

Faith Christian Center Connect

Volume 9

September 2008

Christians today are like the Israelites of old. Only our parasites are bad attitudes, unbelief, and cynicism. You see parasites take the nutrition out of our bodies and cause us to be sick.

Our bad attitudes, unbelief, and cynicism will cause our spiritual health to deteriorate. God is not bringing these negative things up in you to destroy you. He is revealing what is in your heart. If he can change your heart, he can change you, a family, a city, a culture, and perhaps mighty acts of God will be displayed in our lifetime.

Luke 6:45 (KJV) ⁴⁵A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

When we accept the negative in our life as the norm, we are trapped in Egypt (a type of bondage) and we can't really move forward and live the Zoë life. So God allows them to come up so we can hear them, repent, be cleansed and move forward.

After the bitter waters purged the Israelites, Moses threw his stick in the waters and the waters became sweet. The stick represents the cross. When we look through the cross at our circumstances, when we find the solutions to our dilemmas in the Bible, the trials of our faith become sweet and we grow in character.

This is pleasing to God and now we move forward having an understanding that God is on our side.

Romans 8:28 (KJV) ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Your understanding may be limited and your sight may be limited, but keep your focus on Jesus Christ. He is the way maker and when all seems lost, He proves himself time and again!

I hope you have the best September that you have ever had. May you walk in the refreshing power of Jesus Christ this month. Remember, you are blessed to be a blessing.

In Christ,
Pastor Chris Kirkendall

Victory and Trials (Part Two)



Well church, I can not believe that it is September already. The last four months of the year are here. I pray that God will bless you with Holy Ghost joy the rest of the year.

Last month I began to write about victory and trials. I shared with you the story from Exodus about the Israelites and them leaving bondage and walking three days

into the wilderness without water. I want to conclude this story this month.

God wants us to live a fulfilled life. God is a genius! He knows everyone of us inside and out. He knows exactly what we need when we need it. Trials in our life are not sent to overwhelm us, they are sent to teach us Christ-like character, and produce trust in us toward God.

*1 Peter 1:6 - 7 (KJV) ⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷**That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:***

Prosperity, Prosperity, Prosperity is the call among a lot of believers today. Prosperity without trials is a false assumption. Remember Abraham, Noah, Elijah, and Peter, all these guys were under immense pressure in their life time. Prosperity usually comes by getting through trials. Most service oriented companies exist because they fix things that are broken.

We have to be reminded that God orders the steps of the righteous. (When we are born again we become the righteousness of God is Christ Jesus.)

At a Glance

Sunday

Adult Sunday School	9:15am
Youth Sunday School	9:15am
Sunday Service	10:30am
Godly Parenting	5:30pm

Monday

Session 4 ISOM	6:30pm
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Wednesday

Wednesday Service	7:00pm
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Thursday

Prayer Meeting	7:00pm
2nd & 4th Thursdays	

Psalms 37:23 - 24 (KJV) ²³ The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. ²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

God is in control and he wants to bless you and give you the Zoë life.

In Exodus when the Israelites came to the waters of Marah, they were thirsty and tired. They wanted refreshing water, and rest. What they found was bitter waters. I can hear their thoughts. What did God do this for? What did I do to deserve this? You see our inherited fallen nature causes us to become selfish and turn our eyes toward our hurt, instead of being led by our born again nature and the Holy Spirit.

The Israelites didn't realize their bodies were diseased and full of parasites. God intended the bitter water (Calcium and magnesium i.e. milk of magnesium) to purge all the parasites out of the Israelites so they could be healthy.

In their selfishness, they could not see the blessing of God in their midst.

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Doing The Same Old Thing: In A Brand New Way!

Just a Note

Faith Christian Center Worship Department

Malachi 3:8-9 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings."

Are you a thief?

Now, I know most of the time we see this verse and we automatically think "Money", but I want us to think about this in another light: our worship.

Are we robbing the Lord? Meaning, when we are at church or in prayer, are our minds solely focused on the Lord? Are we giving Him all that He deserves?

A couple of weeks ago, I was tempted to be found guilty- no one could indict me or charge me with the crime- but I knew in my heart that I was guilty of not giving my absolute best to the Lord while at church. *gasp* (I'm just like you) Life was running me ragged- Finals, new baby, running and going and going some more- by the time Sunday rolled around- I was exhausted and mentally just not there. But as I have said in these newsletters time and time again - I had to make a choice: you have to make the choice daily to give the Lord your best.

I was watching a movie the other day about the days when Kings/Queens ruled over people and I noticed that before the people's requests could be heard and taken care of; they had to present the King with a gift. Just like that king, the Lord expects us to come with a gift before petitioning Him for our needs.

Exodus 23:15 "No one is to appear before me empty-handed.

When the servants came before the King, they gave their absolute best, EVEN IF, it wasn't that much of grandiose- they still gave their absolute best- Are we doing the same when we come before the Lord on Sundays and Wednesdays?

So before we can become "bodily before the throne of grace", we need to remember to honor the Lord not just with the first fruits of our labor (money) but with our worship.

Meaning that we don't come into the sanctuary at 10:43 on Sunday mornings and stand there looking at all the pretty people on stage. OR we come in on Wednesday nights and instead of worshipping the Lord and petitioning Him for

our needs, we stand in the back and "talk about prayer requests".

When we do those types of things, we are guilty of stealing from the Lord. We become robbers. And I know that is one thing I don't want to be guilty of!

When we bring our gift (our praise/worship) before the Lord, it opens up that doorway for him to work on our behalf and here our petitions and meet our needs. It gets us in the right mindset to hear from the Lord and to be obedient.

Psalms 96:8-9 "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; **bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.**"

Notice how Scripture states "bring an offering" and "Worship the Lord" in close proximity- They are one in the same.

There is a certain person in the Word that new this and applied it to her life and was radically changed: Who was it?

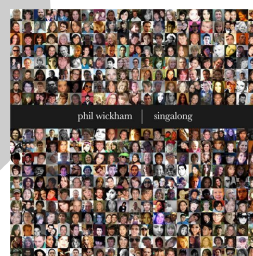
-Grab your Bible-

Look Up Luke 7:36-50

Making sure our offering is the highest quality, the best that we can give, our all is utmost important and like this woman- it can have dramatic affects on our life's course/ history.

So, are you a robber? or a Worshipper?

Justin Kirkendall
Worship Pastor



What Am I Listening to?
A Great Worship Artist: Phil Wickham

Head over to www.philwickham.com/singalong to download his newest project for free!

GOSSIP

School is back in and you have seen friends that you haven't seen over the summer. I'm sure you are making new friends as well and that is exciting. I really want to encourage you this year to make a commitment to stay out of gossip. A very smart person in my life once told me that when you gossip you are ultimately trying to change another person's opinion about someone else. At one point in my life, I really didn't think that repeating a hurtful story about someone if it was true could be gossip, but I was wrong. It does not matter who is gossiping about whom, but it is sure to disturb a relationship: and that is not usually fun for anyone. I really want us to think about the things that we speak and focus on God. The tongue has the power of life and death, Proverbs 18:21

Slander – is fun, but not if you are on the receiving end!

Gossip – is fun, but only if you are not being gossiped about!

Tittle-tattle – is fun, but not if you are being talked about!

These are a few things that happen when the mouth just opens up and those words spill out, sometimes with no control.

- Excessive talking and pointless words
- gossiping
- Lies
- Flattery

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. (Proverbs 10:19) Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin. (Proverbs 10:14) Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. (Matthew 5:37)

The tongue is a dangerous weapon because:

- We disturb/hurt others with the things we say
- We affirm ourselves and others negatively (words are powerful, God spoke and it was so...)
- We cannot undo the damage caused. Gossip is so easy to get caught up in!

Pay attention to the Holy Spirit when you are in a conversation. The Holy Spirit will tell you when to exit the conversation and when to put a lid on our mouth. I hope you are excited about this school year and what God will use you for in your school. Be sure to come on Wednesdays and Sundays. We have been talking about HOW TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS! Don't miss it!



**God Bless,
Jamie Cullen**

Olympians

If you are anything like me, you probably watched a lot of the Olympics this last month. We often think of the Olympic athletes as representing the best of the best. When we look for a stand out for the best of the best, we need look no further than Michael Phelps. He won an unprecedented 8 gold metals in one Olympics. Did this come easy? I don't think so. Did he just start practicing last month? No, it was a life style change. No one can commit to being an Olympian without expecting a life change. Did Michael start out as a champion? No, he started swimming at age 7 to do something with the energy he had because of his ADHD. He started excelling and then was able to focus on getting better. I thought ADHD kept people from focusing.

Fast forward to the Olympian champion today. Michael consumes a 12,000 calorie a day diet and spends 5 hours a day, 6 days a week in a pool training. Think how much training that is. He eats about 5-6 times the calories of a normal person and doesn't get fat.

Now lets look at the "dream" team (USA's basketball team). The "dream" team was made up of the NBA's best from the USA. They won the gold the first time they played in the Olympics. The "dream" team became complacent, while the other countries "upped their game. Even with all the talent they started out with, they couldn't win unless they made a life change. The "dream" team became a defeat team. For the 2008 Olympics, team USA wanted to make a change, a life change, a commitment.

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