



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to MINISTER to others! **Volume 47, No. 28, July 19, 2022** / 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 JESUS CHRIST!”***

**Brokenness, Pride, Forgiveness, Humility,
and FREE GRACE!**

[The first portion of this is edited from F. Kefa Sempangi— pioneer and founder of the Presbyterian Church in Uganda. He is the author of *A Distant Grief*, 1979]

The late Mondo, was one of the founding fathers of the Revival Fellowship in Uganda. It was through Mondo that I learned and experienced foundational lessons on real revival. I walked into my first *East Africa Revival Fellowship Meeting* shortly after my conversion to Christ in 1961. It was a Friday afternoon and the meeting Hall was packed with people singing and praising God. **Most of the songs were about the Blood of the Lamb that was slain for sinners!**

As different brethren stood up and confessed their own sin, **I noticed that no one was paying any attention to the sins confessed!** For before a brother or sister could finish their confession, the rest of the congregation BURST OUT INTO SONGS OF PRAISE! Even though my legs were trembling, I finally stood up as well. I confessed my past unfaithfulness to God and the damage I had done to others, without exposing them in any way; and I found myself deepened in resting in God’s forgiveness.

Before I finished, people started singing **PRAISES FOR THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB!** Before I got back to my seat, one brother came and embraced me and said, “This is victory, brother!” I could not help but notice that these brothers hardly noticed my sin!

Later, Mondo explained to me, **“What we hear is not your sin, but God’s work in your life.** We hear you giving witness to God’s power to break the chains of sin. Because we know that, left to ourselves, we can never go to a brother and confess to him, “I have done foolishly, please forgive me.” ***This only happens when grace takes over and pushes pride into a tight corner!*** Mondo went on to explain that where there is repentance, pride gives way and in its place comes conviction, confession, and forgiveness.

James 5:16 instructs us, “...confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.” It is not the person who merely has the correct exegesis of this verse who knows its truth. It is the Christian who confesses his sin to his neighbor! (James 5:16)

Every time I met Mondo, he would greet me with the same threefold challenge:

“Are you repenting?”

“Are you walking in the light?”

“Are you being broken?”

His questions were intended to challenge the kind of fellowship I was having with my fellow missionaries. He suspected that we were using our concern for our Mission Project to avoid the real work of God in our lives— **FOR true Christianity is about relationships: I am to LOVE GOD and LOVE my Brothers and Sisters!**

When we do not walk in the light, we pile sin upon sin. There is ** anger and resentment instead of love; ** contention instead of contentment; ** concealment where there should be confession; and ** bitterness where there should be forgiveness.

We must also remember that before we are a light to our neighbors and the world, we are first to be a light to our

family in the home. Unless we are a light to One Another - (To our families and to the Body of Believers to which God has joined us) - WE WILL NOT SHINE AT ALL. The light that is in us will turn to darkness. **We must first be BROKEN.**

One brother of the East Africa Revival looked at me and said, ***“Until God breaks your will, He will never use you. You will only remain a nice loaf of bread!”*** **Unless we are broken, we are of no use to God.** And unless we are broken, we are of no use to the community of believers to which God has joined us.

And yet, **sadly, hardly any of us** can go to our church families and say, “This is my body which is broken for you! I am laying all of my gifts and talents and skills and abilities and resources at the feet of my brothers and sisters, to be used for the Kingdom of God, as God gives direction through this Body of Believers!”

In other words, even as the Bible commands me, I will die to my selfish, independent spirit of pride and submit to my brothers and sisters in the fear of God!”

[1] We refuse to make such confessions and commitments because we are not broken.

[2] We are too independent and proud to give ourselves away to imperfect brothers and sisters in Christ— we are not broken!

[3] We are too proud and independent to submit to a local assembly and/or to submit to God ordained servant leadership in the local church— we are not broken!

[4] We insist on being led according to our own dictates, rather than submitting to the plain Word of God— we are not broken!

If we are following Jesus, we remember that it was while we were yet sinners that Christ gave His body to be broken for us! Thus, we wait not for a perfect fellowship of saints. Rather, we are God’s humble and available servants where God has planted us.

Moreover, to not be planted in a local assembly is totally contrary to the clear pattern given in the New Testament. **The New Testament knows nothing of Christians refusing to be under the discipline and authority of a local church.** At the LORD'S TABLE, Jesus models the foundation for fellowship in a local assembly of believers.

Our commitment to one another in the local assembly can be no less than His: "This is my body, broken for you!" [HOWEVER, Let there be no confusion: Jesus is the one and only and all sufficient BROKEN sacrifice. But as we WALK IN HIS STEPS, we lay down our lives one for another, for His sake!

While many in pride are aloof from commitment to and ministry through local churches, **others are plagued with a different variety of pride— they claim to be too INADEQUATE to serve in the body.**

Jesus said to His disciples, "Give them food to eat!" They sized up their abilities and resources and concluded, **INADEQUACY.** Very often, we fail to realize that it is the SMALL THINGS (A few loaves of bread or a widow's small amount of oil) that God wants us to place in His hands. The rod in Moses' hand was but a shepherd's staff. But in the hands of God, it became through Moses, the Rod of God! And so it is with us— **GOD IS CALLING US TO BE FAITHFUL WHERE WE ARE AND WITH WHAT WE HAVE! And such faithfulness will show that, "Little is much in the hands of God!"**

Moreover, when we walk in the light and in brokenness, our pride is no longer in control of our thoughts, words, and actions. Rather, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and we are given to each other and to the world as living sacrifices for Christ's sake. **And we are also both humbled and encouraged, as we realize that God is (above all else!) leading us into a more intimate relationship with Him and with fellow saints in the**

body. Christian service is overflow from our love relationship with CHRIST! AND, when we are broken by Grace to serve God's people, we find that brokenness is only the beginning.

The very people Jesus came to save responded to his sacrificial giving by crucifying Him! His best friends betrayed Him. And somehow we believe that we can serve Jesus and our lot be different from our Master's!

So we serve our LORD and we find that there are all sorts of imperfections in the local assembly. We feel, and at times it may be so, that our efforts are being hindered by the very ones we seek to help! ***So, we want to quit, we want to give up, or we want to leave and serve elsewhere. WE DON'T EVEN SEE that such feelings and thoughts EXPOSE how unlike Jesus we are!***

Jesus died for sinners and He surely SUFFERS LONG with His disciples! (THANK GOD!) AND HE CALLS US TO WALK **in His steps!**

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: Jesus IS CALLING US TO BE a community of believers who are faithful to Him and who say by their lives, ***"THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU!"***

A Broken and Humble Spirit!

"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and lofty place, with him also that is of **a contrite and humble spirit**, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." (Isaiah 57:15) "The LORD is nigh (near) unto them that are of **a broken heart**; and saveth such as be of a **contrite spirit**." (Psalm 34:18)

THE FOLLOWING IS BOTH TRAGIC AND DEADLY: Many 'CHURCH MEMBERS' will serve **if** it suits him or **if** he can have his own way. He will quit serving **if** all does not please him. He will attend church, **if** it pleases him. He will attend church **but he will not** commit to a local church. **He will attend but he will not take on the yoke of carrying out the "One Anothers" in a local body.** He will attend **but he will not** submit to a local body nor to God ordained leadership in a local body. **He insists** on being free to be led by his feelings. **He refuses** to be led by the pure Word of God. He will plainly claim that he is being led by the Holy Spirit! **But when the "Spirit" he/she is led by is contrary to the sure Word of God, it is obvious that he/she is being led by a spirit of idolatry—The idol of KING SELF.** *(O my, I suspect, at least on some occasions, most of us have bowed to this spirit!)*

In God's Kingdom, only BROKEN VESSELS can be used! God is calling for complete and unconditional BROKENNESS and YIELDEDNESS BEFORE THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY **OF HIS WORD, the Holy Spirit BREATHED OUT The Word! The Holy Spirit always leads according to and/or in accordance with the God Breathed Word of God, the Bible.**

MOREOVER, WE MUST KNOW THIS:

1. Brokenness begins at conversion. Like the Prodigal, we are repentant, utterly humbled, and totally honored if we can but just be servants. (Luke 15:14-19)

The man delivered from demons is a powerful picture of brokenness: (1) He was delivered from satan and sin! (2) He was clothed, at the feet of Jesus, in his right mind and ready to be a missionary! (Luke 8:35-39) This is the reality of true conversion!

2. Brokenness in a believer manifests itself in a variety of ways. When we have failed the LORD, there comes the experience of God's conviction and/or of chastening, and of yielding forth the fruits of confession and repentance. Moreover, there is restoration,

and a new song on our lips and a new readiness to praise and testify of JESUS! (For awesome examples, read: Psalm 32 and Psalm 51)

3. Brokenness will always yield forth a forgiving spirit, a humble spirit; and a returning of good for evil. (Rom. 12:17-21)

4. Brokenness before God brings an inward motivation to love and serve God. (Acts 2:42-47) IN TOO MANY OF THE CHURCHES TODAY, there is a tragic opposite to brokenness: There is a big push to give the lost world what will please them. Bibles are no longer needed. Entertainment is the order of the day. Religious experiences have replaced holiness and godliness. The churches that promise health, wealth and power and the churches that let folk keep their sin and have the savior too, all so as to draw great crowds.

Thus, the TRAGIC statistics from George Barna come as no surprise: He compared the lifestyles of Christians and non-Christians, using **131 different measures** of attitudes, behaviors, values, and beliefs. **His conclusion:** “In the aspects of lifestyle where Christians can have their greatest impact on the lives of non-Christians, there are **NO VISIBLE DIFFERENCES** between the two segments.” In the words of another, **“Our gospel is cancelled by the way we live!”**

NEVERTHELESS, all around the world, God is manifesting Himself gloriously through His saints! God is calling us to a FRESH BROKENNESS! And God is calling us to live IN SUCH A WAY that we are giving forth LIVING PROOF OF A HOLY AND A LOVING GOD! **THEREFORE, LET US REMEMBER:**

1- We are here for **GOD’S PLEASURE**, not our own! (Revelation 4:11)

2- We are designed for and placed in **GOD’S FAMILY!** (1 Cor. 12:13)

3- We are created and destined for **CHRISTLIKENESS!** (Romans 8:29)

4- We are on grace assignments as **SERVANTS OF CHRIST!** (Hebrews 12:28-29)

5- We are **AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST!** (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

AND, FROM START TO COMPLETION, WE ARE EMPOWERED BY HIS GRACE: "It is by grace you have been saved!" Ephesians 2:5.

THE REDEEMED PEOPLE OF GOD ARE,

- ** Freely *loved*, Deuteronomy 7:6-8;
- ** Freely *chosen*, John 15:16-19, Ephesians 1:4;
- ** Freely *accepted*, Ephesians 1:6;
- ** Freely *adopted*, Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 4:5-6;
- ** Freely *reconciled*, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20;
- ** Freely *justified*, Romans 3:24;
- ** Freely *saved*, Ephesians 2:5, 8.

- ** Free grace is the foundation of all spiritual and eternal mercies.
- ** Free grace is the solid bottom and foundation of all a Christian's comfort in this world.

** Free grace (the Mercies of God) is THE MOTIVATION for Christian faithfulness! (Romans 12:1-2) **All is of grace— of the free grace!**

O sirs! It is free grace . . . which will strengthen you in all your duties, which will sweeten all your mercies, which will support you under all your changes, which will arm you against all temptations! **"For it is by grace you have been, ARE and WILL BE saved!" (Ephesians 2:8-10)** (Edited from Thomas Brooks, "A Cabinet of Choice Jewels" 1669)

MAY GRACE ABOUND! James Bell

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES: JULY 24, 31 / 2022

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

2. * WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SERVICES:

1. 7/24/22 ... FOURTH SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE at 5PM. Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service; and **DAVID REATH... FROM his recent trip... will give an Ethiopia Orphan's School report!**

3. 7/31/22 ... FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING— REST! FAMILY TIME! MINISTER TO SOMEONE!

EVERY SATURDAY*** 8:00 AM, — Men's Bible Study! *(Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Sausage Biscuits are available!)*

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study, AUGUST 2, @ 11:00 AM** (Ladies are taking a 'break'... as to June! **JULY 5 IS THE NEXT!**)

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 6:30pm— *come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning!* **** Adult Prayer Service**

**** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service [ADAM or Jaden weekly communicate as to LOCATION]**

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING:**

SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066/ OR...

TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

HEALTH REMINDERS **as to** CHURCH SERVICES

AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN— SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are in a state of high immune deficiency **or if** (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; **or if** you have • **Fever;** • Coughing; • • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.], **Please stay home!** [A GUIDE— IF WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, YOU WOULD GO TO WORK, THEN COME AND GATHER WITH THE SAINTS!]

2. WHEN YOU COME ... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM as to ‘social distancing’... masks ... vaccine choices, etc. — PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to give sensitivity and respect one to another.

3. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, E, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And Ivermectin. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene — **please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.**

4. HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from ... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients! => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/> ////

Peter McCullough, MD, BRIEF. EXCELLENT:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... **focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment:** COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation <https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>