

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

January 23, 2022

“Fear Not, I Am Your God!”

By David A. Cox

“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

There is no doubt that fear and anxiety can drain you. People have all kinds of fears. Fear of flying. Fear of financial disaster. Fear of another World War. Fear of Sickness. Fear of death. The list could go on and on.



However, the Lord says that we should “Fear not...Be not dismayed.” As the people of God, we should remember that we should not fear, for the Lord is our God. Let us consider why we should not fear.

God Is With Us

We should have faith to trust in the promises that He has made to us. The Hebrew writer said, *“I will never leave you or forsake you.”* (Hebrews 13:5). God is always with us. The Bible is filled with assurances that God is caring for us. There are many examples in Scripture of God’s providential care for His people.

God gave them water and food in the wilderness. Joseph was away from his family with no expectation of ever seeing them again. But the Lord was with Joseph, and He reunited him with his family in time.

Daniel and his three friends were taken by Babylonians to be trained by them. Many other examples we could cite in Scripture, but these give us the picture of God’s faithfulness to His promise to be with us.

God Will Strengthen Us.

We need to turn our fear into faith or trust in God. In doing so, we find the strength we need for the situation in life we are in. Joshua was chosen to lead the children of Israel into the promised land. To accomplish the entrance and possession of the land would require defeating a most challenging opponent. Moses prepared Joshua for the opposition he would face by saying, *“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”* (Deuteronomy 31:6). We see Joshua serving the Lord and facing the obstacles with faith rather than fear.

God Will Help Us.

People often have fear because they think it is all up to them and there is no help. In First Kings 19, we see the prophet Elijah hiding in a cave because he was serving the Lord and thought no one was with him. The Lord comes to him and changes his perspective on how things were. The Lord was there, and seven thousand in Israel served the Lord. God is always there for us.

Paul reminds Timothy, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* (2 Timothy 1:7). Yes indeed, *“The Lord is my helper”* (Hebrews 13:6). We can rest assured of that.

Fear can lead us to become worrisome, irrational, skeptical, and suspicious... making us not the kind of people God wants. May we understand that fear is an emotion and let us resolve to govern that emotion based on Isaiah’s reason not to fear!

“Personal Responsibility”

By David Osteen

This phrase is being tossed around like a hot potato on a child’s playground, but that’s the problem isn’t; nobody knows the game “hot potato” anymore. The real problem, however, is that nobody even knows how to grow a potato anymore. The wisdom of God teaches us why not knowing how to grow a potato is one of the major reasons the Lord’s church is, what some would say, “In *Trouble!*”

Everybody’s worried about the church dying off. Anywhere you go you are more likely to hear stories of how people “don’t want to listen to the gospel” — then you will hear stories of conversion. There’s a lot of complaining going on, but who is to blame? Are you going to blame God? Certainly you wouldn’t do that. Do we blame our preachers? Maybe. Do we blame Satan? Partially I’m sure. Really the people we blame though, is everyone who doesn’t walk in the door on Sunday. As if everyone would just magically wake up one day and realize they need the gospel, and which church is the true church of God’s divine instructions which they should start attending. Yep, we blame all those people, because we can’t blame ourselves...right?!?!

Personal responsibility: what does that mean anyway? I’m pretty sure it means that an individual has an obligation to personally respond according their ability to fulfill their purpose, or a command from higher authority, or to the circumstances surrounding them that are in need of their attention. It means we have a duty to fulfill what we as an individual must fulfill.

In regard to the church of God, that means building it up. We (inclusive of all Christians) have not only been given the command to build the church, but we have also been given the ability. If God had not given us the ability, then we wouldn’t have the responsibility.

But consider the following passages. In Ephesians 4:12 the Holy Spirit talks about, “*the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*”

While that may be specifically in reference to the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers discussed in the previous verse, consider vs. 16 which tells us what, “*causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love*” comes from “*the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each part.*”

You see, each part does a part. Christ is the head, but he has given each of us as members a responsibility....personal responsibility.

So what’s the connection to the potato? We don’t know how to grow a potato, so we don’t know how to grow the church. We don’t see growing potatoes; how to grow them, why it is important, and what has made us forget how. The most important thing to understand though, before we go any further, is that we have personal responsibility in growing potatoes.

It is true that God says He causes the growth, but who is supposed to be planting the seed? Look out your backyard window. Do you see any potatoes growing? If not, is it God’s fault? Is it your preacher’s or neighbor’s fault? Is it the potatoes’ fault? I know, nobody ever told you to plant potatoes, but think about it. If God did tell you to grow potatoes and you went about it the same way, and put the same effort into it, as you put in to growing His church, how many potatoes would you have?

Personal responsibility....if you don’t get it, souls will be lost.

Memory Verse of the Week:

2 Timothy 1:13 (NKJB)

“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”



News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, Earl Mitchell, and Sandra Oliver.

Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles.

Preacher Trey Haskett and family has Covid.

Wendell Ward (brother at Road Creek Ky.) has Covid and is in the hospital.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Blake Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"The Great Challenge Of Submission To God"*
Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

2 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
Page #37, Question #11

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Busby
Psalm 3:5-8
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: — —
Singing Service: *Men Of The Congregation Lead Singing*
Invitation: Fred Johnson
Closing Prayer: Sam Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 26th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Book of Isaiah
Page #57, Question #1
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

“The Great Challenge Of Submission”

Lesson Text: **James 4:7.**

Submit: To accept or yield to a superior force or to the authority or will of another person. (Oxford Dictionary)

I. How Hard Is Submission To God? To Others?

- (1 to 10 On A Scale of Difficulty?)
- What About to Other People? Is It More Difficult in Some Ways?

Notes: _____.

II. Why Some Will Not Submit.

- Stubbornness- **Proverbs 27:22; Jeremiah 5:1-3; 6:16-17.**
- Pride- **2 Chronicles 26:16-20; Jeremiah 13:15-17.**
- Self-Will- **Romans 10:1-3; Acts 7:51.**
- Love of Sin- **Romans 8:7; Colossians 3:5-6.**

Notes: _____.

III. In What Ways Do We Submit To God?

- In Repentance From Sin- **Luke 15:17-19; Acts 17:30.**
- In Obeying His Commands- **Acts 10:48; John 14:15.**
- In Faithful Service and Worship- **Colossians 3:17.**
- In Jesus’ Moral Teachings- **Matthew 5-7 (7:24-26).**
- In Full Submission Of Everything!- **Eph. 5:24; Luke 6:46.**

Notes: _____.

IV. What Ways Do We Submit To Others?

- Wives To Husband- **Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-5.**
- Children To Parents- **Colossians 3:20.**
- Christian To The Government- **Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13.**
- Christian To Leaders in Church- **Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5.**

Notes: _____.

V. What We Cannot Submit To Others In:

- Sin- **Proverbs 1:10; Ephesians 6:1; Matthew 10:37.**
- Doctrines & Commandments of Men- **Col. 2:20-22.**
- Ceasing The Work Of God- **Acts 5:25-29; 40-42.**

Notes: _____.

VI. How Do Learn Submission?

- From Jesus’ Example- **Philippians 2:5-10.**