

# GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, **No.36, September 4**, 2012 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."** (2 Peter 3:18)

**LET'S MAKE A SYMPHONY TOGETHER— So that the Holy Spirit is UNGRIEVED, UNQUENCHED and UNLEASHED!** (Eph. 4:29-32; Ps. 133:1-3; Matt. 18:19)

"Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (**harmonize together, make a symphony together**) about whatever [anything and everything] they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19, Amplified)

## I. The Church began as a 'Symphony!'

**1.** Acts 1:13-15/Acts 2:1-4    **2.** Acts 2:41-47a/Acts 2:47b    **3.** Acts 4:19-24/Acts 4:31  
**4.** Acts 4:31/Acts 4:33-37    **5.** Acts 5:12/Acts 5:14-16

**Note:** In each of the above **five 'sets' of Scriptures**, there are powerful demonstrations of the early Church **gathered in unity** in the first Scripture, followed by **the powerful results** in the second Scripture of each set. Truly, when God's people dwell together in spiritual UNITY around JESUS CHRIST— GOD COMMANDS BLESSINGS! (Psalm 133)

**REALITY:** When we are walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-24) and not in the flesh (Gal. 5:19-22); and when we are walking in the love of God (1 Cor. 13) — **The Holy Spirit is UNGRIEVED, UNQUENCHED and UNLEASHED in Christian homes and churches!**

## II. WHAT are the SECRETS to be able to burst forth with GLORIOUS SYMPHONIC MANIFESTATIONS of GOD'S BLESSINGS?

**1.** The Early Church believers were **bound together because** they were truly 'born again'! Their sins were forgiven. They loved Jesus. Jesus was not a mere historical

figure. Jesus was their Lord. They ‘Symphonized’ around the person, the reality of Jesus. They had been **INVADED** by the God of the universe, by His Holy Spirit.

**Critical Alert:** Genesis 3 reveals that with sin comes shame, selfishness, self-centeredness, and separateness— all of these tendencies corrupt unity in marriages, families and churches. Because of sin we all have a tendency to withdraw from others, to be separate, to concentrate on our own needs, to live for ourselves, and when there are problems— blame others!

Sometimes, a group of believers may be having wonderful fellowship— but they have ‘closed the shades’ as to ministry to other believers or to the lost. The New Testament model is that of believers being (1) **BOUND TOGETHER around Jesus**, (2) **caring for ‘one another’** [The Epistles exhort churches to ‘one another’ ministries over 40 times!] **and (3) ON MISSION with Jesus** for a lost world! (Acts 4:23-31)

**REALITY:** JESUS HIMSELF WAS and STILL IS **THE GREAT ATTRACTION/DRAWING CARD/BONDING FACTOR** OF GENUINE NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY; **and when a sinner is saved, the Holy Spirit BAPTISES that one INTO the Body of a local assembly of believers to live in unity with the members of that body. (1 Cor. 12:1-31)** ONE OF THE GRAND WAYS THAT UNITY IS REVEALED IS IN THE UNITY OF FELLOWSHP IN THE GOSPEL and in the advance of the gospel! (Acts 4:23-31; Phil. 1:4-5; 1:27)

**2. The Early Church believers were rejected by society but by the Holy Spirit they were immersed/baptized into local congregations of fellow believers.** Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Coming to the LORD’S TABLE, Ministry one to another, and witnessing to the lost were [and still are!] all the results of being made alive in Christ and baptized by the Holy Spirit into local congregations. (Acts 2; 1 Cor. 12-13) No one had to beg or bribe them! **AS a congregation— in which of the above 6 activities are we weak and/or lacking?**

**3. The Early Christians literally EMBRACED the teachings of Jesus!** They were also looking for Second Coming of Jesus! They were united in a passion to tell others about JESUS! AND the Early Christians were conscious of having been saved from ULTIMATE DISASTER— the eternal wrath of Holy God! Moreover, the Holy Spirit rather quickly got **LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES—** to give specific instructions for us as **CONGREGATIONS!**

**QUESTION:** When is the last time you, as an individual member of the assembly called Southside, have read one or more of the Epistles and asked yourself: ***“O Holy Spirit, what are the applications to US as a congregation?”*** When was the last time any of us were in a Bible Study and our passion was, ***“O Holy Spirit, what are the applications to US as a congregation?”***

**BOTTOM LINE: In New Testament Christianity being rightly related to Jesus overflows into right relationships one with another! And Jesus says that it is by this method, (by this reality of LOVING ONE ANOTHER because of being loved by Jesus), that all men shall know that we are truly His disciples! (John 13:34-35)**

**Reality:** If we are POORLY related to one another in our families and with saints in the local assembly to which God has joined us— it is because we are poorly related to Jesus!

**Special Note:** Just ONE person in a home or even just one person in a church can be POWERFULLY EFFECTIVE as an unquenched, ungrieved source for the BLESSED SYMPHONY OF HOLY SPIRIT FRUIT as they, as you model walking in the steps of Jesus!

### **III. The Creator of the Church as a Symphony was/is the Holy Spirit!**

“Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of **[and produced by] the Spirit** in the binding power of peace.” (Eph. 4:3)

When a person is genuinely saved, they become the temple/the dwelling place/the home of the Holy Spirit! Indeed, they are FLOODED with the love of God, by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5) They are forgiven of all sin. Sin and satan’s dominating power are broken. They are supernaturally empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit. They are supernaturally joined into Christ and joined into a local assembly of saints. (1 Cor. 12)

**Forgiven, they/we become forgivers. Loved, they/we become those who love.**

Baptized by the Holy Spirit INTO the body of Christ and placed by the Holy Spirit into a specific, local expression of the Body of Christ— they/we are all zealous that the body have NO SCHISM!

***<sup>18</sup> But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. <sup>19</sup> And if they were all one member, where were the body?***

***<sup>20</sup> But now are they many members, yet but one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.***

***<sup>22</sup> Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: <sup>23</sup> And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. <sup>24</sup> For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.***

***<sup>25</sup> That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. <sup>26</sup> And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. <sup>27</sup> Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.***

ALL THIS AND MORE IS THE CREATION OF GOD IN ALL OF HIS REDEEMED CHILDREN BY THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

**Bottom line: There is an AUTOMATIC, fundamental and foundational UNITY among all who are truly saved by grace alone through faith in Christ alone.**

#### **IV. What is the Christian's Responsibility in the Matter of Unity, Harmony, or Spiritual Symphony?**

**"Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep** the harmony and oneness of [and produced by] the Spirit in the binding power of peace." (Eph. 4:3)

**(1)** Holy Spirit produced HARMONY/SYMPHONY can be seriously CRUSHED— or else we would not be exhorted to guard it!

**(2)** Holy Spirit HARMONY/SYMPHONY can only be kept by EFFORT— thus, we must be eager and earnestly guarding/keeping the harmony produced by the Holy Spirit.

**(3)** THE SYMPHONY of the Christian Church and Christian home has ENEMIES!

#### **V. ENEMIES DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE SYMPHONY**

**1. BACKBITING—** (Prov. 25:23; Rom. 1:30; Psalm 15:1-3) Speaking negatively against another when they are not present.

**2. SLANDER—** (Prov. 10:18; Numbers 14:34-37) Vines Dictionary of New Testament Words defines the slanderer as "one who is **given to fault-finding** with the demeanor and conduct of others, sending their innuendo and criticism throughout the church."

**It is the same word that is often used of satan in his role as the accuser of the brethren.** In Numbers 14, spies were sent to check out the promise land. TEN of them came back with a slanderous report and infected the whole nation of Israel.

**Countless homes, churches, mission organizations and Christian ministries are paralyzed by slanderous, murmuring, DEMONIC spirits of discontent.**

**3. WHISPERING—** (Psalm 64:1-4; Prov. 16:28) O the power of the whisperer to separate even the closest of friends, by evil reports whispered behind another's back!

**4. GOSSIP—** (Psalm 41:5-9) “I am more deadly than the screaming shell from a cannon. I tear down homes, break hearts and wreck lives. I travel on the wings of the wind. No innocence is strong enough to intimidate me. No purity is pure enough to daunt me. I have no regard for truth, no respect for justice and no mercy for the defenseless. My victims are as numerous as the sands of the sea. I never forget. I don’t forgive. **My name is GOSSIP!**” (Author unknown)

**5. DISCORD—** (Prov. 6:16-19) Those who ‘sow discord’— they go around ‘secretly’ dropping words and attitudes of unbelief, gossip, slander, faults and failings. Words have a way of germinating in folks minds. **A harvest develops, all in accordance with what was sown!** Had words of hope, love, forgiveness, faith, earnest prayer and generous blessings been sown— A GRAND SYMPHONY of love and Christ-likeness would be the result!

**6. TALEBEARERS—** (Prov. 20:19; Lev. 19:16; Prov. 26:17-22) Many churches, ministries, work places and homes are destroyed by Talebearers. The talebearer is very vital and useful to the Backbiter, the Gossip and the Discord Sower. **HOW SO?**

**Talebearers get their kicks from being ‘runners’ for the backbiter, the gossip and/or the discord sower. Talebearers never reveal their evil sources.** They spill their evil reports and then triumphantly declare, **“O I cannot tell you who told me... I would not want to break confidentially!”**

**NOTE: Talebearers tell the WRONG people! SYMPHONY LOVERS tell the RIGHT people!** Destructive actions and destructive tongues were destroying the church at Corinth. However, those of the house of Chloe informed the person with God-given responsibility to shepherd that flock, the Apostle Paul. **(1 Cor. 1:11) Has someone with a satan-guided tongue dumped on you about someone absent? First, exhort them! (Gal. 6:1) If need be, do as the house of Chloe: 1 Cor. 1:11)**

## **VI. GODLY WEAPONS to GUARD the SYMPHONY!**

**1. Keep** a very still tongue! (James 1:26; 4:11; Titus 3:2) Heed the Word of God: **SPEAK EVIL OF NO ONE!**

**2. OBEY** God’s method of Direct Communication: Matt. 18:15 / Gal. 6:1

**3. A POWERFUL TOOL:** The early Methodist Revival last a long time. Doubtless, because the GUARDED THE SYMPHONY! Here is an edited version of the Methodist’s points:

(1) I will not listen to tale bearing/whispering/discord sowing/slander or willingly inquire after any ill concerning others.

(2) If I do hear any such ill of other in the assembly, I will not be so forward to believe it.

(3) Moreover, if I hear of such ill, I will as soon as possible communicate this matter directly to the person about whom the ill was spoken.

(4) AND, until I have done this, I will not speak a syllable of it to any other person.

(5) After going directly to those concerned and/or to those who need to know because they are responsible before God to work for Godly solutions (1 Cor. 1:11)— neither will I mention this/these matters to any other person whatsoever. These are not matters to put on a prayer list, which all too often is but a way to try to gossip with God’s approval!

(6) I will make no exception to these guidelines unless I am absolutely obliged by God’s Word and God’s Spirit to do so.

## **VII. Peace, Harmony, SYMPHONY BEGINS for LOST, sinful souls at the FOOT OF THE CROSS! COME TO JESUS NOW!**

**Peace, Harmony, SYMPHONY CONTINUES for the redeemed as we heed the Word of God in ways as are set forth in this article!**

Great Grace to All! / James Bell / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!**

**1. Tuesday, 10:30am— Ladies Bible Study starts 9/11/12**

**2. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM!**

**YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ Adam and Bethany’s home.**

**3. Thursdays @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH VISITATION**

**4. EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am: Men’s Fellowship and Bible Study**

## **Sunday Schedule for September 9, 16, 23, 30**

**1. 9:30am-** Sunday School— we are back in regular Sunday School Classes

**2. 10:45am-** Morning Worship / Children's Church

**3. Noon Fellowship 'Covered Dish' Meal**

**4. 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service**

**NOTE: THE SEPTEMBER 9 Early Afternoon service, (1PM)**— We spent at least 6 weeks in 'special Sunday School lessons'... focused on Worship, Ministry to one another, and Evangelistic/Mission Outreach.

**Now what?!!!** TO WHAT FORWARD STEPS OF APPLICATION is Jesus Christ the Head of the Body calling us?

**NOTE: This fall we will not be having AWANA on Wednesday nights. INSTEAD, we will seek to accomplish some of AWANA's goals and other goals in a different way on SUNDAY EVENINGS! THUS,**

**September 9 at 5-7 pm will mark the first FAMILY INTEGRATED HOME FELLOWSHIP!** Families will meet together, age integrated.

**NOTE: LORD'S SUPPER, SEPTEMBER 16 @ 1:00PM**— Jesus says, "DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME!"..... AND MY RESPONSE IS....???????

**Ladies Bible Study**— Starts, on Tuesday, September 11, 10:30am.

---

## **Unique Factors at Southside Christian School**

**At Southside Christian School** a student can move ahead faster or go slower if that is the best rate for him. **He is not locked into a class schedule that goes if he has not learned; nor does he have to wait if he is able to advance ahead of his peers. At Southside Christian School** students experience social interaction through chapel, speech classes, art, field trips, Physical Education, music activities and competition at the Regional and International Student Convention.

**At Southside Christian School**, academic excellence is reality. **Students must score 80%** or above to pass any and all subjects. No one is socially promoted. The classroom requires hard work, responsibility, and discipline. The atmosphere is one

of genuine love. Christian training and memorization of Scripture are built into the curriculum.

**Students entering SCS for the first time** are diagnostically tested and placed in class-work where they are actually performing— thus, existing ‘learning gaps’ are discovered and remedied. A student can enter SCS at any time, begin work and go forward without having been left behind. Please VIEW the video! Then call us: 615-452-5951

**<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>**