

In
Search
of ...

Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

A publication of the
**Wellsburg
church of Christ**
Which meets at:
112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422

We appreciate so much your presence here with us today. We would like to extend an invitation to join us at any of our other times of worship.

TIMES OF SERVICES SUNDAY

Bible Classes* 10:00 AM
AM Worship 10:45 AM
PM Worship 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes* 7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)

Today's Sermon:

Dating the Church?

*Audio CD's are available
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:
www.truthandright.org*

*If you have any questions regarding
what we teach and practice, please
feel free to ask.*

Are the Faithful Never In Darkness?

Gary Henry
via-*Reaching Forward*—09-25-2010

"Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God" —1 Samuel 30:6

In a way, it is encouraging to me to read that *"David was greatly distressed."* If a man of his character could be distressed, then when I am frightened and discouraged, I shouldn't assume that such feelings represent a failure of faith on my part. Distress MAY mean a failure of faith, but then again, it may not. David's faith didn't mean that he was never discouraged; it meant that he responded to discouragement by REFUSING TO GIVE UP.

As long as we live in this world, there are going to be some dark days for us. Satan will see to that. Being a Chris-

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tian does not insulate us from hardship and heartache. And only a robot could experience the sadness of this world without emotional distress. So the mere presence of certain FEELINGS shouldn't surprise us.

Faith doesn't mean always feeling confident. If I believe the gospel of Christ is true, I believe it for the same reason that I believe my next door neighbor is trustworthy: the evidence for it is stronger than the evidence against it. But that doesn't mean that a doubt may not arise now and then, either as to the gospel's truth or my neighbor's trustworthiness. When a doubt arises, faith is not taken aback. It simply asks, "Has anything about the EVIDENCE changed?"

Hope doesn't mean always feeling hopeful. Hope is based on faith, and so, like faith, it can sometimes be buffeted by the distresses of daily events. Even with the strongest possible reasons to believe and to hope, we find that short-term happenings can make it seem that our hopes are not going to be realized. In this respect, religious hope is no different than any other kind of hope. Those who conquer, whether in spiritual or temporal affairs, are those who hang on to their hopes with an "it ain't over till it's over" attitude.

I like to think of hope as THE ACTIVE EXERCISE OF FAITH. It doesn't mean never being in darkness or doubt. It means that in darkness or doubt we choose to look at the bigger picture, and based on the bigger picture, we decide to keep going forward. And let me tell you: DECIDING TO GO FORWARD WHEN YOU'RE DISCOURAGED IS AS FINE A THING AS YOU'LL EVER DO. "Hope is grief's best music" (Henry George Bohn).

*"Hope is faith holding out
its hands in the dark"*

—George Iles—

Becoming Adept at Devotion

By—Gary Henry

*"Now may the Lord direct your
hearts into the love of God and into
the patience of Christ"*

—2 Thessalonians 3:5

In a world full of distractions, it is not easy to keep our hearts lovingly aimed in God's direction. Our minds are tugged this way and that by multiple concerns, and when we try to keep them centered on God, we find that our minds wander. Consistent and easy devotion to God is a habit that must be acquired, a skill that must be learned. Like most other good things, godliness takes training, discipline, and regular practice over time.

If we're not where we want to be in our devotion to God, how do we get there? The answer is hardly surprising: WE GET THERE A LITTLE AT A TIME. If a person has been confined to a hospital bed for several weeks, that person may aspire to running a twenty-six mile marathon at some point, but that is not going to happen the first day home from the hospital. The person will first have to sit up, then stand up, and then walk across the room. With daily discipline, the person will then walk around the block, then run around the block, and then run around many blocks. The marathon will come in due course, but only after a regimen of training that PROGRESSIVELY builds strength and skill over time. And in our spiritual lives, the very same "law of progressive strength" is in operation. We can get to the point where our hearts stay easily and naturally centered on God, but we can't get there overnight.

We need to be realistic enough to accept this fact: we won't become adept at devotion if we don't engage in the ACTIVITIES that are conducive to that. It is silly to suppose that we can neglect the MEANS through which de-

votion is increased and still enjoy the RESULTS of those means. If we don't regularly take the time to engage in such disciplines as Bible study, prayer, and meditation, then we'll remain spiritually immature and it'll not get any easier for us to keep our hearts in the right place. As an older man, Paul knew what he was talking about when he said to his younger friend Timothy, "*exercise yourself toward godliness*" (1 Timothy 4:7).

"Ostriches are not flying birds, chickens fly short distances with much effort, but eagles, doves, and swallows fly high and far.

Sinners are like the ostrich and are earthbound. Good people who have not quite reached devotion are like the chicken; they fly in God's direction, but inefficiently and awkwardly. The devout soar to God with regularity. Devotion, then, is a natural agility of the soul" -Francis de Sales

Stillness and Joy

By—Gary Henry

Via-Reaching Forward—09-23-2010

"Be still, and know that I am God" —Psalm 46:10

Nowadays, one reason we know so little about joy is that we know so little about stillness. In this age of the world, most of us are busy with a myriad of priorities and projects. And we PRIDE ourselves in it. The person whose schedule is packed has more prestige than the fellow who "doesn't have much to do." But joy — real, spine-tingling JOY — is in seriously short supply.

We'll try to define "stillness" in a moment, but just think, by way of contrast, how unlikely it would be for joy to surface in the kind of lives we lead. Our "busyness" produces so

much clamor and clatter, the voice of joy is drowned out. It simply gets lost in the shuffle. Even if joy were to appear, it would go unnoticed.

But what does it mean to be "still" before the Lord? It doesn't mean being physically still, though stillness of the body is often involved. And it doesn't mean not saying anything, though that is often involved as well. "Stillness" before God means reverence, humility, openness, and forgetfulness of self. It means putting our minds into a thoughtful posture. It means having our activity stilled and our words hushed by a compelling sense of the power of God Almighty. Above all, it means having a servant's readiness to OBEY: "*Speak, Lord, for your servant hears*" (1 Samuel 3:9).

I suggest that it would be rare for a person to experience genuine joy if he or she were not mentally disposed in the manner we've just described. That is the only kind of environment in which real joy can make an appearance. Just as happiness eludes those who "pursue" it, joy is even harder to bring under our own power. It doesn't come "on command," but rather it is experienced, often quite unexpectedly, by those who are "still" before the Lord. Unstill people are simply not good candidates for joy.

So God's instruction to us is this: "*Be still, and know that I am God*". We shouldn't obey that instruction selfishly, simply so we can have the joy we want. Nevertheless, we won't have any joy if we don't obey it. Without a reverent stillness at the center of our hearts, joy has no chance to break through the noise of earthly life. Of all the killjoys in the world, irreverent busyness is the worst.

*"The heart that is to be filled
to the brim with holy joy
must be held still"*

—George Seaton Bowes

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Matthew 23:23-29
Reader	Wayne Campbell
Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Don Coen, Sr.
Fruit of the Vine	Ed Roberts
Serve	Chaz Schaffer
Serve	Terry Smith
Closing Prayer	Wayne Campbell

Please inform the one in charge of announcements if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities.

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Wayne Campbell
Scripture	Matthew 24:1-24
Reader	Matt Ferrell
1st Prayer	Nathan Marshall
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Ken Prager
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

Wednesday

Class Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Singing/Praying
Invitation	Matt Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Travelling:

- **Alfred & Mary Jane Myers**

Sick/ Poor Health:

- **Lenora Abrigg**, Nancy Morris' sister-in-law
- **Zeda Goddard**, also her family— sons, **Dallas** and **Terry**, and daughter Tammy Garrison
- **Blake Headen**, Alberta's husband, is to go back next month to have a stint put in for the other kidney.
- **Jerry & Dottie Henderson** are making their way back to Alabama. They are in Plano, IN this week-end
- **Virginia Malick**, Peggy Miller's mother
- **Ronald Lancaster** is doing some better
- **Paula Prager** as she continues to deal with a difficult pregnancy
- **Jimmy Roberts**, Ed & Marie's son
- **Jim Roberts**, Ed Roberts' father
- **Marie Roberts**
- **Kris Shane**
- **Gabriel Taylor**, 4 year old great grandson of Don & Phyllis, dealing with cancer.

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Ann's Retreat:

- Josephine Clow

Brightwood Center:

- Shirley Campbell

Valley Haven:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

At Home:

- Mabel Fleming
- Zeda Goddard
- Betty Hunter
- Pauline Midcap
- Ann Rudolph

Send them a card—give them a call—let them know we are thinking about them.

If someone needs to be added to this list, please call:
304-914-2262 or 304-914-2263