

Friday, October 1, 2010

Pastor Appreciation

Receiving Your Pastor as a Gift

Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.... **11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

God placed the office of the pastor in the church to care for His people. Pastors have a shepherding responsibility that includes feeding you with the Word of God, watching for your souls, leading you "beside the still waters", "edifying and equipping" you to do the work of ministry. God called pastors to be His servants as gifts to the church.

The Pastor's Ministry includes being:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Called and Separated by God | 1 Tim 1:12 |
| 2. An Intercessor (Prayer) | Col 1:19 |
| 3. An Under shepherd - Watch for Your Souls | Heb 13:17 |
| 4. A Feeder of Knowledge and Understanding | 1 Pet 5:2 |
| 5. A Visionary President and CEO | Heb 13:7 |
| 6. An Example Unto the Congregation | 1 Peter 5:3 |
| 7. A Protector of the Congregation | Acts 20:28 |

Prayer Focus: Father I thank you for giving me a pastor to feed me your Word and to care for my soul.

Verse of the Day: Jeremiah 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Living the Word Today: Write a card or note of thanks to your pastor. Express how his or her ministry has been a blessing to you and your family. Take it to church on Sunday and present it to your pastor. Please follow the procedures of your church.

Saturday, October 2, 2010

Pastor Appreciation

Why You Should Pray for Your Pastor

1 Thess 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.

The pressures of the pastoral ministry are immense. You should pray for the person speaking into your life on a consistent basis. Take the time to purposely pray and intercede on behalf of your pastor and his or her family.

10 Reasons to Pray for Your Pastor:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. People are needed to carry out God's Mandates | Matt 9:30 |
| 2. Must give account for the souls of the sheepfold | Heb 13:7 |
| 3. Costly Assignment With Limited Resources | Phil 4:12 |
| 4. Pastors Often Serve Sacrificially | 1 Thess 2:9 |
| 5. Pastors Often Experience Loneliness in a Crowd | 2 Tim 4:16 |
| 6. Pastor and their family Held to a Higher Standard | 1 Pet 5:1-3 |
| 7. High Stress Job | 2 Cor 11:28 |
| 8. The Word of God May Have Free Course | 2 Thess 3:1 |
| 9. Deliverance from Evil Men | 2 Thess 3:2 |
| 10. That You Might Be Blessed | Phil 4:17 |

Prayer Focus: Father, I ask your blessings upon my pastor.

Verse of the Day: Eph 6:18-19 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Living the Word Today: Use the points and scriptures above to pray for your pastor today.

Sunday, October 3, 2010

Pastor Appreciation

Monday, October 4, 2010

Victorious Christian Living

Why You Should Celebrate Pastor's Appreciation

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Pastors, like everyone else, need to feel appreciated and encouraged in their ministry. Your appreciation helps ease the stress of the demands of ministry. Your support energizes your pastor to carry out the various ministries of the church.

According to the New York Times (August 1, 2010) "Members of the clergy now suffer from obesity, hypertension and depression at rates higher than most Americans. In the last decade, their use of antidepressants has risen, while their life expectancy has fallen. Many would change jobs if they could."

Reasons to Have Pastor Appreciation Celebration:

1. Encourage the Heart of the Pastor - Revitalize
2. Organize the Efforts of Individuals - Unity
3. Communicate – Express Your Love
4. To Have a Fun and Relaxed Time With Your Pastor
5. Inspire and Provoke Others to Appreciate the Pastor

Prayer Focus: Father, help me as an individual, and as a church family, to express our love and appreciation for our pastor.

Verse of the Day: 1 Thess 5:13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Living the Word Today: Get involved with Pastors Appreciation Celebration at your church.

Overcoming the Pressures of Life

James 1:12-15 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Each day we are challenged relative to our faith in God, love for people, our stand on convictions, and the integrity of our heart. Festivities, emotional extremes, physical changes (especially hormonal), financial hardships, health challenges, deferred hope, etc. pressure us to compromise.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

How Do We Overcome the Pressure to Compromise?

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Trust God | Ps 91:2 |
| 2. Keep Walking By Faith | 2 Cor 5:7 |
| 3. Don't Draw Back | Heb 10:38 |
| 4. Get Out of Compromising Situations | 2 Cor 6:17 |
| 5. Set Your Standard before Pressure Comes | Dan 6:10 |
| 6. Don't Count Your Life Dear Unto Your Self | Rev 12:11 |
| 7. Pray Without Ceasing | 1 Thess 5:17 |

Prayer Focus: Father I ask you to keep me in all my ways. I trust you for the keeping of my soul.

Verse of the Day: Jude 24 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

Living the Word Today: Purpose not to compromise. Resist the temptation.

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

Victorious Christian Living

Victory Assured

2 Cor 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Victory is assured if you will continue in the things of God. God "always causes us to triumph" through Jesus Christ. Don't give up - "Fight the good fight of faith". Don't quit - "Keep walking by faith". Your outcome shall always be victory! Shout about it now!

James 1:2, 3 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Isa 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

Prayer Focus: Father, I ask you for manifested victory in every area of life. Grant me the wisdom and the strength to face the challenges that are before me.

Verse of the Day: 1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. **James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Living the Word Today: Praise God for the victory without regard to the appearance of things.

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Victorious Christian Living

Having a Warrior Mentality

2 Tim 2:3-5 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

Christians must face the reality of spiritual warfare. We have an "adversary the devil that goes around seeking whom he may devour." He knows he is on his way to hell and wants to take as many as possible with him. (Rev 12:12)

A short definition of spiritual warfare - The attack of the devil and his angels (demons) upon believers to prevent them from living a victorious, fruitful Christian life. (Eph 6:12)

We are armed with mighty spiritual weapons. We can use them to pull down the strong holds of the devil. King Jehoshaphat used praise to confuse and defeat the enemy. Joshua marched in faith and shouted with the voice of triumph and the walls came down. David faced Goliath in faith with only a sling shot and defeated the giant. We are armed with faith, the name of Jesus, prayer, and the power of words. ...*The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.* (**2 Cor 10:4**)

Prayer Focus: Father I ask and thank you for victory in every area of my life.

Verse of the Day: 1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Living the Word Today: Face every battle in faith. Praise God for victory! Rejoice.

Thursday, October 7, 2010

Victorious Christian Living

Help in the Midst of the Storm

Matt 14:25-31 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

When the storms of life come, remember, Jesus has promised to never leave you nor forsake you. He is your peace in the midst of the storm; your joy in times of sorrow, your hope in despair and your strength in weakness. You are not alone.

Call upon the name of the Lord and you shall be saved. You don't wait until you are drowning before you call for help. Like Peter, cry out: "Lord save me". The Lord is a present help in the time of trouble. 'O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to the Lord in prayer".

Prayer Focus: Lord save me from this present distress.

Verse of the Day: Ps 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

Living the Word Today: Call upon the Lord. Go and pray and He will answer you. Seek the Lord and you will find Him.

Friday, October 8, 2010

Pastor Appreciation

How to Show Appreciation Toward Your Pastor

1 Thess 5:12- 13 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Appreciate; 1. to be grateful or thankful for; 2. to value or regard highly; place a high estimate on; 3. to raise in value. Esteem is a synonym of appreciate.

Show Your Appreciation for your pastor by:

1. Receiving the Message and the Messenger Mark 9:37
2. Be a Good Faithful Church Member 2 Tim 2:2
 - Attendance
 - Prayer
 - Tithes and Offerings
 - Service
3. Communicate Your Appreciation Gal 6:6
4. Celebrate Special Days Rom 12:15
 - Anniversary
 - Clergy Appreciation
 - Birthday
4. Invite Others to Experience His/Her Ministry John 4:29
5. Give Gifts and Offerings of Appreciation 1 Tim 5:17
6. Always Speak Favorably of Your Pastor Col 4:6
7. Pray for Your Pastor 2 Thess 3:1-2

Prayer Focus: Father, I appreciate the pastor that you have placed in my life. Thank you for my pastor.

Verse of the Day: 1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Living the Word Today: Express your appreciation for your pastor.

Saturday, October 9, 2010

Perseverance

Purpose to Endure Unto the End

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

The race is not given to the swift or unto the strong but rather unto the one that endures to the end. Quitting should not be an option for you as a Christian. Never let the devil run you off your post. We are led by the Spirit, not forced by pressure. "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. *"For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man drawback, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."* **(Heb 10:36-39)**

Matt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

2 Tim 4:7- 8 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Prayer Focus: Father I ask you for strength for the journey I face. I thank you for the victories of the past.

Verse of the Day: Phil 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Living the Word Today: Purpose: "I won't give up on God".

Sunday, October 10, 2010

Perseverance

Keys to Winning

2 Cor 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

God has provided in His Word keys for our victory. Victorious Christian living is within the reach of every believer. Yet, victory is not automatic. We must apply the principles or keys in God's Word to experience total victory: Here are some keys to victory:

1. Pray Without Ceasing Luke 18:1
2. Feed on the Word of God - The True Breakfast of Champions Matt 4:4
3. Stand and Face the Test - Face the Giants Eph 6:14
4. Rejoice Phil 4:4
5. Encourage Yourself 1 Sam 30:6
6. Keep Confessing the Promises 2 Cor 1:20
7. Fight Through 1 Tim 6:12
8. Surround Yourself With Faith Acts 4:23
9. Look Unto Jesus The Author and Finisher of Your Faith Heb 12:2
10. Shout the Victory! Ps 47:1

Prayer Focus: Father, I ask you for a victorious life that glorifies you.

Verse of the Day: 1 John 5:4"... this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Living the Word Today: Walk the winner's walk. Talk the winner's talk. Be confident in the Lord.

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 Having a Passion for God

Having a Passion for God Pt 2

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Jesus gave us God's requirement - total devotion. God wants our lives to be completely His. Our heart - spirit, inner being - should be filled with love for God. We should love God consciously with our mind and thought life. We should love God with our bodies by honoring Him in lifestyle and service. God expects us to love Him with our whole being. When we have a passion for God, we give Him our everything: our souls, our lives, and our all. Passion means Jesus is your first love.

This kind of passion comes from knowing God, understanding of who He is, recognizing what He has done for us, and the reality of His great passionate love for us. This is revealed to us by His spirit as we spend time in prayer. *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ." (1 Cor 2:9-10)*

Prayer Focus: Father with my whole being, I love you. You are first in my life.

Verse of the Day: Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Living the Word Today: Worship the Lord expressing your love for Him. Give God thanks for His love.

Thursday, October 14, 2010 Having a Passion for God

A Passion for the Word of God.

Ps 119:127-128 Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

A passion for the Word of God gives us the diligence to study His Word, the heart to receive the Word and strength to live out the Word of God. We develop that passion for the Word by receiving the Word as taught by your man or woman of God, meditating in the Word "day and night" and by purposing to living out the Word in your life daily.

Ps 119:127 Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Ps 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Jer 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

Prayer Focus: Father let your Word come alive in me today.

Verse of the Day: Ps 119:140 Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

Living the Word Today: Hide God's Word in your heart. Receive from the teaching ministry of your church, read God's Word, Study God's Word, listen to messages via CD or other media.

Friday, October 15, 2010

Pastor Appreciation

Reasons You Need a Pastor

Ephesians 4:10-13 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

God is the one who assigned the pastoral ministry in the local church. This assignment was not for the benefit of the assigned minister but rather for the benefit of the congregation. The Word of God compares us with sheep. Sheep need the watchful eye of a caring shepherd. Christians need a loving and caring pastor.

1. Spiritual Covering -Pastors Watch for Your Soul Heb 13:17
2. Leadership - Pastors are Examples to the Flock 1 Peter 5:3
3. To Teach You the Word of God- Pastors Feed Jer 3:15
4. To Grow You Up in the Things of God Eph 4:13-14
5. So You Won't Be A Vagabond (homeless) Christian Acts 2:47

Prayer Focus: Father I thank you for giving me a pastor after your own heart. I receive the pastoral gift you have given me.

Verse of the Day: Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Living the Word Today: Think about the role of your pastor in your life. Purpose to receive the full benefits of the pastoral ministry.

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Having a Passion for God

A Passion for Souls

Ps 142:4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

We should have an enthusiastic desire to see souls won into the Kingdom of God. The church cannot afford to be passive about soul winning but rather should be passionate. This passion starts in the heart of the individual. One brother heard a similar message and brought fifty guests to church with him the next week.

This passion is born in the hearts of those that have the absolute assurance of their own salvation, those who are living a separated and consistent Christian life and are filled with the spirit of God. Prayer for the lost fuels the passion for souls.

Soul-winning becomes a priority in our lives when we have a passion for souls. Tears of compassion often accompany efforts to win the lost. A passion for souls means we lay down our lives and take up the cross as we follow Jesus and minister to the desperate needs of others. Passionate soul winners are deeply moved by the possibility of people leaving earth without knowing Christ and spending eternity in hell.

Prayer Focus: Father, I ask for a heart of compassion for souls.

Verse of the Day: Matt 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Living the Word Today: Make a list of those that you are praying for. Start interceding for them on a daily basis. Stand in the gap on their behalf. Remember, somebody prayed for you. Look for opportunities to share the Gospel with them.

Sunday, October 17, 2010

Evangelism

Keys to Evangelizing in Your Circle of Influence Part 1

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1. Perfecting Holiness - Morally Clean

1 Peter 1:15, 16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

- A. Be living Stones
- B. A Lifestyle That Attracts Others to Christ
- C. A Lifestyle Based On Convictions is Convicting

2. Living Epistles to Be Read of Men - Christ-Like Lifestyle

2 Cor 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: 3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

- A. Strive to Be A Godly Example
- B. Be an Example of Faith
- C. Bridle the Tongue

3. Keep Yourself Unspotted from the World- Be an Example

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Prayer Focus: Lord may my life be a testimony unto those in my circle of influence. May they see the Christ in me.

Verse of the Day: John 1:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Living the Word Today: Let Christ shine through your life.

Monday, October 18, 2010

Evangelism

Keys to Evangelizing in Your Circle of Influence Part 2

1 Tim 6:17-19 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

A. Be a Blessing to Those Afflicted

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

B. Protect Your Testimony

Rom 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

C. Be Rich In Good Works

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Prayer Focus: Father, may my works serve as a testimony unto others. May my efforts result in souls won for the kingdom.

Verse of the Day: Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Living the Word Today: Serve the Lord with gladness.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Evangelism

Keys to Evangelizing in Your Circle of Influence Part 3

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Provoke Others to Good Works

Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

A Lifestyle of Good Works Brings Glory to God

1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Our Works Shall Be Judged By What Is Written In the Books

Rev 20:12-15 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Prayer Focus: Father, let my life be a Christian influence within my sphere of influence. Save them Father. Open doors that I may share the salvation message with them.

Verse of the Day: Jude 23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Living the Word Today: Share Jesus with those in your circle of influence. Invite them to church or a Christian event with you.

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Evangelism

Taking Your City for God

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Today, as in biblical days, we find our cities in a state of ruin with spiritual and moral decay. Joshua waged spiritual battle on the city. Nehemiah rebuilt the infrastructure of the city as Ezra the priest brought spiritual revival. Jeremiah wept and lamented over the city. Both men took their city for God. What about our cities? We are the light of the world, the salt of the earth. We have been charged to occupy until He comes. Don't give up on your city. Take you city back for God.

- 1. Pray for your City**
- 2. Confront the Spiritual Strongholds in Your City**
- 3. Ask God for Wisdom to Reach Your City**
- 4. Fight the Good Fight of Faith for your City**
- 5. Speak Life Over Your City**
- 6. Minister to the Social Needs of Your City**
- 7. Have Christian Involvement in the Government of Your City**

Prayer Focus: Lord, save my city.

Verse of the Day: Prov 11:11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

Living the Word Today: Take a prayer journey around your city.

Thursday, October 21, 2010

Church Life

Connecting With Your Pastor

Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

God is the one that set pastors in the church. He set them there to feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jesus is Lord and is the Good Shepherd. Pastors are "under shepherds" that must be accountable to the Great Shepherd. Jesus is the Lord of your life. Pastors speak God's Word into your life. Make the member-pastor connection to take full advantage of the pastoral gift by:

1. Keeping Your Relationship Spiritual

2 Cor 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

2. Trusting the Lord to Magnify Your Pastor in Your Sight

Josh 4:14 On that day the LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life.

3. Praying for Your Pastor

1 Sam 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

Prayer Focus: Father, help me connect with my Pastor

Verse of the Day: **1 Cor 11:1** Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Living the Word Today: Purpose to connect with your Pastor

Friday, October 22, 2010

Church Life

Connecting With Your Pastor Pt. 2

Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

The relationship between you and your pastor is critical to your walk with the Lord. The Lord is the one that saves you. Pastors teach you how to live the saved life while being a godly example. God's Word transforms lives, pastors are charged to preach the Word of God. Connect with your pastor.

1. Pastors are to Be A Godly Example at All Times

1 Peter 5:1-3 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

2. Pastors are Charged to Preach the Word

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Prayer Focus: Father, strengthen my relationship with you and my relationship with my pastor.

Verse of the Day: **1 Cor 4:15-16** For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Living the Word Today: Make the connection spiritually through prayer.

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Letting Go of the Past

Don't Leave Your Heart in Egypt

Num 14:2-4 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

One of the mistakes the Israelites made was leaving their hearts in Egypt after they were delivered. They quickly forgot the past bondage of Egypt and began to long for the old life. When they forgot that the Lord delivered them, they began to murmur against their leader Moses. The end result was, that generation never made it to the Promised Land.

Christians can miss the fullness of God's blessings today by leaving their heart in their "Egypt" (the old life). We must access where our hearts are today. Is my heart still tied to the past? Am I still trying to rekindle the flames of the past? Do I long for what use to be? Do I compare my present unfavorably with my past? Any "yes" answer indicates your heart is still in your Egypt. Any "yes" is holding you back from your "promised land".

Let the old life go. You are now a new creature in Christ. Repent of, and depart from the iniquity of the past. Let go of the old life and old crowd so that you don't abort God's plan for your future. Get your heart out of "Egypt".

Prayer Focus: Father, I let go of the past so that you may take me to the future you planned for me.

Verse of the Day: Heb 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Living the Word Today: Let go of the past. Focus on the future.

Sunday, October 24, 2010

Letting Go of the Past

Forgetting Those Things Which are Behind

Gen 19:15-18 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

No Looking Back! You cannot go with your future while holding on to your past. Lot's wife looked back with a longing for the past. Quit meditating on old habits, lifestyles, or relationships. Looking back while driving a car can be deadly, likewise looking back trying to live as a Christian can destroy your spiritual life.

Luke 17:32-33 Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

Phil 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Prayer Focus: Lord, deliver me from the pull of the past, the influences of the past, and the pains of the past.

Verse of the Day: Isa 43:18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

Living the Word Today: Move on from the darkness of the past to the brightness of the future.

Monday, October 25, 2010

Spiritual Inventory

No More Hiding

Gen 3:10-13 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Adam tried to hide from God in the trees. Jonah tried to hide by going to Tarshish. People try to hide from God due to sin, disobedience to the calling, and fear of commitment. However, there is nowhere to hide.

People try to hide behind titles that serve as substitutes for commitment, work that substitute for answering a calling, and relationships that substitute for God's presence. Possessions hide the misery felt due to being out of the will of God. Drugs and alcohol mask the anguish of the soul.

Today is a day to come out from hiding. Consecrate your life unto the Lord. Get beyond the fear, the guilt, the busyness, the pride, the hurts, the lack, etc. No more hiding. Here am I Lord.

Prayer Focus: Father, I am through hiding. Here am I. I stand as an open book before you. I commit to you and to your will for my life.

Verse of the Day: Jer 23:23 Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? 24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.

Living the Word Today: Take a spiritual inventory and ask yourself the question: Have I been hiding and offering God substitutes? Have I offered brass instead of gold? Make the commitment: "No more hiding."

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Spiritual Inventory

Where Are You?

Gen 3:6-9 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

God asked, "Where are you?" that Adam and Eve might locate themselves in relation to Him. He knew where they were and what they had done. Likewise today we need to locate ourselves in relation to God. His Word helps us locate ourselves. Where are you? God is looking for those that will stand in the gap and make up the hedge. God is looking for those that will do their work here on earth. God is looking for those that will humble themselves in prayer and seek His face.

Here Am I Lord!

Isa 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. The eyes of the Lord are Looking Through Out the Earth

Prayer Focus: Father, I present myself before you. Use me as you would. I am yours Lord.

Verse of the Day: Col 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Living the Word Today: No running from God, no hiding

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Christian Living

Seated in Heavenly Places

Eph 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Geographically and physically, the Christian is now on earth. Yet the Bible says we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Spiritually and authoritatively we are seated in heavenly places in Christ. Our lives are hid in Christ. In Him we live and move and have our being.

Spiritually, Christians have been born of the spirit and made citizens of Heaven. Authoritatively, we are far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion. (Eph 1:21) Therefore, we should be heavenly minded, spirit led, and kingdom motivated as we live by dominion principles.

Jesus Christ gives you new life. In Christ, Christians are brand new creations whose lives are hid in Christ. As a result you are in the family of God and a citizen of heaven.

2 Cor 5:19-20 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Prayer Focus: Thank you Lord for making me sit in heavenly places in Christ.

Verse of the Day: Phil 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Living the Word Today: Live as a citizen of Heaven that's on earth as an ambassador for Christ.

Thursday, October 28, 2010

Christian Living

Expect the Miraculous

Matt 21:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Scripture tells us that we have not because we ask not. Ask, the Word says, and you shall receive. Faith in God makes us bold to ask for the desires of our hearts. We are blessed to have a heavenly Father that cares for us and wants to bless us. Our God is a miraculous God and nothing is too hard for Him. Ask, expecting to receive.

Ask With The Following Biblical Truths In Mind:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. God Is Not A Respector Of Person | Acts 10:34 |
| 2. God Wants To Bless You With Good Things. | Ps 84:11 |
| 3. Your Father Is Pleased To Give You The Kingdom | Luke 12:32 |
| 4. He That Gave His Son Will Give You All Things | Rom 8:32 |
| 5. God Richly Gives You All Things To Enjoy | 1 Tim 6:17 |
| 6. Jesus Said "ASK" And You Shall Receive | 1 John 5:14 |
| 7. You Shall Have What You Say | Mark 11:23 |

Prayer Focus: Father stretch forth your hand and cause miracles to be done in the name of your son Jesus.

Verse of the Day: John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Living the Word Today: Ask God for the miraculous expecting; boldly speak the Word of God and lay hands on the sick expecting them to recover. Expect miracles.

Friday, October 29, 2010

Happy Birthday Pastor Corbett

Youth Renewed Like the Eagle's

Ps 103:5 ...so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Eagles are known to go through a process known as molting, so they can be renewed. In this process they pluck out old feathers, file away broken beaks and claws. They become weak and helpless when they are waiting for the renewal or healing. They have to survive this process so that their strength will be renewed to their youthful level or above.

Ps 118:24 "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we[I] will rejoice and be glad in it." Today, I celebrate my 58th birthday. I have experienced the wears and tears of life. However, the Lord has renewed my youth. I believe He will continue to renew my youth. I believe this is a benefit of serving the Lord. I thank Him for keeping me through the years. I give God thanks for health and strength. My best is yet to come. My strength is renewed.

Prayer Focus: Father, I thank you for renewing my youth like that of an eagle. Thank you for divine health.

Verse of the Day: Isa 40:29-31 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Living the Word Today: Join me in faith as I boldly confess my youth is renewed. I will not use age as an excuse. I resist the negative effects of aging.

Saturday, October 30, 2010

Church Life

God Set Some in the Church - For His Purpose

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Christians need church. Church attendance and membership is a part of God's plan for your life. Church life is fundamental to the faithful Christian life. His Word explicitly warns not to forsake 'our assembling together'. Going to church alone does not save us. However we cannot fulfill what it means to be a Christian (saved) apart from the church. We learn how to live out the Christian life in church. Therefore, church membership is a vital part of living the saved life.

11 Reasons to abide in your set place

Church is your feeding station	Jer 3:15
Church is a place of training for service	Ex 18:19-20
Church is a base for your work of ministry	Act 13:1-3
Church is a house of worship	John 4:24
Church provides spiritual strength	Rom 10:17
Church invites the Lord's presence	Ps 22:3, Matt 18:20
Church provides needed Christian fellowship	1 John 1:7
Church membership is God's plan	Acts 2:47, Heb 10:24
Church membership gives spiritual protection	Heb 13:17
Church unity gives us spiritual strength	2 Cor 4:13
Church membership witnesses of your relationship with God	

Today's Prayer Focus - Father, I ask your blessing upon my church. Help me to be a blessing to my church. Thank you for setting me in the church; blessing and growing me up through the church.

Verse of the Day: Ps 92:13-14 Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

Living the Word Today: Prepare today for church tomorrow. Gather as many friends and relatives as you can to go to church with you.

Sunday, October 31, 2010

Church Life

No Weapon

Isa 54:17 NO weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

The weapons of the enemy shall be rendered ineffective in the lives of "believing believers." The weapons of the enemy maybe formed; however, the good news is those weapons will be unsuccessful against us as believers that are serving the Lord.

Jesus has defeated the devil and has given us the victory. Jesus spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. **(Col 2:15)** He said, *"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Rev 1:18) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.)"* **(Matt 16:19)**

Today's Prayer Focus: Father I thank you for protecting me. Thanks for posting protective angels around me. I thank you that the Greater One lives big in me.

Verse of the Day: Heb 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Living the Word Today: Read Eph 6:10-18 and consciously put on each garment of the whole amour of God. Boldly confess victory is mine!