ZION FAITH HOMES NEWSLETTER

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2820 Eshcol Avenue, Zion, Illinois 60099

"But cleave unto the Lord your God" Joshua 23:8a

Proverbs 28: 1 – 5

"The wicked flee when no man pursues: but the righteous are bold as a lion. For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged. A poor man that oppresses the poor is like a sweeping rain which leaves no food. They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them. Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things."

from a Faith Home Meeting

I want to give thanks to the Lord and for His mercies that are forever. Our church gatherings have been limited so much this year by the virus. It is wonderful that we can come together to worship and love our Lord. Today we rejoice and give thanks in the house of the Lord. We are blessed and I am thankful for each one of you. We need one another.

Recently someone encouraged me; took the extra step and encouraged me. I was blessed and it was sweet. I then thought to myself that I should be more of an encourager. We do talk, don't we? We say a lot of stuff. Why not bless with our words? Even our thoughts can be positive towards people instead of critical.

We have all read testimonies of people who had real needs, physical, phycological, spiritual, etc. They found that they had thinking patterns, behavioral and emotional habits; attitudes that fed their need rather than meeting their need or helping the problem. (People have bad habits! Can you believe it?) But somehow the Lord got through to them, likely through one of His servants, that they could change. God wanted to help them and an encourager shared faith in God with them. And they learned to turn to Jesus and deal with themselves by God's grace regarding these unhealthy ways. It made a difference! They found their problems shrink away. They felt good. Needs were met. They changed! We want to be encouraged in the Lord. And how could we be so discouraged and defeated? We can look at Jesus! We can read the Bible and pray. How could we be very discouraged, in the light of Him being who and how He is? Well, it is because we're not seeing Him. We're not trusting His Word. We're not praising Him and giving thanks. Where's our faith? May I encourage you in the Love and wonder of Jesus Christ our Savior!

Rev 15:3-4 "They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints (nations)! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify your name? For You alone are holy, For all nations shall come and worship before You. For Your judgments have been manifested." Praise God for His judgments! His judgments help us very much. We must search our hearts and seek His righteous judgments. We need them in our inner being. Our thoughts, words, and actions are ever judged by God's own Word. Don't we long for that Day when the nations will worship Him?

Luke 6: 27 -31 "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them

likewise." Shall we listen? Do we hear? These are intense words esp. in dealing with enemies. We are not even always nice to those who are around us who we would not consider enemies. But there is a freedom in these words of Jesus. Laying our lives down in His service for His Kingdom is not a bondage. *Vs. 35-36 "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."* This is eternal, this is forever. Our Lord is kind to you and to me. May we bless those around us and be burden bearers. May we love and encourage one another.

Be in Holy Spirit. Check critical spirit when it tries to rise in you. Not tomorrow, right away! Humbly apologize when needful and edify one another. Speak the truth -how? -IN LOVE! Then it is for the other one, not against. We can't create this love in ourselves, but we have Jesus! Why should we be run by moods? Repent! See Jesus!

Romans 8:12-16 "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors-not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God…"

And we are heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ, if we surrender our lives to Him, and His will. If you happen to feel a bit disadvantaged in what you might inherit or have now; if it seems that to some folks a boatload of stuff just comes their way and to some it doesn't, leave it with God who knows you better than you know yourself. He does not neglect any of his children. His giving and goal are higher than what's here and now. It is eternal, it is forever. We're never left out and our needs will be met. He's making us sons. He's sharing His glory. He's giving Himself! We sang together this morning of His "joy unspeakable and full of glory" and His peace does pass understanding. He is not a disappointment.

2 Peter 3: 10a,15a "But the day of the Lord will come … what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved … Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless: and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation-…". By His BLOOD we are saved. We have choices and by His grace we must make them, for Him and His Will, His Mercy Will. His grace comes to us by faith in Him. He is all ready to give us step by step, day by day what we need. It takes something to make changes in our lives but it will be so much fun to be like Jesus! We want to press on, to live righteously in our daily lives now! We see the conflict in our world today. There is war in the spirit realm and we feel it. The enemy of our soul is desperate and very antagonistic to Christians.

Pray! Praise! Encourage! Love!

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"His love has no limit; His grace has no measure. His power has no boundary known unto men. For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!" -Annie J. Flint

<u>How to Pray</u> -Mrs. C. Nuzum

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He first gave them the Lord's Prayer that taught them how to pray for themselves in connection with others. He then taught them to pray the unselfish prayer of intercession, wholly for others. He said, "*Which of you shall have a friend?*" We have a friend, and His Name is Jesus. "*You are my friends if you do whatever I command you."* The parable goes on, "*and shall go to him at midnight, and shall say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves."* "Midnight" represents the state of the friend for whom we intercede, as being that of the most grievous sin or woe. In prayer we ask for the 'three loaves' for our friend who is in trouble. Jesus is the Bread from Heaven to give life to spirit, soul, and body. "Open your mouth and I will fill it." That is, ask much and you shall have it.

These loaves are not for myself but for "*a friend of mine,"* -not a friend of ours. This person had not become a friend of the Lord by obedience, but in his journey, and all we meet are come to us. God says, "*a friend loves."* If we love those who we meet, they are our friends, and God bids us love all, even, to "*love the stranger as one who was born in the midst."* It is love that makes friendship. I see that this friend has need, and I confess my inability to supply that need. I have nothing in myself. How little and empty and helpless we feel as we see the great need of the lost ones, and it pleases God when we confess that we are unable to help them. But, oh, how precious that we have a Friend in whom dwells the fullness of the Godhead, and He loves to give Himself, a whole loaf for the spirit, another for the soul, and another for the body. Will Jesus, the One within, say, "*trouble Me not"?* Oh, He never thinks it a trouble to be called upon for help.

"*The door is now shut." "*Your sins have separated you from your God." Only sin can shut mercy's door. It may be the sin of hardening the heart against repeated calls, or it may be doubts and unbelief. "*Jesus could do no mighty works because of their unbelief."* -Here unbelief closed the door. It may be the sin of wavering, for "*He that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think he shall receive anything of the Lord."* James 1:6-7. Midnight and the closed door represent the person prayed for in the worst condition possible. Jesus pictured the worst case possible, so that we might know that none was beyond our power to help through prayer.

"My God shall supply all your need." "I say unto you ….He will rise and give him as many as he needs." Jesus does not tell us to examine and see how much our friend needs and just ask for that, but He wants us to ask for all that he may possibly need. Jesus promises to give because of our importunity. We are importunate if we sacrifice rest, comfort, convenience, and also if we persist in going. In this case it is sacrifice of midnight sleep, rest and security. Ah, if we pour out our life for others, God will see that things move and that our prayers are answered.

Intercession is the highest form of prayer because it is oneness with Jesus, Who "*ever lives to make intercession for us."* We should delight in it because it brings us into oneness with our Lord. But it also causes us to meet our Lord: He will arise and open the door at which we are knocking and not only meet us but give us what we need. Would not this meeting with Him richly repay us? But in addition. He assures us we shall get the closed door open for the one who could not get it open for himself, and that He will use us to carry to them the blessings for which we have asked.

What a wonderful covenant God presents here, and He laments that, "*None stirs himself up to take hold of My covenant."* Let us lay hold of this covenant and help the many needy ones about us to get the doors open and receive the loaves. **God's promise is all we ever need to inspire our faith!**

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God Calling Yet

God calling yet! Shall I not hear? Earth's pleasures shall I still hold dear? Shall life's sweet passing years all fly, And still my soul in slumber lie?

God calling yet! Shall I not rise? Can I His loving voice despise, And basely his kind care repay? He calls me still; can I delay?

God calling yet! And shall He knock: And I my heart the closer lock? He still is waiting to receive, And shall I dare His Spirit grieve?

God calling yet! I cannot stay; My heart I yield without delay; Vain world farewell! From thee I part; THE VOICE OF GOD HATH REACHED MY HEART." -G. Tersteegen

In the Old Testament we see the Holy Spirit come upon people giving divine revelation of the mysteries of God and giving power for the work of God. People want that today. When Jesus came He taught His Father's will and ways and shared His divine love. He showed His Father to people through His own life. Jesus' work on Calvary and His victory over death opened the way for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit in us works to form holy character in us - a holy mind and a spiritual disposition. May we desire the Holy Spirit to sanctify our whole inner life so we might live for God's glory.

Jesus had sent his followers out as witnesses but when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost those followers received Jesus into themselves, hence the power of His Presence! God is an amazing giver! Receive Him!

Scripture tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love in Gal. 5:22, and that God's love is the fulfilling of the law. May God's love be to us the standard of life, daily life and a searchlight into our hearts, our inner being. His love is our true test. Has it been our experience that the more we have the Holy Spirit the more loving we become? Is it our deep delight and utter joy to find the love of God for others in us? Do we faithfully give that love out? We, God's people must stand as one body, one before God in the fellowship of love, one toward another in deep affection, one before the world in a love that the world can see. That love gives the power to have the blessing which we ask God for. Then the church can be united as is needed and the Lord can fill the vessel. The church divided cannot hold what God wills to give. The vessel must be complete.

We, the church, must pray for God's unifying power to make us One in Christ, together in the Holy Spirit. Then we will have the power of His love to radiate through us and to light up the world. Others will see Jesus! Praise God, we can love each other in a divine love, "for the fruit of the Spirit is love." May we surrender ourselves to God's Holy fire of divine Love. May we receive and yield to His Spirit. Then we will freely give. THANKS BE TO GOD!

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PSALM 89:14-18

"Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favor our horn shall be exalted. For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king."

The Bible expresses the truth of God. Truth is God's Word which is the expression of His WILL, which is the exact representation of Himself -what He IS. There is no such thing as truth all alone by itself. Truth is that which shows exactly that which it represents. Truth conforms exactly to that which it shows. -Rex Andrews, Mercy St.

Jesus said, "*I am the way the truth and the life: No man comes to the Father but by me."* Jn. 14:6

FAITH HOME NEWS

Regretfully, we feel led to hold off on our traditional November celebration of the Faith Home ministry and remembrance of those early vessels who lived here for Jesus that HE might be the ONE. We thank God for this ministry. May we share notes of heart cry from Martha W. Robinson's diary:

June 2, 1907 - "O my soul cries after the living God. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus come thou to me. O God how I long after thee. O God how I long after thee. O that Jesus – Jesus may be manifest in me. I want but Jesus. None but of His Resurrection. O my soul cries after the living God. O Jesus undertake for me.

O to be saved from myself dear Lord. O to be lost in Thee O that it might be no more I, But Christ that liveth in me.

O the power of His Resurrection – what I ask for, I know not. The Holy Spirit knows. O may my spirit and soul and body know of His Resurrection."

Ro. 8: 32, 19 *"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things." "For the earnest expectation of the creature (creation) waits for the manifestation of the sons of God."* 1 Cor. 15:44 *"There is a natural body, and there is a Spiritual Body."* John 1:12 *"But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God."*

-May all of you, our dear friends be blessed by Jesus!