



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 1, January 2, 2018 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a **weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."*** [NOT THAT IT REALLY MATTERS... but FYI... over the years our 'volume' number became inaccurate. In reality, in May we should be starting volume 43...// regardless, here we go in January of 2018 with volume 45!]

Dear Southside Family! The *Grow in Grace Newsletter* was first called the *Mid-Week Reminder*. TO START 2018, we share a reprint of an article that was first sent out almost 40 years ago, in the spring of 1978, with only a small amount of editing and a few updates.

April 9th, 1978— "... Dreams for Southside Church!"

INTRODUCTION: A church family needs to have goals! But they must be Biblical goals. Here is the path God wants us on. There must be a deep and deepening commitment to be and to become all that God desires.

I. ABOVE ALL, I BELIEVE GOD WANTS A HOLY CHURCH: I believe every one of us must yield for God and His Word to search our hearts. We need to be Judgment Day honest. We must confess every known sin. We must take God's point of view against OUR sin— in other words, we must confess our sin as, ***"Wrong, against God, and that which must go!"*** **EXAMPLES:** Pride,

Lust, Spiritual Laziness, Cowardliness, Covetousness, Idolatry, Self-will, Resentment, Loose Tongues, Lack of Love and Compassion, Prayerlessness, and Lives VOID of daily communion with God through His Word— **all of these and more must be dealt with.** Only a Christian (And a Church-family) that is clean from sin can be a conquering and powerful church, 'fit for the Master's use!'

2018 Update: I praise God for all who seek to make a habit of "dealing with" THEIR OWN sins— sins which so easily beset! **Truly, in a world where spiritual darkness is everyday reality, we must be alert, vigilant, and PRESSING ONWARD in Holiness and Love!** As directed by the Word of God— we must deal with OUR OWN SIN first and foremost: Matthew 7:1-5; 1 John 1:7-10; James 5:16. Then, in humility we can and must be on the lookout for one another: Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14.

II. I BELIEVE GOD WANTS A HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH: There is a lot of "talk" among Christians about being *Spirit-Filled*... but too little reality. *** **A Holy Spirit-Filled life** is a life where the Risen LORD is increasingly **living through us** in every area of our lives— as an overflow of DAILY COMMUNION with the Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. *** **The Holy Spirit-Filled life** is a life where we increasingly face every situation and circumstance, EMPTY of our efforts and empty of self-defense; and available to and dependent upon the Holy Spirit. **THE evidence of Holy Spirit fullness is** love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance— flowing through our lives.

2018 Update: Even in the "Bible Believing" churches of our time there is a growing AVALANCHE of THE FULLNESS OF THE

works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21); AND there is a GROSS ABSENCE of genuine Holy Spirit FULLNESS FRUIT! (Galatians 5:22-24) **FULLNESS OF THE FLESH LOOKS LIKE THIS:** “ *Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency, Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*” (Galatians 5:19-21, Amplified Bible)

REALITY: These ‘works of the flesh’ are the root problems behind church splits and ‘divorces’ in homes and churches. **REALITY:** Multitudes of professing Christians

(1) REFUSE God’s diagnosis, (2) refuse to repent, (3) run to Psychologists and to prescription pills to mask their problems, (4) and proceed to blame others for their plight.

Thus, there is a GROSS ABSENCE of genuine Holy Spirit fruit and of lives crucified to the flesh:

“But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].

And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires.” (Galatians 5:22-24, Amplified Bible)

*** **The Holy Spirit-Filled life** is also a life of PRAYER and a Scripture-Filled life.

III. I BELIEVE THAT GOD WANTS A BODY-MINISTERING, MISSIONARY CHURCH: God wants us to be a church that loves expressively with need-meeting love TOWARD one another in the Body of Christ; **and God wants** us to be a church that is aggressively reaching out to the lost by the supernatural compelling indwelling Holy Spirit.

This kind of Body-Ministering, Soul-Winning, and Missionary church will be the glorious fruit of a HOLY CHURCH and a HOLY SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH! **The Holy Spirit-Filled life** is a life with an ACTIVE PASSION that LOST SINNERS know Christ. When Jesus saw the multitudes, He had compassion. **JESUS IN US will do no less through us.**

2018 UPDATE: Do we not need to be under great conviction for our lack in these critical areas?

IV. I BELIEVE GOD WANTS A BODY-MINISTERING, MISSIONARY CHURCH THAT IS "HOME"-CENTERED: God is not pleased with *mere "church-anity"* That is, it seems that many view the Christian life as only something which happens down at the church building! INSTEAD, BIBLICAL **CHRISTIANITY IS CHRIST living in and through us, 24/7!** The local Church is NOT A BUILDING; BUT PEOPLE— a visible expression of the Body of Christ. And the collective gathered Church Family ASSEMBLED FOR worship and edification is made up of the Christianity **that is being DAILY LIVED through us in our homes and in our community.**

2018 Update: Take a fresh look at the "logo", next page ... for many years it was on the Newsletter; and I believe is still on some letters we send out. REGARDLESS, we will place it back on the Newsletter:



It is designed to convey the following: ***“The Local Church and the Home UNITED together under the authority of God's Word and quickened by God's Spirit to be Ambassadors for Christ in the world!”*** New Testament Christianity always UNITES the resources and the collective witness of Christian Homes and the local Church assembly!

2018 UPDATE: Do we not need to be under great conviction TO ACTUALLY LIVE OUT this godly vision?

V. I BELIEVE THAT GOD WANTS THE "ABOVE DESCRIBED CHURCH FAMILY" TO ALSO BE "WHERE-YOU-WORK"-CENTERED: Christ living His life and boldly giving witness through you (us) on the job is God's will. Thus, we will be giving a Holy Witness, A Spirit-Filled witness, and a Ministering, Soul saving witness— It's called being Salt and Light IN THE MIDST of our MISSION FIELD!

2018 UPDATE: AGAIN, Do we not need to be under great conviction for our lack of VISION and ACTION in these critical areas?

VI. I BELIEVE THAT GOD WANTS A *CHEERFUL-GIVING CHURCH*: God loves a cheerful giver.

In Acts 2, the newly saved 3,000 souls **CHEERFULLY GAVE THEMSELVES** IN obedience to Baptism; and to unmovable steadfastness in Bible Study, Fellowship, Worship, and Prayer. **The Macedonian Christians**, 2 Corinthians 8 & 9, although they were persecuted and poverty stricken— they cheerfully gave love offerings to the LORD'S work— **because they had first given themselves to the LORD!**

2018 Update: In 42+ years of ministry among the saints at Southside, we have never had a series of "Stewardship Sermons" in an effort to "raise money"... NOR do we take 'pledges' for a budget— we won't start now! **Let us continue and PRESS ON in lining up with the call of Scripture to FIRST GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD and to also be CHEERFUL GIVERS!** I am continually blessed by the GRACE GIVING of the saints at Southside.

THE ABOVE 'DREAMS' ARE NOT ALL INCLUSIVE; BUT I ASK YOU: *** **Is it wrong** to DREAM of such a Church? *** **Is it right** to settle for anything less? *** **Is this not** the life to which Christ has called us? *** **Is this not** the life and ministry upon which we can expect God's power and blessing? *** **If this is that** to which God has called us, dare we think to expect the joy and blessing of the LORD upon anything less?

I PRAISE GOD for SOUTHSIDE— A congregation that is willing to embrace BIBLICAL DREAMS! IN 2018, Let us go forward... to adorn the GOSPEL... to live, and serve, and proclaim CHRIST in such a fashion that is worthy of the name, CHRISTIAN!

With THANKSGIVING to all of you! James Bell

www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities;** → 6:30pm— **Youth** Activities and Bible Study— **(Enter via double doors by gym)**

→ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE... (Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)** ... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY—** the Gospel of **Luke, 12!** ... Cindy Bell, teaching. RESUMES on Tuesday, JANUARY 2, 2018; **NEXT, January 16.**

***** MEN:** EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! ***(Finishing up — 24 Biblical Reasons Why JESUS Came!)*** ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning, **NEW LOCATION: Once inside, go LEFT, WALK UP HALLWAY TO DICKEY RICHARD'S Sunday School Room!** FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY, 1018— 7, 14, 21, 28

***** January 7—**

9:30am - Sunday School

10:45am - Worship Service

NOON, **'covered dish' MEAL**

***** January 14—** 9:30am— Sunday School / 10:45am— Worship Service

NOON, covered dish meal

***** January 21—** 9:30am— Sunday School

10:45am— Worship Service // LORD'S SUPPER S

NO covered dish meal

5:00pm— HOME GROUPS

***** January 28—** 9:30am— Sunday School / 10:45am— Worship Service

NOON Covered dish meal

NOTE: We will 'restart' the Monthly Faithful Men's meeting in February...

SPECIAL NOTICE: After the meal on January 28, we need to have A CHURCH-WIDE 'MEMBERS/THOSE ATTENDING' MEETING. It is VITAL that ALL be present for this meeting. This will be an 'Open Forum' meeting... where we as a body of believers will prayerfully consider some plans and ideas as to ministry; and consider some possible changes in various meetings... etc. MORE DETAILS will be coming....



SOUTHSIDE: "*The Local Church and the Home UNITED together under the authority of God's Word and quickened by God's Spirit to be Ambassadors for Christ in the world!*"

******* WATCH, LISTEN to, SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/