evidenced by the story of Uzzah in 2 Samuel 6.

**1 Kings 8:4-8:** Solomon had prepared new and fresh furnishings for the temple, not using any of the original tabernacle ones except the ark, which was of necessity, of course, as it was a symbol of God's

throne. "Having arrived at the temple grounds, the people gather around the King," positioning themselves around him, signifying their status as God's subjects, who is their real king, Solomon being only God's representative (Ibid., p. 164). "The priests place the ark in the inner sanctuary of the temple as it had been in the tabernacle (Exodus 26:33, 2 Samuel 6:17). Because the ark is the symbol of God's presence, the temple could not be considered God's dwelling until the ark was situated in the Most Holy Place. The cherubim are made of gold and figuratively guard the ark (Exodus 25:18, 19)" (Ibid., pp. 164, 165). The ark's presence in the chamber "makes it the most sacred space in Israel...and it transforms this space into an earthly representation of God's heavenly throne room (Psalm 11:4). Only the great high priest can enter the Most Holy Place, once a year on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)" (Ibid., p. 165).

**1 Kings 8:8-12:** At this time, the ark contains the two stone tablets of the law that God gave to Moses (Exodus 25:16, the presence of which represents the covenant relationship of God with Israel and the obligations Israel has as God's covenant people. During the Exodus, God's appearance to his people was regularly associated with a cloud (Exodus 13:21-22; 16:10; 19:9). The appearance of the cloud here (vv. 10-11) can be seen as a sign of God's blessings on the new worship arrangements. We see other instances of the overwhelming glory of the Lord (v. 11) rendering the Lord's ministers incapable of fulfilling their duties in Exodus 40:35 and Revelation 15:8. Solomon's reference to God dwelling in "thick darkness" links God with the God of the Exodus and Sinai (Exodus 20:21; Deuteronomy 4:11; 5:22).

## ELEVATE

Realizing and recognizing the significance of the ark and the Temple in the religious experience of the Israelites, recall ways in which

God's Holy Presence manifests in churches and living experiences.

How do we celebrate the active presence of God in our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit?

Do we respond to the glory of God with awe and humility? How is this reflected in our appearances and actions?

In what ways may we grow through seeking God's presence in our lives both corporately and personally? How do we recognize such presence?

Different groups, churches, and denominations have a diversity of ways of inviting and celebrating the presence of God in their midst and of responding to that presence. What are some of the ways you have seen and experience such presence?

Some believers are moved toward extravagance in their celebration of the glory of God's presence. What benefits do they derive from such experiences? If you have witnessed such, how has it affected you and your living and worship practices?

## I THINK:

1. Compare and contrast the construction of the Tabernacle with the Temple (consider using artists' renderings) and discuss how the construction of the Temple would have impacted the worship of the Israelites.

2. Consider extravagant practices that are used today to celebrate a new beginning (i.e., grand openings, inaugurations, etc.). What is the purpose and function of these practices?

3. Debate the benefits of/need for a physical building to host our worship today.

4. In what ways can our church ensure that God's presence is visible to the community surrounding us?

*(Celebration on page 10)*

*(Celebration from page 9)*

5. What one area of spiritual growth will you pursue in order to conduct yourself as a new-covenant temple of the Holy Spirit?

6. In some biblical stories and situations, people experience God's glory and presence leaving the temple, in response to the people's sin, such as in the case of Ezekiel's vision in Ezekiel 10:3-5, 18, 19; 11:22, 23. Can you think of such circumstances and cases in

which God with draws the divine presence in churches and experiences today? Describe and explain.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:**

**'I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever'. 1 Kings 8:13**

From The Young People-Adult Quarterly (Ages 18 and up) International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching

**Carl's Garden**

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well.

Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us. He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in W.W.II. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived W.W.II, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever-increasing random violence, gangs, and drug activity.

When he saw the flyer at our local church asking for volunteers for caring for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up. He was well into his 87th year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened.

He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, Would you like a drink from the hose? The tallest and toughest-looking of the three said, Yeah, sure, with a malevolent little smile. As Carl offered the hose to him, the other two grabbed Carl's arm, throwing him down. As the hose snaked crazily over the ground, dousing everything in its way, Carl's assailants stole his retirement watch and his wallet, and then fled.

Carl tried to get himself up, but he had been thrown down on his bad leg. He lay there trying to gather himself as the minister came running to help him. Although the minister had witnessed the attack from his window, he couldn't get there fast enough to stop it. Carl, are you okay? Are you hurt? The minister kept asking as he helped Carl to his feet.

Carl just passed a hand over his brow and sighed, shaking his head. Just some punk kids. I hope they'll wise-up someday. His wet clothes clung to his slight frame as he bent to pick up the hose. He adjusted the nozzle again and started to water. Confused and a little concerned, the minister asked, Carl, what are you doing? I've got to finish my watering. It's been very dry lately, came the calm reply. Satisfying himself that Carl really was all right, the minister could only marvel. Carl was a man from a different time and place.

A few weeks later the three returned. Just as before their threat was unchallenged. Carl again offered them a drink from his hose. This time they didn't rob him. They wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water. When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done. Carl just watched them. Then he turned toward the warmth giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.

The summer was quickly fading into fall. Carl was doing some tilling when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack.

Don't worry old man, I'm not gonna hurt you this time. The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl. As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl. What's this? Carl asked. It's your stuff, the man explained. It's your stuff back. Even the money in your wallet. I don't understand, Carl said. Why would you help me now? The man shifted his feet, seeming embarrassed and ill at ease. I learned something from you, he said. I ran with that gang and hurt people like you. We picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it. But every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you. You kept showing love against our hate. He stopped for a moment. I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back. He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say. That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess. And with that, he walked off down the street. Carl looked down at the sack in his hands and gingerly opened it. He took out his retirement watch and

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)*

put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride that still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

He died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man that he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church. The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said, Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden.

The following spring another flyer went up. It read: Person needed to care for Carl's garden. The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door. Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. I

believe this is my job, if you'll have me, the young man said.

The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl. He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around. As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him. The man went to work and, over the next several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. In that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it. One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, My wife just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday.

Well, congratulations! said the

minister, as he was handed the garden shed keys. That's wonderful! What's the baby's name? Carl, he replied.

The Best Mathematical Equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

That's the whole gospel message simply stated. Take 60 seconds give this a shot! Let's just see if Satan stops this one.

All you do is:

1. Simply say a small prayer for the person who sent you this, (Father God bless this person in whatever it is that You know he or she may be needing this day!)

2. Then send it on to five other people. Within hours five people have prayed for you, and you caused a multitude of people to pray to God for other people. Then sit back and watch the power of God work in your life for doing the thing that you know He loves.

### Realize the Power Within You

Realize the power that is within you, and you will no longer be the victim of a depressed spirit.

And what is this inner power? Simply the God-given ability to believe.

To the extent to which you develop this faculty, you will master the defeats in your life.

The great issue is to learn to believe.

This is stated in one of the most important of all Scripture passages:

**Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23**

Learn to believe. Learn to cast out doubt. This is done by the practice of affirmation.

Affirm faith, think positively, visualize achievement. Never think doubt. Always think faith.

This text affirms that when you learn to believe, the area of the impossible is vastly reduced and the area of the possible is greatly increased.

If you set this text firmly at the center of your thought patterns, you will never again be a victim of low spirits.

### When you Need Hope

**Key Scripture:** "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God" (Psalm 42:11).

**Key Thought:** Which we have as an anchor of your soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil; (Hebrews 6:19.)

**Prayer:** Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon me as I endeavor to experience the hope you promise to me. <sup>1</sup> You are my

hiding place and my shield, and I find hope in your Word. <sup>2</sup>

Let my life be filled with your hope, joy, peace, and faith so that I will always continue to abound in hope through the power of your Holy Spirit. <sup>3</sup>

Thank you for equipping me with your protective armor, Father. <sup>4</sup> I put on the hope of salvation as my helmet. <sup>5</sup> Thank you for giving me everlasting consolation and good hope through your grace. <sup>6</sup>

Even now, as I pray, I experience your hope as being the sure and

steadfast anchor of my soul? <sup>7</sup> From now on, I will hope continually, and I will praise you more and more. <sup>8</sup> Christ in me is the hope of glory. <sup>9</sup>

Father, thank you for exchanging my sense of hopelessness with your abiding hope.

**References:** Psalms 33:22; (2) Psalms 119:114; (3) Romans 15:13; (4) Ephesians 6:11; (5) Ephesians 6:17; (6) 2 Thessalonians 2:16; (5) (7) Hebrews 6:19; (8) Psalms 71:14; (9) Colossians 1:27.

*(Listen to God from page 1)*

consistently and sincerely has found that it really works.

Before you begin, look over these fundamental points. They are true and are based on the experience of thousands of people.

1. God is alive. He always has been and He always will be.
2. God knows everything.
3. God can do anything.
4. God can be everywhere--all at the same time. (These are the important differences between God and us human beings).
5. God is invisible-we can't see Him or touch Him-but, God is here. He is with you now. He is beside you. He surrounds you. He fills the room or the whole place where you are right now. He is in you now. He is in your heart.
6. God cares very much for you. He is interested in you. He has a plan for your life. He has an answer for every need and problem you face.
7. God will tell you all that you need to know. He will not always tell you all that you want to know.
8. God will help you do anything that He asks you to do.
9. Anyone can be in touch with God, anywhere and at any time, if the conditions are obeyed.

These are the conditions:

- To be quiet and still
- To listen
- To be honest about every thought that comes
- To test the thoughts to be sure that they come from God
- To obey

So, with these basic elements as a background, here are specific suggestions on How to Listen to God.

### 1. Take Time

Find some place and time where you can be alone, quiet and undisturbed. Most people have found that the early morning is the best time. Have with you some paper and pen or pencil.

### 2. Relax

Sit in a comfortable position.. Consciously relax all your muscles. Be loose. There is no hurry. There needs to be no strain during these minutes. God cannot get through to us if we are tense and anxious about later responsibilities.

### 3. Tune In

Open your heart to God. Either silently or aloud, just say to God in a natural way that you would like to find His plan for your life-you want His answer to the problem or situation that you are facing just now. Be definite and specific in your request.

### 4. Listen

Just be still, quiet, relaxed and open. Let your mind go "loose." Let God do the talking. Thoughts, ideas, and impressions will begin to come into your mind and heart. Be alert and aware and open to every one.

### 5. Write!

Here is the important key to the whole process. Write down everything that comes into your mind. Everything. Writing is simply a means of recording so that you can remember later. Don't sort out or edit your thoughts at this point.

#### Don't say to yourself:

- This thought isn't important,
- This is just an ordinary thought;
- This can't be guidance;
- This isn't nice;
- This can't be from God;
- This is just me thinking..., etc.

#### Write down everything that passes through our mind:

- Names of people;
- Things to do;
- Things to say;
- Things that are wrong and need to be made right.

#### Write down everything:

- Good thoughts - bad thoughts;
- Comfortable thoughts - uncomfortable thoughts; "Holy" thoughts - "unholy" thoughts;
- Sensible thoughts - "crazy" thoughts.

Be honest! Write down everything! A thought comes quickly, and it escapes even more quickly unless it is captured and put down.

### 6. Test

When the flow of thoughts slows down, stop. Take a good look at what you have written. Not every thought we have comes from God. So we need to test our thoughts. Here is where the written record helps us to be able to look at them.

- a. Are these thoughts completely honest, pure, unselfish and loving?
- b. Are these thoughts in line with our duties to our family-to our country?
- c. Are these thoughts in line with our understanding of the teachings found in our spiritual literature?

### 7. Check

When in doubt and when it is important, what does another person, who is living two-way prayer think about this thought or action? More light comes in through two windows than one. Someone else who also wants God's plan for our lives may help us to see more clearly.

Talk over together what you have written, Many people do this. They tell each other what guidance has come. This is the secret of unity. There are always three sides to every question-your side, my side, and the right side. Guidance shows us which is the right side-not who is right, but what is right.

### 8. Obey

Carry out the thoughts that have come. You will only be sure of guidance as you go through with it. A rudder will not guide a boat until the

*(Listen to God from page 12)*

boat is moving. As you obey, very often the results will convince you that you are on the right track.

### 9. Blocks

What if I don't seem to get any definite thoughts? God's guidance is as freely available as the air we breathe. If I am not receiving thoughts when I listen, the fault is not God's.

Usually it is because there is something I will not do:

- something wrong in my life that I will not face and make right;
- a habit or indulgence I will not give up;
- a person I will not forgive;
- a wrong relationship in my life I will not give up;
- a restitution I will not make;
- something God has already told me to do that I will not obey.

Check these points and be honest. Then try listening again.

### 10. Mistakes

Suppose I make a mistake and do something in the name of God that

isn't right? Of course we make mistakes. We are humans with many faults. However, God will always honor our sincerity.

He will work around and through every honest mistake we make. He will help us make it right. But remember this! Sometimes when we do obey God, someone else may not like it or agree with it. So when there is opposition, it doesn't always mean you have made a mistake. It can mean that the other person doesn't want to know or to do what is right.

Suppose I fail to do something that I have been told and the opportunity to do it passes? There is only one thing to do. Put it right with God. Tell Him you're sorry. Ask Him to forgive you, then accept His forgiveness and begin again. God is our Father--He is not an impersonal calculator. He understands us far better than we do.

### 11. Results

We never know what swimming is like until we get down into the water and try. We will never know what this

is like until we sincerely try it.

Every person who has tried this honestly finds that a wisdom, not their own, comes into their minds and that a Power greater than human power begins to operate in their lives. It is an endless adventure.

There is a way of life, for everyone, everywhere. Anyone can be in touch with the living God, anywhere, anytime, if we fulfill His conditions:

***When man listens, God speaks.  
When man obeys, God-acts.***

*This is the law of prayer*

**God's plan for this world goes forward through the lives of ordinary people who are willing to be governed by Him.**

*by Chaplain John E. Batterson*

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*(Church Age from page 1)*

washed us clean of sin in His own blood freeing us from the slavery of sin. Those who previously didn't believe in Jesus Christ and willfully accept Him as their personal God, Lord and Savior receive the gift of salvation. The Holy Spirit then empowers the new believer for holiness, worship and service of which they were incapable of prior to conversion.

When believers empty themselves of the encumbrances of this life, while resting totally on the daily workings of the Holy Spirit, they engage themselves in the holy things of God.

Believers are given an order by God to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). The filling of the Holy Spirit is a continuous process that happens over time, as the believer fulfills the plan of God in their lives. The believer must confess

their sins to God and willfully choose with the help of the Holy Spirit to always turn away from sin. The believer is expected to consider it reasonable that they relinquish their time, work, talents and treasures giving them over to God and opening up themselves to His dominion (Romans 12:1,2).

The filling of the Holy Spirit involves frequent reading, listening, studying and most importantly obeying the living Word of God (Colossians 3:16). The purpose of God in the life of the believer is the building of a holy and eternal relationship.

The Apostle John wrote to the Churches of Asia Minor about the same spiritual challenges and doctrinal choices facing us today in the twenty-first century. It is from this perspective we will examine the church age.

Ephesus was praised for service

and patience. They didn't tolerate evil. They lived and taught sound doctrine but Ephesus's true motivation for worshipping Jesus Christ was lost. They labored out of duty not out of agape love for Jesus Christ and the brethren (Revelation 2:1-4).

The Church of Smyrna was a persecuted body of believers in Jesus Christ by Diocletian the Roman Emperor. Jesus Christ was also hated and persecuted. As a result of what Jesus Christ experienced, He is able to comfort those who faces persecution and death for their belief in Him. He knows their pain and suffering and encourages the believer to continue to listen to the Holy Spirit for the crown of life is their reward (Revelation 2:8-10). Today many are persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ.

In Pergamos many Christian

*(Church Age on page 15)*

(Men from page 1)

Center's Dr. Joseph Kim. It was structured to present such abysmal statistics, as the heading, on Prostate Cancer and other men's health issues, for a reason.

The event, started promptly at 9:00 am, after the men had treated themselves to a typical Cross Street breakfast of eggs, bacon and sausages and grits and pastry with coffee and tea. The doctor in the house did not disappoint. He did not mince words either. Dr Kim laid out the bare truth about prostate cancer. Who is destined to have it; when can it be expected; who is most vulnerable; what are the usual symptoms; what happens when one is confronted with the diagnoses for the first time; what to expect when one gets the bad news; what not to do; and what exactly can one depend on when the unfortunate really did happen.

To begin with, Dr. Kim introduced himself to the men, quite an attendance that morning; approximately forty men in all. The esteemed doctor is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in Medical Oncology – that is the care, treatment and coordination of treatment for people who have had the unfortunate incidence of various forms of cancer. Early on in his career Dr Kim had been fascinated by medical oncology. In his personal bio he reveals the he has successfully **'formed a team of scientists from Yale and researchers from other academic institutions, and leads several National Cancer Institute-sponsored multi-institutional clinical trials for patients with prostate, bladder, testicular and penile cancers at the Yale Cancer Center'**. In effect, he knows a thing or two about men's health as it relates to urological issues.

He reiterated the theme of the event, which was to urge the men to **'learn about risk factors, symptoms, and new cutting-edge therapies in the treatment of prostate cancer.'** His entire speech

echoed and highlighted the drumbeat of getting his listeners to **take ownership of their health, since their lives depended on it.**

Then followed the long list of uncomfortable realities. That prostate cancer is very, very common. In various surveys it's been established that most men, all over, will develop some kind of prostate issue after the age of forty. Half the men over seventy years will have some level of prostate cancer. Most of all, the condition is most prevalent in males of African American decent. Symptoms may not be apparent for years, so the best approach is to be proactive and to talk to one's healthcare provider about ways to be aware of one's health status. Dr Kim said that the PSA screening is the starting point, and all men, especially African American men, should endeavor to have the test done, as soon as possible. That combined with a simple digital rectal examination are good ways to stay ahead of the game. In general, he stated that all men over fifty should request a colon screening whether by colonoscopy or simple stool testing. And for prostate issues, the age is fifty-five, or sooner, if a male family member; father, brother, uncle, etc. had had a history of prostate issue.

Not everything was dire and gloomy, though. Dr Kim made it abundantly clear that not all people diagnosed with prostate cancer die from it. In fact, it is a common medical knowledge that various autopsies reveal that almost every male had some stage of prostate cancer at the time of death. Yet, they may have died from some other causes. The leading cause of death, he said, was various forms of heart diseases. The second leading cause of death for men over seventy, he informed us, was from all manner of cancers and unfortunately, the trend of dying from all kinds of cancers has been going up and up.

On the primary topic of prostate health, Dr Kim listed the common symptoms as; the urgency to urinate, the constant and repeated urge to

urinate, the burning sensation at time of urination, the feeling of some level of retention even after urination. Not to forget the unpleasant feeling of repeatedly having to wake up at night to urinate. The constant occurrences of any these symptoms are clear indication of some level of issue with one's prostate. So, he reiterated, for everyone to take control of their health and to talk to their doctors about it. Unfortunately, the usual symptoms may not even be present. Which is why the blood test of PSA (prostate specific antigen) is the best approach at detecting the presence of prostate cancer.

In responding to a variety of questions, Dr Joseph Kim provided more details. For example, he pointed out that different PSA levels may shed light on the stage of one's cancer diagnosis. He pointed out that PSA tests most often lead the way to early detection. And that PSA numbers of 4 and higher are a starting point for awareness. Numbers of 4 and lower are OK, but to continue to monitoring as necessary. At certain points, when a PSA is high enough, targeted biopsies would be done to determine the level of the disease. Physical biopsy of a cancerous gland would lead the attending doctor to determine the level and intensity of the growth. Here too, he provided details as to scoring and staging of the cancer. That is done through a Gleason Score. He pointed out that scores of 6 or lower were of low risk, even if cancer was present. The Gleason Score is calculated by one's doctor to help in choosing the appropriate treatment plan such as making the decision for immediate treatment or to take the approach of active surveillance. When cancer is detected, and Gleason Score indicates a particular treatment plan, Dr Kim listed a number of options available. These may include surgery, prostatectomy, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiation and even actively watching and monitoring. He reassured all, that many men diagnosed with prostate cancer have gone on to live

(Men on page 15)

*(Men from page 14)*

long, quality lives and many have been cured and eventually, have become cancer-free. When speaking about prostate cancer treatment, one cannot ignore the varieties of side effects, the doctor pointed out. And these include possible erectile dysfunction, reduction or loss of libido and urinary incontinence.

In summary, Dr. Kim extolled the men to follow certain guidelines that may help forestall the occurrence of

prostate cancer. While no one has yet definitively pointed to the real causes of prostate cancer, he stated that certain lifestyle changes and approaches may help to stay cancer-free as long as possible. He pointed out that living actively healthy, enjoying life, loving family, resorting to a balanced diet, minimizing the intake of sodium and generally looking out for one's own health needs can be combined in total to promote a cancer-free life. For an African American male, request

testing once a year if over fifty-five. If any stage of cancer has been diagnosed, he suggests testing every six months. In step with the age-old adage of prevention being better than cure, Dr. Kim stressed the wisdom in continuous intervention rather than surveillance. In other words, men, especially African American men, are advised to be more vigilant about their health needs and to be actively proactive in everything relating to their health issues.

-Kwame Ocansey

*(Church Age from page 13)*

people tolerated pagan, cultic, idolatrous, sexually immoral practices. Pergamos was home to many people who were Christian in name and title only. They allowed doctrinal compromise, ecumenicalism along with the practice and teachings of evil doctrine. This is going on today everywhere. In spite of the spiritual problems that permeated Pergamos, Jesus Christ calls the overcomer to obedience to His Word (Revelation 2:12-17).

The church of Thyatira was good in its works, love, service and faith. The problem facing the church was that they taught and allowed the practice of immorality and idolatry (Revelation 2:20). As a result of their unwillingness to repent, God brought reproof and judgment their way. Those who were faithful were told to hold fast to the truth until Jesus Christ returns (Revelation 2:24-25). Believers are to this day are called to adhere to the truth of Jesus Christ.

Sardis was a lifeless church lacking spirit, interest, energy and power of the Holy Spirit. The church practiced traditional, formal routine

rituals. Their ministries were man centered lacking the presence of the Holy Spirit (Revelation 3:1). In Sardis there were very few spirit filled believers. Jesus Christ calls the body of Christ Jesus to receive and be lead by the Holy Spirit.

The church of Philadelphia was faithful to Jesus Christ. They acknowledged the divinity of Jesus Christ, His lordship and called on His name. The Philadelphians lived in obedience to God and their love for Him fueled their desire for outreach, evangelism and eternal security.

The church of Laodicea was sickening to God because it was lukewarm, prideful and apathetic (Revelation 3:15-16). Laodiceans thought that they could buy spiritual divine righteousness. Jesus Christ called them to repent.

Clearly we see that today's Christianity mirrors the same spiritual challenges and doctrinal choices. It is imperative that we live in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ during any age. The return of Jesus Christ is at hand and the Church Age is coming to a close. The unbeliever must ask Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins

and ask to become an adopted child of God. Secondly, the unbeliever must be willing to receive God's free gift of salvation through belief in Him.

As believers we must acknowledge the fact that grace does not give us a license to sin and commit trespasses against God. Believers must love the Lord God with all their heart, soul and mind and love their neighbor as themselves. God must be the believer's first love. Believers must hunger and thirst for the Word of God the Bible, so that sound doctrine will resonate within you. Believers must stop picking, choosing and rationalizing how they will surrender their lives to Jesus Christ. Just submit to Him in the fullness of the entire canon. Believers must be willing to suffer pain, be tormented, be persecuted, and put to death for the love and name of Jesus Christ if those circumstances arise. Today many are dying for their faith in Jesus. Finally, believers must be active in worship and service to God and neighbor in accordance with God's calling in your life. Derek Yopp Sr.

*(Your Side from page 1)*

God is on our side, an I encourage you to let that sink down into your heart. Begin to expect His favor. Expect Him to work in your life. Focus on the fact that God has equipped you. He has anointed you and your best days are still out in front of you! See If God is for

you, no one can rise against you! As you meditate on this promise, it will become real to you. You will walk in the favor and victory of God!

See as a believer in Jesus and a child of His, God is on our side! If we haven't thought about it yet today, I want you remember, we are created for greatness and there is no obstacle that

can stop us because we're in the palms of God's hands. So quit telling yourself, "I'll always struggle in this area. I'll never lose this weight. I'll never get out of debt." Change your perspective. You are not weak, defeated or inferior. You are full of "can do" power.

## *Words To Live By*

### **Why Do We Go To Church?**

#### **Use Of Spiritual Gifts**

1 Corinthians 12 makes it clear that God has given spiritual gifts to every Christian. Verse 7 states that these abilities are not provided to make you feel good; they are abilities to minister that should be used for the common good! 1 Peter 4:10 commands us to use spiritual gifts to help each other. The same passage makes it clear that we meet with other Christians so they can use their gifts to strengthen us. God's gift of a preacher or teacher is wasted if no one comes to hear him or her speak.

#### **Mutual Ministry**

The church is pictured as a body and in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul explains that each part of the body exists to meet the needs of other body parts. In the same way, God intends each of us to meet the needs of other believers, using our strengths to help in their areas of weakness. 1 Corinthians 12:21 expresses it this way: "The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you". Neither can a Christian claim to be self-sufficient. The New Testament is full of "**one another**" commands. We are to comfort **one another** (1Thessalonians 4:18), build up **one another** (1Thessalonians 5:11), confess our sins to **one another** (James 5:16), pray for **one another** (James 5:16), and many more. How can we obey these directives if we stay away from the gathering of believers?

#### **Accountability**

God designed the church as a place where spiritual leaders could watch out for our welfare, as a shepherd guards the sheep (1 Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:17). A Christian who answers only to himself can easily rationalize sinful attitudes or actions: regular contact with other Christians can keep us sharp.

***“Daily Confession of Faith”***

***In Christ I am anointed and a powerful person of God.***

***I am a joint-heir with Jesus and more than a conqueror.***

***I am a doer of the Word of God and a channel for His blessings.***

***If God be for me, who can be against me?***

***I am blessed coming in and I am blessed going out.***

***My enemies are fleeing before me.***

***God has commanded His blessing on my storehouses.***

***He has opened His Good treasures and I shall lend and not borrow.***

***I am the head and not the tail.***

***He has given me power to make wealth.***

***I dwell in the secret place.***

***I have His protection and provision.***

***God is my refuge, my fortress.***

***I am not afraid of the snare of the fowler.***

***No Evil shall befall me and no plague shall come nigh my dwelling.***

***God has given his angels charge over me and they are bearing me up in their hands***

***lest I dash my foot against a stone, as declared in Psalm 91.***

***1 Peter 2:9 establishes I am a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.***

***I am a peculiar person called out of darkness into His marvelous light.***

***1 Peter 2:24 states, I have been healed by the stripes of Jesus.***

***Cancer, sugar diabetes, heart disease, sickness, afflictions, infections,  
or any other disease cannot enter my body.***

***I am without spot or blemish, an intercessor,***

***the righteousness of God, saved, and washed in the Blood of Jesus.***

***“No weapon formed against me shall prosper, and every tongue which rise against me in judgement You shall condemn.***

***This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,***

***and their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.***

***I am saved from wrath by Him and justified by the blood of the Lamb.***

***Lord I pray that those may prosper that love Jerusalem and that peace will be within them  
and prosperity in their houses according to Psalms 122:6-9.***

***Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!***

# Spirit Lifters

By Norman Vincent Peale

## Clean Mind and High Spirits

***You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*** John 15:3

This Spirit Lifter tells us that the word of Jesus Christ, when recorded in consciousness and held there, can make you clean of all guilt. How? The answer is by forgiveness from wrong thoughts and actions, by changing thoughts from impure to wholesome thinking, by filling the mind with faith so you experience a truly marvelous brain-and-soul-washing.

The ugliness of hate is washed from the mind; all sin are forgiven. The inner cleanness thus gained is an amazing source of high spirits.

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## Receive God's Blessing

Our spirits rise when we learn how to receive the abundance of good things God wants to give to us. The secret is in two verses:

***So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be open to you. For everyone who ask receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*** Luke 11:9-10

Note that the word ask is immediately followed by the word will be given; that directly after the word seek are the words you will find; and that quickly after the word knock is assurance that it will be opened. It is to emphasize that everyone who seek finds, and to all who knock the storehouse is opened.

Therefore, confidently ask. Then visualize yourself as now receiving; seek, then affirm that you have found; knock, then believe that God's storehouse is opened.

Practice receiving. Believe that you have been given. Then feel your spirits lift as you realize that God's blessings are actually showered upon you.

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## Refreshment of Spirit

***Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.*** Acts 3:19

When the rain bring the miracle of earth's renewal, it is, indeed, a "time of refreshing." a similar process occurs in human life. By wrong thinking and misdeeds, the freshness of mind and soul fades. If we are spiritually changed, "times of refreshing" come from the presence of the Lord. How clean, fresh and delightful life then becomes!

---

## Cast Your Care on God

In maintaining a high spirit, it is important to cultivate the attitude of spiritual surrender. Place yourself, your interests, hopes and purposes completely in God's hands.

***Therefore humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*** 1 Peter 5:6-7

If we surrender our selves to the direction of God, being guided by His hand, He will exalt us —He will help us attain our purposes and rise above all defeats. Cast all your care upon God; He cares for you. This is a supreme Spirit Lifter!

## Faith, Hope and Love

The best three-point formula for living is in this immortal statement:

**And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.** 1 Corinthians 13:13

## Barbara Perry Speaks

### "New Beginning"

Isaiah 43:18-19 says, **"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland,"** Amen.

Let us pray, "Father, thank You that we can be free from all the negative baggage that comes from

carrying past offenses, guilt, and blame. Help us to treat the past as the past, that it's over. We look forward to the new things You're doing in our life. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

We've all had negative things happen to us and it's easy to go through life carrying offenses, trapped in self-pity, blaming ourselves and others. But today as we start a new year, 2020, I encourage you, not to look back, because we'll end up

carrying around emotional baggage that weighs us down rather its "twenty years ago or twenty minutes ago, don't carry negative baggage from yesterday into today. Just do your part and let it go the past hurts. And as long as we're dwelling on the past, we're going to miss "the new things" God wants to do. We need to be looking forward to new beginnings. But God will not release new opportunities as long as you're reliving old hurts and old failures, Amen. Happy New Years.

### "Be On The Lookout"

**"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."** James 1:17

Let us pray, "Father, thank You that You are constantly working, constantly showing us Your goodness

with every good gift that comes into our life. We want to live today with an attitude of thankfulness and gratefulness and NOT take Your goodness for granted. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Today be on the lookout for God's goodness. Too many times, God is working in our lives, showing us favor, protecting us, sending us healing, but we don't recognize His goodness. But

when something good happens, make sure you give Him the credit and thank him for it. Look around and be more aware because it's not just what He does; it's who He is. It's important that we recognize that every gift comes to us from our Father. Psalms 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the LORD is good." Amen. The question is, are you recognizing it?

### "Check Your Soul"

**"But he that received seed into the good ground is he that hearth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."** Matthew 13:23

Let us pray, "Father, thank You for the gifts and potential You put in us. Help us protect what we've entrusted to us by being selective about our environment. We believe that as we

stay in the good soil, we are going to see increase and new levels. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Jesus told a parable about a man who sowed seed on good ground, and it flourished, producing great crops. But some of the seed fell on rocky ground, and lacking soil and deep roots, its plants withered. Other seed fell among the thorns, and its plants were choked from growing.

See we are a seed. We are full of gifts, talents, and potential. But if we

plant our self in unhealthy soil, if we hang around friends who compromise and pull us down, if we're in an environment with limited mindsets where people tell us how we'll never accomplish our dreams, we won't see the growth we should. It's not because there's something wrong with our seed. It's that the thorns and rocks are chocking the life out of our seed-our dreams, our vision, and our character.

So I encourage you to do your part and keep your seed in good soil, Hallelujah and Amen.

### "Who's Your Father?"

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, **"therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here..."** Amen.

Let us pray, Father, thank You for being our Father and breathing Your life into us. We ask that You help us to quit believing the lies that say we've reached our limits. We believe and declare that we are a child of the Most High God, and we are stepping up to

the next level You have for us, in Jesus' Name, Amen."

There was an advertisement for DNA testing that asked the question, "Who's the father?" they can take our DNA out of the billions matching someone who's not our family. In a similar way, when we gave our life to Christ we became a new creation. See we were born into a new family taking a sample DNA from our heavenly Father, then a sample DNA from us, and run all the tests with the good

news is that it would come back a perfect match. Proven beyond all doubts, we are God's child and we have His spiritual DNA, Amen.

So today don't you dare go around thinking that you're average because Your Father created worlds and we've come from a royal bloodline. There's nothing too much for us and we can accomplish our dreams because of who our Father is, Amen

## THE BEAUTY OF HOLLAND

I AM OFTEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF RAISING A CHILD WITH DISABILITY - TO TRY TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT SHARED THAT UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO UNDERSTAND IT, TO IMAGINE HOW IT WOULD FEEL. IT'S LIKE THIS...

WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A BABY, IT'S LIKE PLANNING A FABULOUS TRIP TO ITALY. YOU BUY A BUNCH OF GUIDEBOOKS AND MAKE YOUR WONDERFUL PLANS. THE COLISEUM, THE MICHELANGELO DAVID. THE GONDOLAS IN VENICE. YOU LEARN SOME HANDY PHRASES IN ITALIAN. IT'S ALL VERY, VERY EXCITING!

AFTER MONTHS OF EAGER ANTICIPATION, THE DAY FINALLY ARRIVES. YOU PACK YOUR BAGS AND OFF YOU GO. SEVERAL HOURS LATER THE PLANE LANDS. THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT COMES IN AND SAYS, "WELCOME TO HOLLAND.

"HOLLAND!!!" YOU SAY, "WHAT DO YOU MEAN HOLLAND! I SIGNED UP FOR ITALY. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN ITALY! ALL MY LIFE I'VE DREAMED OF GOING TO ITALY."

BUT THERE'S A CHANGE IN THE FLIGHT PLAN. THEY LANDED IN HOLLAND AND YOU MUST STAY. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THEY HAVEN'T TAKEN YOU TO A HORRIBLE, DISGUSTING, FILTHY PLACE, FULL OF PESTILENCE, FAMINE AND DISEASE. IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT PLANE.

SO YOU MUST GO OUT AND BUY NEW GUIDEBOOKS. AND YOU MUST LEARN A WHOLE NEW LANGUAGE. AND YOU WILL MEET A WHOLE NEW GROUP OF PEOPLE YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE MET.

IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT PLACE. IT'S SLOWER-PACED THAN ITALY, LESS FLASHY THAN ITALY. BUT AFTER YOU'RE BEEN THERE AWHILE AND CATCH YOUR BREATH, YOU BEGIN TO LOOK AROUND, AND YOU BEGIN TO NOTICE THAT HOLLAND HAS WINDMILLS, HOLLAND HAS TULIPS. HOLLAND EVEN HAS REMBRANDTS.

BUT EVERYONE YOU KNOW IS BUSY COMING AND GOING FROM ITALY, AND THEY'RE BRAGGING ABOUT WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME THEY HAD THERE. AND FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE YOU WILL SAY, "YES, THAT'S WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO. THAT'S WHAT I HAD PLANNED."

AND THE PAIN WILL NEVER, EVER GO AWAY, BECAUSE THE LOSS OF THAT DREAM IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT LOSS.

BUT IF YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE MOURNING THE FACT YOU DIDN'T GO TO ITALY, YOU MAY NEVER BE FREE TO ENJOY THE VERY SPECIAL, THE VERY LOVELY THINGS ABOUT HOLLAND.

SOURCE UNKNOWN

## Joyce Meyer: Promises for your Everyday Life - a Daily Devotional

### Worry is Selfishness in Disguise

***And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.***  
*Romans 14:23 KJV*

Too often, people give in to worry without realizing how deadly it is. When you get to the root of it, worry is a sin. Worry certainly doesn't come out of faith, and Romans 14:23 (AMP) states that "whatever does not originate and proceed from faith is sin."

Most of the time, worry is based on

one sin in particular: selfishness. Usually when we worry, we're concerned about how our selfish desires are not being fulfilled. The more selfish desires you have, the more you have to worry about, and the more complicated your life becomes.

God wants us to simply focus on serving Him.

It is God's will that we live our lives free from all anxiety and distressing care. He wants us to be free to serve Him without being 'drawn in diverging directions' (1 Corinthians 7:34 AMP). We

must not allow the worries of this world to divert us from His purpose for our lives.

Seek to rid yourself of selfish desires. This will keep your life simple and give you less to worry about. Then you can wholeheartedly pursue God's great plan for your life.

**Prayer Starter:** Father God, thank You for showing me that worry is a sin. Help me to get rid of my selfish, ungodly desires so that I can simply pursue Your density for me.

---

### Understanding Grace, Walking In Faith

***"For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God:"*** *Ephesians 2:8 KJV*

Most of us are aware that it is by grace that we are saved, but I wonder how many people truly understand the power of God's grace.

Everything we receive from God must come by grace through faith. But all knowledge of faith must be built on a clear understanding of grace, because even faith

comes to us by grace, as a gift.

When you understand grace, you can walk in faith and receive God's blessings.

God's grace isn't complicated or confusing. It is simple, and that's why many people miss it. There is nothing more powerful than grace. Everything in the Bible, salvation, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, fellowship with God and victory in our daily lives, is based on it. Without grace, we are nothing, we have nothing, we can do nothing.

Today, don't just hear about grace, but understand that everything in our lives depends not on our merits or abilities or works, but on God's willingness to use His infinite power to meet our needs. This is grace.

Focus on that truth today, and watch your faith grow.

**Prayer Starter:** God, I don't just want to hear about Your grace without grasping its real power. Help me to understand how wonderful Your grace is so that my faith in You can grow.

---

### Getting What You Don't Deserve

***For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.*** *Psalms 40:12 KJV*

The vast majority of people allow God to help them only when they think they deserve it. At one time in my life I was that way. For years I allowed God to help me only when I thought I had earned it, when I thought I had done enough good deeds to deserve His help.

That kind of thinking doesn't produce an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving. If we think we deserve what we receive, then it is no longer a gift but a reward or "payment for services rendered." The difference between receiving what we do not deserve and receiving what we do deserve is the difference between grace and works.

I encourage you to open your heart and allow God's grace to come into your life to help you in your everyday walk. Always remember that when you feel frustrated, it is because you are living by

your own effort and need to get back into God's grace by allowing Him to work through you.

Learn to let God do you a favor. Give up trying to deserve God's help, and let Him supply your every need.

**Prayer Starter:** I realize the foolishness of only accepting Your help when I feel like I deserve it. I give up on my own works and receive Your grace. Thank You for helping me in every situation, even when I don't deserve it.

---

### Take Off The Mask

***"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."***  
2 Corinthians 3:18

So many times we act one way on the outside, but we're actually different on the inside. Because we have weaknesses, faults and fears, things that we think make us less likeable or desirable, we'd rather hide them from other people. So we wear masks.

The danger of wearing a mask is that it misrepresents us. What other people see is a lie. It's not who we are or who we were born to be. We can change the outside, but we can't change who we really are deep down inside.

We need to realize that God loves us just the way we are right now, and His love for us will never diminish.

And there's more good news. Second Corinthians 3:18 says that God

is changing us and making us more like Himself and fixing the flaws we want to cover up.

Trust Him enough to take off the mask. You will find, as I have, that you are being changed, little by little, into the very image of your Lord.

**Prayer Starter:** Lord, I realize that I often try to wear a mask in order to fit in and find acceptance. Today, I make a decision to find my acceptance in You. As You overwhelm me with Your love, continue to change me into Your great image.

# A Bird's Eye View Of The Bible

## Old Testament

There are 39 books in the Old Testament library.  
There are four types of writing in the Old Testament:  
Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy.

It is helpful to know which kind of literature you are reading before you start: is it poetry, or is it history?

### LAW

**Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.**

The first five books of the Bible are sometimes called the Law of Moses. They give many of God's laws about how to live.

### HISTORY

**Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.**

These 12 historical books cover the occupation of the Promised Land, the time of the Judges, Israel's kings, the fall of the two kingdoms and a return to Jerusalem.

### POETRY

**Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs.**

Nearly one third of the Old Testament is written in poetry. These five poetical books ask profound questions about evil, pain, love, wisdom and God.

### PROPHECY

**Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.**

The 17 prophetic books account for almost a quarter of the Bible. They are divided into "Major Prophets" (the first five books) and "Minor Prophets" (the last 12). The "Minor" ones are shorter, not less important.

## New Testament

There are 27 books in the New Testament library.  
There are three types of writing in the New Testament:  
History, Letters, Prophecy.

Before you study a New Testament book it helps to consider what kind of literature you are reading: is it a letter or is it history?

### HISTORY

**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts**

The first four books, called gospels, are not like our modern biographies. But they do give four portraits of Jesus. Acts is part two of Luke, about the early church.

### LETTERS

#### PAUL'S LETTERS

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

We have 13 of Paul's letters. Except for one personal one, Philemon, they were all written to groups of Christians.

#### OTHER LETTERS

**Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude.**

We don't know who wrote Hebrews. Tradition states that all the writers of the New Testament, except for John, were martyred.

### PROPHECY

**Revelation**

Written by the apostle John, this book has seven letters to churches and numerous visions about God.



# 2019 Happenings At the Cross



# Ministerial Health Fellowship

## Baptism



## Annie Hunter Church Christmas Dinner



## Family & Friends Day



## Ministerial Health Fellowship



**PROMPTED TO PRAY**

*I constantly remember you in my prayers. 2 Timothy 1:3*

**S**everal years ago I was prompted to pray for you often, and I wonder why.”

That text message from an old friend came with a photo of a note she'd kept in her Bible: "Pray for James. Cover mind, thoughts, words." beside my name she'd recorded three separate years.

I looked at the years and caught my breath. I wrote back and asked what month she began to pray. She responded, "Sometime around July."

That was the month I was preparing to leave home for extended study aboard. I would be facing an unfamiliar culture and language and have my faith challenged like never before. As I looked at the note, I realized I'd received the precious gift of generous prayer.

My friend's kindness reminded me of another "prompting" to pray, Paul's instruction to his young missionary friend Timothy: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people" (1 Timothy 2:1). The phrase "first of all" indicates highest priority. Our prayers matter, Paul explains, because God "wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" about Jesus (V.4).

God moves through faithful prayer in countless ways to encourage others and draw them near to Himself. We may not know someone's circumstances when they come to mind, but God does. And He'll help that person as we pray!

Who comes to mind that needs your prayers in this new year?  
How can you remind yourself to pray for them often?

Loving God, please help me to pray often and make a lasting difference in other's lives through my intercession for them.

**Bible Reading:** 1 Timothy 2:1-8  
**<sup>1</sup> I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—<sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> this is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faith teacher of the Gentiles.**

**<sup>8</sup> Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.**

**Insight**

One of the ways we pray for all people is by praying for authorities (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Such praying contributes to "all people" being able to "live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" under leaders who take their responsibilities seriously. Notice the two pairs of ideas Paul is presenting as the goal of these prayers. The first pair, "peaceful and quiet," refers to a dual focus of calm. Vincent's Word Studies tells us that "peaceful" speaks of a lack of outward disturbance and "quiet" refers to "tranquility arising from within." The second pair of ideas, "godliness and holiness," speak to how we live out our faith. "Godliness" refers to a life that flows out of a right belief in God, while "holiness" speaks of respectful behavior. To pray for "all those in authority" (v.2) would have been difficult for Timothy, given the political upheaval and generally anti-Christian sentiment in the Roman Empire at that time. Bill Crowder

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
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**Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606**

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the "Hope Line" is in operation 24 hours per day. Please call 860-754-4606 if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis, **PLEASE** dial the "Hope Line". All information will be confidential.

**CROSS STREET MINISTRY OF RECOVERY**  
***We can't but through God, all things are possible. How might we pull on God's strength to help each other recover?***

**Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way**

For more information contact:  
Church office 860-344-9527.or  
Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

<p><b>Sunday</b>  <b>8:45 a.m. Church School</b>  <b>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</b>                  2nd Sunday Senior Usher Board Meeting (following service)                  Youth Meeting 1st &amp; 4th Sunday's (following service)</p>	<p>bible study.  <b>Wednesday</b>                  6:00 p.m. Zumba                  6:00 p.m. Ministerial Staff (1st of month)</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b>                  10:00 a.m. Pastors Aide (2nd)                  11:00 a.m. Security Ministry Meeting (2nd Saturday of month)                  12:00 noon Missionaries (2nd Saturday of month)</p>
<p><b>Monday</b>                  6:00 p.m. Zumba                  7:00-9:00 p.m. Bible Study, Eddy Shelter                  7:00 Media Ministry (1st and 3rd of month)</p>	<p><b>Thursday</b>                  6:00 p.m. Steward Board                  7:00 p.m. Trustee Board (2nd of month)</p>	<p><b>Choir Rehearsals</b>                  Men - 7 p.m. Monday                  Women - Tuesday &amp; Friday before 5th Sunday                  Children - 7 p.m. Friday before 1st Sunday                  Unity - 7 p.m. Thursday                  Praise &amp; Worship Choir 7:00 pm Wednesday</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b>  <b>Special Prayer for Pastor Harvill</b>                  6:00—7:00 p.m. Prayer meeting and</p>	<p><b>Friday</b>  <b>Day of Fasting</b>                  6:00 p.m. Vision Choir (3rd &amp; 4th of month)                  6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Cross Street Recovery Ministry (room 2)</p>	

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

Sunday January 26, 2020  
**All women to meet with Pastor following morning worship**

Thursday, February 27, 2020  
 @ 5:30 p.m.  
**Community Conversation**

Tuesday, January 28,  
 @1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Community Conversation**  
 About key health and health related issues in Middlesex County and surrounding towns.  
 RSVP: catherine.rees@midhosp.org

@6:00 pm  
**Prayer**

@6:30 pm  
**Bible Study**

The Roman Road To Peace With God

Wednesday, January 29  
 @6:00 pm  
**Prayer Meeting**  
 On the Prayer Line and in the Sanctuary  
 Prayer Line number: (605) 313-4819  
 Code: 423861

@ 6:00 p.m.  
**2nd Quarterly Conference Meeting**

February, Saturday, February 1  
 @ 9:00 a.m.  
**Family Free Breakfast**  
 All are invited to attend!

Sunday, February 2,  
**P.U.S.H. for reaching the Mortgage Goal**  
 Requesting all members to give weekly or monthly for Mortgage Gifts.

Sunday, February 9  
**Welcome Ministry Craft Sale**

Saturday, February 22  
**Women's Prayer Breakfast**

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. It can be found on our website: [crossstreetamezion.org](http://crossstreetamezion.org) & in the front lobby. If you would like a PDF copy sent to you, Email your request to: [ken46@snet.net](mailto:ken46@snet.net). If you have an article or information (word count 1000 - 1500 or less) for current and future publications the deadline for this information is the Monday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each Month. **You may submit your information in the following ways:** place the information on a CD (Window format) and leave it in the Cross Street office, E-mail Ken Simmons ([Ken46@snet.net](mailto:Ken46@snet.net)), or give it to him. **Praise God!!!**



### 2020 VISON

## The Year of Expected “Miracles”

#### CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Organized in 1823

440 West Street P.O. Box 223  
Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-344-9527 Fax: 860-344-1740

crossstreetchurch@snet.net  
www.crossstreetamezion.org

**Sunday School — 8:45 a.m.**  
**Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.**

**Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,**  
Pastor

Email: mharvill@snet.net

**The Rev. Dr. Terry L. Jones**  
Presiding Elder

**Mrs. D. Diane Proctor**  
Missionary Supervisor

**The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor**  
Presiding Prelate

#### Ministerial Staff

- Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner
- Rev. William D. Wilson
- Rev. Ella Frances Perry
- Rev. Karen Nesmith
- Rev. James Battle
- Rev. Myrtle Turner
- Rev. Gregory Winborne
- Rev. Joyce Johnson
- Rev. Earlene Grants
- Sister Felicia Freeman



#### “I am a Christian”

By Maya Angelou

When I say ... “I am a Christian”  
I’m not shouting “I’m clean livin’.”  
I’m whispering “I was lost,  
Now I’m found and forgiven.”

When I say ... “I am a Christian”  
I don’t speak of this with pride.  
I’m confessing that I stumble  
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”  
I’m not trying to be strong.  
I’m professing that I’m weak  
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”  
I’m not bragging of success.  
I’m admitting I have failed  
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”  
I still feel the sting of pain.  
I have my share of heartaches  
So I call upon His name.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”  
I’m not holier than thou.  
I’m just a simple sinner  
Who received God’s good grace,  
somehow!

#### The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom  
come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is  
in heaven. Give us this day our daily  
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we  
forgive our debtors. And lead us not  
into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.



Then the Lord answered me and said:  
Write the vision and make it plain on  
tablets, that he may run who reads it.  
Habakkuk 2:2

#### The Jabez Prayer

And Jabez called on the God of Israel  
saying, “**Oh, that You would bless  
me indeed, and enlarge my territory,  
that Your hand would keep me from  
evil, that I may nor cause pain!**” “ So  
God granted him what he requested.  
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

#### “God’s Word

*For the word of God is quick, and power-  
ful, and sharper than any two-edged  
sword, piercing even to the dividing  
asunder of soul and spirit, and of the  
joints and marrow, and is a discerner of  
the thoughts and intents of the heart”  
Hebrews 4:12*

**Prayer:** Forever, O Lord, your Word is  
settled in heaven. I bless you because  
you have given me rest according to all  
that you have promised to me. Not one  
word of all your good promises has ever  
failed. In light of this truth, I will walk in  
your Word at all times.  
I love your Word, Father, it is a lamp  
unto my feet, and a light unto my path.  
All of your words are pure, O God, and  
you are a shield to me. Lord God, your

way is perfect, and your Word is tried.  
You are a shield and a mighty buckler to  
me as I trust in you.  
With your Word you made the heavens,  
O Lord. all of your promises are yes in  
Christ, unto your glory, O God. You  
have spoken through your Word since  
ancient times, in order to give light to  
those who sit in darkness, and you guide  
my feet in the way of peace.  
Your Word is quick, alive, and powerful,  
and sharper than any two-edged sword.  
It pierces even to the dividing asunder of  
my soul and spirit, and of my joints and  
marrow, and is a discerner of the  
thoughts and intents of my heart.  
Father, I am thankful for your Word, and  
I will endeavor to walk in the light of your  
Word all the days of my life.

**If you were to die today, do you know where you will spend eternity ???**

#### Doxology

*Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*  
Jude 24-25