



Newsletter - June 2015

A Publication of University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS

The purpose of University Baptist Church is, through guidance of the Holy Spirit, to assemble and worship God, to love and encourage one another, to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to minister to all people, and to live in peace.

In a world where difficult issues remain, University Baptist Church continues its commitment to be a church where "there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, for (we) are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, FALL FRESH ON ME

I tried my best to write this article yesterday afternoon and evening. I had pretty clearly in mind what I wanted to write. I think if I had written what I intended, it would have been a pretty fair doctrinal exposition of who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit's relationship is to the Father and the Son. I happen to believe that doctrine matters, because doctrine is basically a statement of what we believe. Maybe sometime I will write that doctrinal article for the Good News, but not tonight.

I need to confess that what kept me from writing last night was frustration. I have been so burdened in the last few days particularly with what is going to happen to a couple of dear friends who will be released from incarceration in the month of June--one early in the month and another at the end of the month. I truly want to help them but I don't know how. Some of you reading this newsletter know from personal experience what it's like to get out of prison or jail with little or no support from family or friends, without a job or a place to live. That's the position my friends will be in if something doesn't happen soon.

But I used the word "frustration" on purpose in the paragraph above. That's where I was when I started to write about Holy Spirit last night. And then God's Spirit spoke a convicting word to me. "Dick, how can you write about me when, although you clearly want to help your friends, you are rushing about frantically trying to 'fix' them, when I haven't called you to fix anybody? I do want you to be one of my instruments, but I want you to remember what you have preached all of your life. You are just an instrument. You don't even know how to pray as you ought, but 'the Spirit in you intercedes for you with groans that cannot be put into words' " (see Romans 8:26).

And then I began to sing that chorus I have known since I was a youth:

"Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me;
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me! Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me."

And with all my heart, I believe God's Spirit did that. Do I know yet the final answers to my prayers? No, but God's Spirit knows!

Dick Allison, UBC

A NOTE OF APOLOGY

If you wrote a column for the June "Good News" and it does not appear in this edition, it's my fault. Kat gave me a couple of articles two or three weeks ago to type and somehow I misplaced them. It's not her fault; it's not anybody's fault but mine. I don't even know who wrote those articles. If I ever find them, we'll run them in a later edition. As the saying goes these days, "MY BAD" !

Dick Allison

Put Love To Work

“What do you do when you’re facing a particularly stubborn problem? A problem that resists your every effort to solve? Put the power of love to work on it! The power of love is the greatest power in the universe. It’s beyond defeat. It never fails. The bible says God is Love. So when we release love into a situation, Jesus becomes responsible for its success. What is this love I’m talking about? 1 Cor. tells us it’s patient and it’s kind. It’s not jealous or haughty or conceited or rude. It doesn’t insist on its own way. It’s not touchy or resentful and it pays no attention to a suffered wrong. Love rejoices when right and truth prevail and it bears up under anything and everything that comes. It’s ready to believe the best of every person. Its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything without weakening. The person who refuses love is missing out on the best God has to offer. Don’t you miss out on any of it.

Release love in every moment into every situation, every prayer and every thought until it totally consumes your life. It will strengthen you and cast out every fear that has robbed you of God’s greater blessings. It will drive the devil out of your affairs and set you free from every torment of darkness. Put love to work on the stubborn problems in your life. It’s the one solution they’ll never be able to resist.

Scripture reading (1Corinthians, Chapter 13)

Jason K.

The Finish Line

There is a very simple formula for anticipating your spiritual growth; “Rate Multiplied by the Time Equals Distance!” That is the rate at which you know in your spiritual life in the time you have been “allotted” determines the distance you will travel down the road of discipleship toward spiritual maturity.

A newborn Christian who dives into the word and the things of God rather than spending his or her time on other things may burst from the starting blocks and arrive at spiritual maturity faster than a person who has been saved for 33 years but is still struggling with the basics of the faith. It’s your pace that makes the difference.

If you really want to pick up your spiritual pace, run with someone who is faster than you, who can set a brisk pace. That’s really what discipleship is all about. You cannot run the Christian life alone and run it with any speed or with much real endurance.

The good news is that even though you may have started off slowly, or started fast and then stumbled, you can get back in the race toward spiritual maturity. And I have even better news: in Hebrews 3:4 it points out that no matter how you may have messed up, you can still cross the finish line a winner. The issue in the Christian race is not how you start, but how you finish!

Sherwood B.

WHEN FACING PROBLEMS

We all are going to face problems in this sinful world. We just need to remember what we should do at the first sign of any problem, great or small. That is to pray and let God guide us and with His Power we are assured He can change it all. A lot of times we try to handle our problems on our own which usually leads to bigger problems. Mark 4:38-41 shows us how Jesus calmed the wind and waves when the disciples woke Him. Let Him be the one we call on. We have to trust in God.

All through the Bible we see where people were trying to live for God. Paul teaches us that sometimes these problems are part of God's plan for us to make us stronger and to look upward to Him. God also tells us not to let problems hinder our love for others. Matthew 22:37-39 shows us the two greatest commandments. Both say "Love", show our love for God and others even when we face problems. Revelation 2:9-11 says the devil sends problems and persecution. We just need to keep our eyes on God. He is the One that will meet our needs and give the crown of life. Revelation 7:17 shows us that God will provide for His children. We just have to remember to keep Him "First" !!

Daniel Hollimon

Life After Death

This is a story about a man who, after living wrong for so many years, decided to walk differently, after living wrong, after talking wrong, and of course doing wrong. He decided to let his deeds speak for himself. He got up before the rooster would crow, went to work each day just like any man who was responsible, honest, versatile. He would work on machinery, would go anywhere the farm needed him to. He was able then to see the sprayer, also known to many as the fly boy.

The pilot in this man — who could have become a crop duster or transport pilot — didn't happen. God's plan was circumvented due to bad choices, yet during all this (the years here at Parchman) random acts of kindness were his reparation. The man inside was being reinvented as only Christ can do thru action. You can talk all you want; it is the walk of this man that speaks volumes. Through conversations with old timers, I was able to find bits and pieces about the man (who the media will only portray as evil) who has a side that you would not know if not for articles such as this. I write to let you just see another side of a redeemed man. I want you to know of the time his hand was severely hurt, and instead of wallowing, he wanted to work, as soon as he was able to work. This was when men on the row could work. As time went on, the rules would change, yet this man would continue to work, even if only as a tier worker. (That's work where showers, railings, tables, floors, are kept clean, to ensure sanitary living conditions.)

A bit of history; this man served in Vietnam — a United States Army veteran. As I understand, he was wounded and, as everyone remembers, this was an era when the men came home without parades—nothing like now. All of us don't know what a toll that war had on America. I believe that hard lessons, hard times, were had by all the men who went half way around the world to fight a war. This story is not to discount the wrongs done. This is about redemption, the renewing of a man who through it all, keeps going forward, and the renewing of his mind. I have looked at how he carries himself.

When you are watching the courts change, the laws change, foremost through this, this is a man who has reached out, talked to new men on the row, helping strangers to acclimatize to life here. This man, Richard Jordan, doesn't walk around bragging or boasting of his past nor the present. He *encourages* men, he talks to men, despite the circumstances that brought a man to death row.

You see, his actions confirm what Paul speaks of in Romans 6: “. . . though I don't want to do, I do.” And in Romans 7 and 8, the application of Paul's words to the Romans and to us today, were clearly inspired through the Holy Spirit. The words ring true today. The depth that a man can go down and the uplifting, the continuous growth, that I have seen in men, though I have walked here on the row for but a short time. You see, thru the Holy Spirit, through the Christ-inspired men who wrote that even a man sent to Parchman to be executed by the law can in fact change to uplift not just himself but to help others, inside and outside the walls, to become productive men.

I now put to pen these words because the man I am writing about has been on death row for 39 years. Some of you reading this will wonder, “What kind of a man could bear this?” Another question might be, “Who is this man who can now walk the talk, who can say this is an example of why the state should seek to end the “Death Row?”

Who I am is just a pen with a big question. Do you see the ever bigger question? I have been coming for you. Who is the one who had the quietest impact, the most profound effect and also the biggest history on Death Row? It is the Lord.

I am coming up on two years here and I see where the clock is ticking fast. I hope that in reading this that you take away from this story that you can now choose to walk in Christ, silently doing random acts of kindness, creating in your walk a testament, a testimony to who you are, what you do now and who you are to become. A famous revivalist once wrote “Today's groundwork is the foundation you stand on tomorrow. What groundwork are you doing today?” Thank you Richard Jordan for being a positive effect here on “The Row.”

Lost and Found

As the wind roars endlessly
The challenge to run with all
Tempting
Confusing
Conflicting
To be a follower, to deny
Remembering
Promises
To the cross
Glory, the Holiness, forever
I am not alone, he is with me
Peace
Everlasting
Alfa-Omega, forever His
Wings of Angels
Salvation, his will, my walk
Courage
Knowledge
Understanding
Faith

In Christ,
T. Nelson Evans
Parchman

"Praise God"!

Send thine hand from above;
Rid me, and deliver me . . .

- PSALMS 144:7



Praise God, from whom all our blessings flow;
Praise Him, with open hearts all of thee here below;

Praise God above, the Almighty and Heavenly host;
Praise Our Merciful Father, His Son, and the Holy Ghost.

By:

Justin H. McCune

Don't Worry Be Happy

Matthew 6:25 tells us to “Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor get for your body, what ye shall put on it.” Don’t allow the spirit of fear, worry, and anxiety to take hold of your life. When you allow worry to take hold of your life it prevents you from being able to move forward in confidence and assurance. (Hebrews 10:35) You allow it to block your connection to God. Worry starts with our thoughts but affects our moods and our physical bodies. A person can worry so much about things that it makes them depressed and sad. It gives us headaches, muscle tension, stomach problems. Worry accomplishes nothing. Take your worry to God and lose it. The Bible teaches us not to worry in Matthew 6:31, also saying “Therefore take no thought saying what shall we eat? Or what we shall drink? Or that we shall be clothed?” What’s the solution to not worrying? It’s found in Philippians 4:6 “Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 also tells us to “pray without ceasing.” When we obey the word of God “the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and mind through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:17. So don’t worry, be happy! With love in Christ,

Vanzetta W.

Do Not Worry—Ever

This is another great day that the Lord has made. I thank the Lord for letting me see another day. I have been sitting here in Forrest County Jail for the last seven months, and this time has made me ask myself some questions. Why am I here? To see God, to do his will, and to love and serve him? Why did this happen to me? So God could save me from a life of death and lead me to eternal life through Christ Jesus, his son. Why do I feel unloved, wanted, lost, and alone? Why do I have so much fear, hate, and guilt? God is love and he will never stop loving us; he will never leave us or forsake us; he is in all places at all time; we are never alone because we are in his hands.

I’ve come to understand that his love casts out all fear, and that our acceptance in the kingdom of heaven is free through the blood of Jesus whose love, mercy, and grace replaces all hate, fear, and guilt. By accepting Jesus, believing that he forgives sin, repenting of your sins, you will be forgiven. God is the highest authority you will ever need. You will also be given access to God through Jesus. This opens the door for your prayers. John 14:14 says, “If in my name you ask for anything, I will do it.” God wants you to be well. If you need something, ask for it. God loves you, so believe that scripture—it is powerful—he is all powerful.

We must never put anything before God. Sadly, you used to put everything before him. I am not proud of it, but I admit to putting my own sinful desires—money, drugs, smoking, fighting, women—before God in my life. Now that I have given my life to Jesus, I can go back and receive forgiveness for all those sins. I’m no longer worried about anything because the Lord is on my side and in my heart. My sins still come out—I wrote to my birth mother and angrily said something I didn’t mean; I am sorry for that—but it’s Satan trying to destroy me and my relationships.

If it weren’t for my coming to jail when I did, I would be dead. I am sad about that but happy that the Lord has found me and has made me a better person. Thank you Lord for cleaning me up and working with me everyday! Never trust man because he can never save you. Only God can set you free from the life of sin.

When I was running the streets I thought I was perfect. God alone is perfect. He is the only one that can save you from yourself. If you are not saved, now is the time because a minute from now may be too late. I lost someone important in my life, but I know he is with our Lord. My loved one used to always repeat Psalm 23, “the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” That is a comfort to me always. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Love in Christ,
Devonta Coleman
Forrest Co. Jail

The Nazarite Vow
Numbers 6:1-3

Under the Law of Moses, the tribe of Levi was separated to be a special people among the special nation of God's people—a selection within a selection. In order to be a priest and to serve in the priesthood, an individual had to be a Levite. But not all Levites were priests. And even among the priestly class, an individual had to come from Aaron's lineage to be the high priest; Moses' own descendents could not even qualify. A selection within a selection within a selection as the Lord God sovereignly chooses and anoints for his service.

But there is yet another class of individuals that were set apart unto the Lord in a unique relationship. Our text covers the law of the Nazarite vow. We first note that this class includes both men and women, and is not restricted to a lineal descent. Where only men were allowed to serve in the Levitical priesthood, even a woman from that tribe was prohibited from serving therein. However, anyone with a desire to do so could be a Nazarite. All they had to do was to consecrate themselves to the Lord and take the prescribed vow. These were people that had separated themselves to live a life that honored the Lord. They were not able to serve in the priesthood, but they were all the same willing to dedicate themselves unto God and be so identified.

It is quite natural for us, considering the restrictions and rigors, to wonder why a person would make such a vow. What did it prove? What did it accomplish? We usually try to make applications in our daily life so that we may better understand some of the practices of the Bible. But we have not readily understood parallel to the Nazarite vow in the New Covenant. And so we need to look at the representation of a Nazarite in order to discern a significance for ourselves.

Although the individual would not be permitted to serve as a priest or even to minister about holy things, a person taking the Nazarite vow had a desire to live a life set apart—consecrated—unto the Lord (vs. 8). A Nazarite held him or herself to a standard of conduct intended to reflect the holiness of God. The performance of their vows was itself a recognition that the Lord is a God of devotion and worthy of a consecrated lifestyle. Further, the Nazarite sought out a consecration of the inner life, experiencing an intimate communion and fellowship with God. Upon fulfillment of this vow, the Nazarite offered a burnt offering for consecration, a sin offering for purification, and a fellowship offering for celebration (v16-17). In each of these elements we see that a Nazarite's life was supposed to be a sacrificial undertaking.

The most notable Nazrite in the Bible is Samson (Judges 13:5), whose exploits tend to discolor his character. Nevertheless, Samson receives a favorable report as a hero of the faith (Heb. 11:32-34). Another notable Nazarite was Samuel (1Sam. 1:11). Even though he was a Levite by genealogy, Samuel was dedicated to the Lord by the Nazarite vow from the day of his birth. In the New Testament, we read of the Apostle Paul performing the purification of a Nazarite with other men in fulfillment of the vows (Acts 21:23-26).

Salvation is nowhere indicated in the performance of these vows. Rather, each of these examples of the vow involved men who were already counted among the Covenant Community, but each had been identified for their special relationship with the Lord. That is the value of a consecrated life as shown by the Nazarite vow.

Christianity is not about a series of dos and don'ts that distinguish us as God's people. The new life experience is a walk of faith, characterized by an active love for the brethren, wherein we seek to show Christ in us by our actions. What then is the New Covenant parallel to the Nazarite?

This would be the individual that goes beyond the vast majority of Christians to live a life of complete dedication to the Lord. Their desire is to be a profitable servant rather than simply going through the motions of mechanical obedience (see Luke 17:10). This person is 'sold out' for Christ, presenting themselves as a living sacrifice as their reasonable service; they run the race with patience; press toward the mark; strive to enter in the narrow way. This person wants to know the communion and fellowship of oneness with Christ (John 17:20-24); to be found in him (Phil. 3:9).

Considering the many mighty works done by God in the presence of the children of Israel, it should seem to us a shock that we don't read of more Nazarites in the Bible. Sadly, we read more of the murmuring and complaining, the disobedient and unbelieving that characterized the Israelites as a hard-hearted and stiff-necked people. For the majority, it was enough that they were counted among the people of God. How about you, child of grace? Are you satisfied with your service to the Lord? Will you settle with your place among the people of God? Or is there within you a desire to go above and beyond, to live a life of complete surrender, submission, obedience, and endurance to the Lord? Will you consecrate yourself unto the Lord your God this day and say, "Lord, here I am; use me for your glory and my good"? Yield yourself to the potter and he will make of you a vessel fit for his use.

Christopher Lee

GOSPEL GAMES

(Miracle Match)

Instructions

Match the miracles on the left with their locations on the right. As you find each miracle right down the number in parentheses to the right of the locations in the blanks in the middle next to the miracle it belongs to. Once you have connected the miracles to their locations you can then move on to the secret verse. Good Luck!

Miracles

Locations

(when) Jesus turns water into wine		Matt 9:1-8 (19)
X Jesus cured nobleman's son		Luke 7:11-18 (25)
(His) The great haul of fish		John 5:1-9 (8)
(seated) Jesus casts out unclean spirits		Matt. 9:18-26 (16)
(God) Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law of fever		John 4:46-47 (x)
(in) Jesus healed a leper		John 2:1-11 (9)
X Jesus healed the centurion servant		Luke 14:1-4 (x)
(heavenly) Jesus raised the widow's son from the dead		Matt. 8:23-27 (12)
(Him) Jesus calms storm		John 21:1-14 (22)
(from) Jesus cured two demoniacs		Matt. 17:14-21 (x)
(at) Jesus cured the paralytic		Luke 22:50-51 (11)
(and) Jesus raised ruler's daughter from dead		Matt. 15:32-39 (2)
(this) Jesus cured woman with issue of blood		Mark 7:31-37 (x)
(the) Jesus opens eyes of two blind men		Luke 8:43-48 (3)
(right) Jesus loosens the tongue of mute man		Matt.15:22-28 (6)
(Christ) Jesus healed invalid man at the Bethesda		Matt. 14:15-21 (15)
(in) Jesus restored a withered hand		Luke 5:1-11 (20)
(places) Jesus cured demon-possessed man		Matt. 12:10-13 (23)
(dead) Jesus fed at least five thousand		Mark 1:30-31 (1)
(work) Jesus healed woman of Canaan		Matt. 12:22 (26)
X Jesus healed deaf and mute man		John 9:1-38 (10)
(put) Jesus fed at least four thousand people		Matt. 8:5-13 (x)
(to) Jesus opened eyes of blind man		Luke 17:11-19 (24)
X Jesus cured a demon-possessed boy		Matt. 9:27-31 (14)
(He) Jesus opened eyes of a man born blind		Matt. 21:18-22 (4)
(power) Jesus caused fig tree to wither		Mark 8:22-26 (5)
X Jesus rose from the dead		Matt. 9:32-33 (21)
(hand) The second great haul of fish		John 11:1-46 (x)
(Him) Jesus cured woman sick for eighteen years		Mark 1:23-28 (17)
X Jesus cured man of dropsy		Luke 13:10-17 (18)
(the) Jesus cleansed ten lepers		Matt. 8:28-34 (13)
X Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead		Matt. 20:30-34 (x)
(raised) Jesus restored the ear of the high priest's servant		Mark 1:40-45 (7)

Secret Verse

Now that you have connected all the miracles to their locations you can put together the secret verse on the back. Next to the miracles are different words and next to the locations are different numbers. The numbers tell you where the words go on the back. For example, take the first miracle on the list (when) "Jesus turning water to wine" say that the miracle is found in Mark 1:30-31 (1) then the word (when) would go into space 1 on that back. After you fill in the blanks for the secret verse you can then solve the trivia questions to find out exactly what book, chapter and verse the secret verse is found.

Continue on back

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	
26						

A B C

A) The book in the Bible the secret verse comes from was written to the people of this capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor, off the Aegean Coast, where Paul spent a lot of time in Acts 18 and 19 _____

A

B) There are some of Jesus' miracles that do not have a location listed, how many are there _____

B

C) The verse is the same number as the chapter in the Gospel according to John where Jesus' resurrection takes place _____

C

It is my prayers that through the Gospel Games someone will be encourage to spend time in the word of God so the Lord will use this to speak to them, to convict them and strengthen their desire to seek the Lord always. May the Lord continue to guide us! God Bless

Song of the Month: Tone Spain-"All Powerful"

With Love in Christ,
Kingdom Kid

Some suggested topics for the Newsletter

Thank you for the continued letters, thoughts, and poems you send in to us each month. We want to know more about who you all are. Story seems to be one of the best ways to get to know who someone really is and so we encourage you all to look at some of these suggested topics to see if any inspiration comes as we seek community with one another. Please know that these are not to restrict your writing; you are certainly welcome to choose to write on another topic or in another form. They are simply some ideas as all writers need somewhere to start. Thank you for your continued contributions to this piece and happy writing!

- Choose a story or a character from the Bible and tell us how it speaks to your life or how you connect to it.
- Make up a short story
- Tell us about a character you've read in a book or watched in a movie that inspires you and why.
- Tell us your favorite song. What is it about this song that draws you to it?
- Write a song or send in a piece of original artwork.