

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 2, January 14, 2020 / Southside Baptist Church / 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.***

[Out of 'disrespect' ... unless 'satan' is the first word in a sentence... we do not capitalize 'satan'....!]

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, I (WE!) SURELY CAN!

Philippians 4:12-13 (NKJV) ¹² *"I know how to be abased [LIVE HUMBLY], and I know how to abound [LIVE IN PROSPERITY]. Everywhere and in all things I HAVE LEARNED both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ **I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME!"***

***** GREAT NEWS!** In Christ we are under NO OBLIGATION to live defeated lives bound up in fear, doubt, unbelief, and/or in BONDAGE to sin, self, satan, or society! ******* We must not be deceived into thinking and/or CONFESSING that we have any obligation to be in bondage to sin, satan, self, and/or changing emotions. MOREOVER, we are free from sin's penalty, power, condemnation, and/or guilt.

Jesus reminds us, *"I came that you might have life and have it in abundance!"*(John 10:10) **CHRISTIAN:** See yourself as God sees you! **Christ, the Victor, lives within!** CHRIST IN YOU is ready to make you strong and equal to whatever task lies before you. The Christian life is not about OUR ABILITY; but about the ability and power of Christ who lives within us by His Spirit!

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, this is not some sort of 'name it and claim it' scheme that makes TV preachers super rich; nor is it some sort of human empowerment— **RATHER**, with the Apostle Paul, we confess: ***“I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME!”*** (Philippians 4:13)

REALITY: **Not a single one of us ARE OBLIGATED to be ruled over by any compulsive habit.** (Romans 6:14) It is not a matter of something to do; rather, it is a matter of resting in what Christ has DONE; and resting in OUR POSITION of being IN CHRIST!

Christian — YOU are a victorious saint, a Child of God, a new creation of God, a part of Christ's Bride, and member in His Body! AND, O yes, you and I sometimes sin! AND... Yes, the Apostle Paul rightly said that he was the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)... HOWEVER, that is in the context of him stating that, "Jesus came to save sinners!" It is not a confession of slavery or defeat.

AGAIN: God has so designed the normal Christian life that ***“without Him we can do nothing; but with Him... through Him— through the strength of Him who lives within” we can do all things. THEREFORE, let us*** commit ourselves to daily spend time in His Word, in His Presence... LISTENING, RECEIVING, HEARING, and HEEDING His Word.

***** NOTE: The time to get in Spiritual shape is now. The greatest tests in life come unannounced. We must prepare today.** There are no shortcuts. The wind, the rain, and the storms of life come to one and all.

Thus, in the reminder of this article, the Scriptures will be quoted in a personalized way. Read them aloud. Read them to one another.

Now more than ever, let us discipline ourselves to meditate upon the Living Word of God, cultivating our love relationship with JESUS, and cultivating sensitivity to His voice!

LET US CONFESS:

“I AM GREATLY BLESSED IN CHRIST! Apart from Christ, I can do nothing; but in Jesus Christ I can do all things, so I can bring glory to Him. Therefore, I see myself as He sees me according to His living Word, for my life is hid with Christ in God.

THROUGH REGULAR TIME IN HIS PRESENCE, I will cultivate sensitivity to hearing His voice. He will make His Word a reality in my life as I nurture my friendship with Him.

WALKING BY Faith will not be strengthened by a formula or technique in my life; but will be the natural byproduct of knowing JESUS intimately as my faithful Lord.

Knowing Him, I can totally trust Him. His Word will always be the final authority in my life. THEREFORE, I CHOOSE to base my entire life and eternity upon JESUS and His Word. I will not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

In Christ Jesus my LORD, I am a son (or daughter)... an adopted child of the KING OF KINGS! I am a joint heir with Jesus Christ. I repeat: I am no mere old sinner! I am a new creation, the very handiwork of God. I am chosen in Christ and part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and predestined to ultimately be conformed into the image of JESUS CHRIST!

I am cleansed by the blood of Christ. My mind and emotions are being renewed by the Word of God. I am in Christ and therefore there is no condemnation for me.

Through Christ, who is at home in my heart, I pull down strongholds, cast down imaginations, and bring even my thoughts into obedience to Christ.

BEING IN CHRIST, I am loved with God's everlasting love. I am accepted in THE BELOVED. God is for me, none can prevail against me. Greater is CHRIST who is in me than satan who is in the world. I am no longer a slave or debtor to sin, self, or satan. I am now a willing love slave of Jesus Christ and a slave of righteousness.

Continuing in the Word of God and quickened by the indwelling Holy Spirit, I know the truth and the truth sets me free. **Jesus has set me free!** I have been delivered out of the kingdom of darkness. I am now in and a part of the kingdom of light. Sin, self, and satan no more have rule over me. They have no authority. I am under no obligation to listen to their voices. I now listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd.

I will not believe the lies of the enemy. Satan is a liar and the father of lies. He is defeated. For this very purpose the Son of God came into this present world— to defeat satan and to destroy satan's works. Through Christ, satan and all demons are defeated BY the blood of the Lamb; and BY personal words of testimony as I openly testify of my LORD JESUS CHRIST, (Revelation 12:10-11) and BY being ready to be UNASHAMED of Jesus whether I live or whether I die for His sake.

I am committed to submitting to the will of God. As I submit to God, (James 4:7) I am empowered to resist satan and satan must flee. Every temptation I will ever face (1 Cor. 10:13) is common to the human race. But I have no fear, for God is faithful; and He will not let me be tempted beyond my strength, but will with the temptation also provide the way of escape— which will require me to FLEE idolatry! (1Cor. 10:14)

THEREFORE, I WILL STAND FAST IN THE LIBERTY WITH WHICH CHRIST HAS MADE ME FREE! For where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty; and the Spirit of the Lord has made my body HIS HOLY TEMPLE!

JESUS Christ is always causing me to triumph. I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me. I AM AN OVERCOMER. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Thanks be to God who gives me the victory through Jesus Christ my Lord!

I HAVE FAITH IN GOD. My faith is not in my faith, but in the living God who will never fail nor forsake me. I choose to walk by FAITH IN GOD and not by sight. I walk by faith by walking according to the Word of God. I will trust in the Lord with all my heart and not lean to my own understanding.

I refuse to be ruled by my feelings or emotions or to be swayed by popular opinion. I AM NOT UNDER circumstances. The steps of a Christian are ordered by the Lord. God orders my steps according to His Holy Word.

Many may be my afflictions. But my Lord Jesus Christ is my GOOD SHEPHERD.

JESUS is all sufficient whether my path be by still waters and in green pastures; or if they be in the midst of enemies; or through the valley and the shadows of death.

Indeed, I stand to experience the most extraordinary OVERFLOWING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT to empower me in the midst of enemies. **There is never** a time in life, nor in death, nor in eternity BUT THAT Jesus is the all sufficient GREAT SHEPHERD of His sheep. Therefore, I am restful, at peace, and hopeful no matter what may come!

The righteous may fall seven times; but rises again... AND SO SHALL I! **This one thing I do:** I am forgetting what lies behind and I am stretching forward to what lies ahead as I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, my Lord. I will put my hands to the plow and not look back!

Already a winner in Christ, I run to win! Zeal for the Lord's House consumes me. The race I run: It is not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit. He ever lives to make intercession for me. He is able to do exceedingly far more abundantly above all that I ever dared to think or ask, by His power at work in me as His child.

AND HE who has begun a good work in me will bring it to completion in the day of the Lord Jesus.

THEREFORE, BOLDLY I approach the throne of grace to receive grace for help in times of need. I have no need to be anxious about anything, for God loves me. And He will keep me in perfect peace, as I stay my mind upon Him. **I REST IN HIM.**

I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, and the life I live, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

I refuse to give satan a place or opportunity. I refuse to give place to fear which has torment. I renounce the fear of man which brings traps.

I choose to seek the Lord. He has heard and will hear me and deliver me from all my fears. **God has not given me a spirit of fear**, but a spirit of love and of power and of a sound mind. The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is my refuge and the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? God is my refuge and strength and a very present help in trouble. Therefore, I will not fear.

“I am ready for anything through the strength of Him who lives within me!” [This article was developed from several sources... many years back.]

Grace! Peace! Love in Christ! To All Saints! James

www.southsidegallatin.org

**** **SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

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

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM**.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE**

→ Enter via **IRON STEPS, side door.**

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class**. Enter at double doors, under AWNING.

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY: NEXT MEETING** scheduled for **JANUARY 21th 2020 @ 11:00am; NEW STUDY ==> LESSONS FROM WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE!** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Under AWNING, open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

***** MEN's Fellowship/Bible Study: EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am: (WE ARE STUDYING THE GOSPEL OF JOHN!) ENTER AT THE** back of Church building... DOUBLE DOORS, under the drive-thru awning. [**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts at 7:30am!**]

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY SERVICES: January 19, 26..... 2020 —

**** Sunday School— at 9:30am // ** Worship at— 10:45am**

ADDITIONAL NOTES... ABOUT EACH SUNDAY:

1. January 19... LORD'S SUPPER, at conclusion of the Morning Worship service; Home Groups, most at 5pm

2. January 26... CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP... currently completing a VIDEO series on Husband/Wife relationships, at 6:00pm

The Awesome Power of Positive Testimonies!

The Psalmist said, "Come ye and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what He hath done for my soul." (Psalm 66:16)

***** The early disciples of Jesus said, "For we cannot but speak the thing which we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20)**

***** The Woman at the Well, after her saving encounter with Jesus Christ, went into her town proclaiming, "Come, see a man who told me all the things I ever did...!" (John 4:29)**

*****As Psalm 40 and Psalm 51 so powerfully demonstrate—when we give testimonies of praise for God's Amazing Grace dealings with us, the lost **and** the saved will,**

"... see it... and shall trust in the LORD... and sinners shall be converted unto God!"

Truly one of the most effective tools God has given us for encouragement and for seeing the Kingdom of God built up is the power of godly, positive testimony.

It is very encouraging, faith-building, and Kingdom-building

To speak well of God;

To speak well of one another in Christ; and

To speak well of the local church to which God has joined you.

****HAS GOD GRACIOUSLY BLESSED you through the ministry of Southside Baptist Church... (Or the church family to which God has joined you)??!**

Tell your story!

Tell it! Speak it! Write it! Tell the Good news!

Your story may be short and simple. It may be longer and more detailed. *But only God knows just how powerful and how far will be the godly influence of your "SPEAKING WELL" TESTIMONY!*

THE AWESOME POWER OF SPEAKING WELL!

TELL IT IN A WAY THAT EXALTS JESUS!

Tell the Good news! Your story may be short and simple. It may be longer and more detailed.

But only God knows just how powerful and how far will be the godly influence of your "SPEAKING WELL" TESTIMONY!

SO... TELL IT!