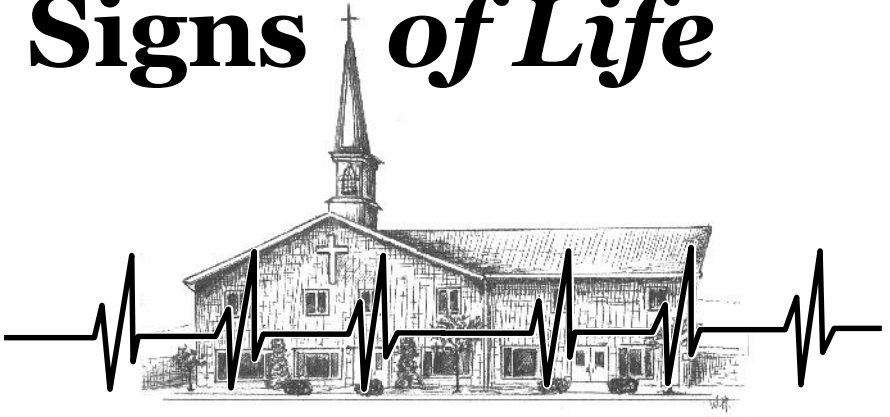


# Significant Signs *of Life*



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**January 2010 Series**

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## **Significant Signs of Life in the Church**

*Ideas taken from "10 Leading Indicators of a Healthy Church",  
[www.EFCA.org](http://www.EFCA.org)*

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*From the pulpit ministry at Christ E. Free Church  
of Saegertown, PA*

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***Jesus Christ. . .***  
*our highest calling,  
our greatest purpose,  
our soul's source and joy,  
and our all-consuming passion.*



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## Significant Signs of Life In The Church

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

*Ephesians 1:22-23*

### Introduction

As a Pastor and volunteer Chaplain, there have been many times I have stood by the bedside of someone in the hospital, who was sick with cancer or severely injured in an accident and found myself looking at the tubes and wires, watching the monitors and lights and listening to the beeps and alarms and wondering “how much life is left in this person?”

I remember being called by a family to visit “Mike” in the hospital, as he was dieing of cancer. I visited him several times and each time he seemed closer to death’s door. One evening, I was with him in the ICU, and found him to be technically alive, but practically speaking, unresponsive to my attempts to communicate with him. I was told that he may not make it until morning. I shared the gospel with him once more and prayed with him alone, as the family was not there.

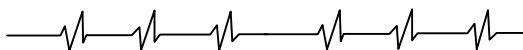
The next morning I thought I should visit the hospital first thing, as I was expecting the worst – death and a family that would need consoling. As I arrived and scrubbed up, I walked down the busy hallway and as I approached his room, I saw Mike sitting up in bed and eating a large plate of bacon, eggs, toast, with juice and coffee on the side. Before he saw me, I backed up, retraced my steps, checked to be sure I was in the right hallway and if this was the right room. It was. Mike has surprised everyone.

For a brief time, the vital signs for Mike's life were misleading. He had much more significant signs of life, than the monitors and gauges were actually displaying.

The Bible describes the Church as "the body" of Jesus Christ. And as a physical human body has certain signs of life, so does the spiritual body of Christ, the Church. Jesus is "...the head over all things to the church, which is his body..."

As some people are healthy and their body is functioning well, Churches are often similar. But just as there are times when a person is sick, injured or simply unhealthy, there are churches that may be sick, injured or simply unhealthy. Perhaps this will be viewed not as a formula of church health, but some helpful information as to what a healthy church might be meant to look like.

God's blessings to you and your church!



# Time

## Significant Signs of Life In The Church

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### Time: Our Most Precious Commodity

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January 3, 2010

**Overall Big Idea:** The life of the church is always reflected in the life of the believing Christians who make it up. The church will never evidence any more significant signs of life, than those who make it up. The strength of the church lies in the strength of every believing Christian, *unified in its cause, and purpose.*

### INTRODUCTION

Vital signs of human life – heart beat, blood pressure, respiration rate, cholesterol or platelet count, sugar levels, infection or brain wave activity. – these are all important areas of testing for signs of human life. We call these our *Vital Signs*.

### What are the Vital signs for life of the church of Jesus Christ?

In the Bible, the church is referred to as a “body” or the body of Christ. As we look at some signs of the life and health of the body of Christ we need to know what to look for. We can’t hook the church up to an EKG machine – we can’t take the blood pressure.

## SIGNIFICANT SIGNS OF LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**Matthew 16:13-18** And coming into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked His disciples, saying, Who do men say Me to be, the Son of Man? (14) And they said, Some say, John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. (15) He said to them, But who do you say I am? (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. (17) Jesus answered and said to him, You are blessed, Simon, son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal it to you, but My Father in Heaven. (18) And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

### The church must know to whom it belongs

**1 Cor. 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Purchased by the blood of Christ – He holds the deed of ownership of His church – the church belongs to Christ therefore each believers is the Lord's.

### The church must trust in His promise to build

Mat. 16:18 refers to both the global church as well as the local church. It is not man's philosophies on growth or health, not organizational strategies but Christ's promise of His purpose which ***will be fulfilled*** in His church by Christ Himself.

### The Church is built upon the rock\_\_

Christ informs us that His church will be built upon the sure foundation of a confident faith in who He is. Jesus builds His church upon true and assured believers in Christ.

## **Not told by a person but revealed by God Himself**

In Mat. 16:17, Jesus commends Peter that he has believed. not just what do others believe and say about Him, but he believed what God the Father had revealed to him.

And He promises that “the gates of hell will not prevail against it”.

## **Significant Signs of Life**

What is it that makes a church impervious to the attacks of hell?

- 1) An understanding of who they are - *knowledge*
- 2) An accurate grasp of what is expected of them –  
*awareness*
- 3) A commitment to obey, become and live out that which  
they are ordained to do - *willingness*

\* The Church is a lot like a rope – many individual strands bound together to make one strong rope.

\* The church is like a sports team – many players but one team. If the team wins, each player wins. If each individual player wins, the entire team wins. That is the desire of Christ for His church – to win *together*.

The church is like a body – many parts, working together to make the overall body strong and productive. If one part is sick, it affects the body as a whole. When one part is useful and productive it makes the whole body useful and productive.

When we refer to the church, it is important to remember we are referring to a collection of individual believers and followers of Jesus Christ. They are many who make up one. What the church is, will always be what the individuals are. What the individuals are, will become what the church is, like it or not. The church is always a result of the Christians who make it up.



If individuals are unhealthy and spiritually lacking, that will characterize the church. Like an infected leg – poison works its way up the leg, until it is no longer just the leg that is affected but the entire body is infected, because of the infection of the leg itself. The body is affected by the health of illness of any one of its limbs or members – likewise, the church

Our sub series in the Signs of Life for January is Stewardship.

## **STEWARDSHIP IS THINGS ON LOAN FROM GOD**

-- Stewardship might be accurately put as being what we do with what we have been given by God. Christian Stewardship begins with the awareness and conviction and lifestyle that views all that we have as being on loan to us from God (Rush Limbaugh)

*\* More specific issues dealing with Christian Stewardship will be picked up in a later section.*

## **OUR FIRST ITEM OF WHICH GOD HAS MADE US STEWARDS IS TIME.**

Time is Our most Precious Commodity

2010 – sounds like something from Buck Rogers or a science fiction movie. As time hastens by us, and history piles up behind us, we realize that every moment counts for God’s kingdom work. We realize that everything we do must count. We must be about the most important business of serving Christ.

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” --Eph 5:15-16

In other words, make most of every opportunity, recognize every kingdom moment, take advantage of every opportunity to redeem the time and carry our Gods' kingdom work which He brings in our path.

We are to do all for the glory of God. Some view that as a fanatical statement rather than a Biblical statement.

“Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to *the glory of God.*” -- *1 Cor. 10:31*

**Q:** How valuable is today? How valuable is this moment?

Take note of your calendar for 2010 – things scheduled – priorities, appointments – time allotments for tasks – that will give you an idea of how you value your time.

I have often been fascinated by people who have had a brush with death, but lived to tell about it. For some, it is an experience in the hospital when they nearly died and by extraordinary life saving means, they were revived and given a new lease on life.

Perhaps it was someone who saved from drowning and as a result the value of life became more stark than they had ever viewed it before.

Most of these experiences have a similar impact on the person – that they are filled with a fresh sense of the value of every moment of the day and filled with a renewed passion and new reason for living and with the assurance that they were preserved for a purpose. Perhaps someone might even think, “God is not finished with me yet”.

**\*\*** How I live my life – How I spend my time becomes very important – time becomes their most precious commodity and everyday is a gift from God

I am thinking that it is unfortunate that these kinds of perspectives on life, typically only occur after a near death experience or a crisis of life threatening proportions.

### **The value of time is an acquired perspective**

We are to make the most of every opportunity – we have to be told, reminded, and instructed and sometimes even warned through crisis life situations.

How valuable – how profoundly valuable that perspective on life would be, if we could gain that perspective without the crisis – if we woke up every day with that value of our day and the value of each and every moment we live and for every breath that we breath.

Jim Croce sang...“If I could save time in a bottle...”. If only we *could* save it. But once time is here and past, it is gone forever!

*Consider these thoughts...*

**1) We cannot save time.** As each moment passes, it is gone forever.

**2) We cannot buy time** – We can purchase additional air time for our cell phones - but we cannot purchase one mili-second of time to add to our day or extend our lives.

### **3) We cannot turn back the hands of time**

Man can walk on the moon – He can change one element into another by manipulating molecular structure – man can tap into the brain and do all kinds of things that a decade ago, was unimagined.

But man has never figured out how to turn back time – even for one moment.

### **Time, like salvation is a gift from God**

Life, breath and time are precious gifts from God. He gives us one life – whose days and seconds are numbered by God.

God gives each of us opportunities and kingdom moments should we recognize them and once they are gone- whether we

ignored them, failed to recognize them or failed to act on them - we are given any given opportunity only once and then it is irretrievably gone..

We can never turn back the clock – we cannot press the undo button on life and delete a few selected scenes that we would rather forget. We can never press the rewind button to back up to just before we made the mistake or just prior to ignoring an opportunity – we can never change how we have spent one minute of how we have handled any given kingdom opportunity.

Today, as is true of every day of our lives –each of us have a new lease on life – so to speak. Today most of us are not experiencing a life threatening crisis, yet our position and opportunity is exactly the same. We may not have the same crisis motivation, but we have the chance to make a difference and live lives with great purpose.

Realistically, God should not have to bring us to the brink of death, to show us the value of life. He should not have to wake us up, in order to seize life and ministry for the glory of God.

\* For most of us – life is a series of realizing God’s purpose and calling, recognizing God’s kingdom moments and opportunities before us and receiving the invitation and challenge – *“this is your missions – should you decide to accept it.”* (from the original *Mission Impossible*)

<p>Our 2010 Mission Statement</p> <p>We are committed to demonstrating God’s Word through His unconditional love, to reach people and develop mature disciples in the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Our 2016 Mission Statement</p> <p>We are connecting with others, in order to connect them to Christ and to other Christ followers, <i>the Church</i>.</p>
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## Our Daily Commitment:

By Gods grace, I will spend this next year “Making the most of every opportunity, to recognize kingdom moments, make relational connections, and to share the gospel, in order that others might hear the good news, believe in Jesus Christ and be saved, that they might be born into the family of God, brought into the body of Christ, trained up and established in the faith and fully equipped for a life of devoted service to our Lord.”

## APPLICATION

What can I do now to avoid waking up one day and realizing I have wasted much of my life and God’s calling?

### Take Frequent Time to Re-Focus

Without a life crisis of near death experience – times of refocus and recommitment to our cause can be effective in renewing our purpose for living life.

Too often as Christians, we forget why it is we are where we are. We forget who we are. We forget the expectations that are upon us. We wander from the responsibilities before us. We may even be guilty of closing our eyes from the kingdom moment opportunities that are right in front of us.

2010 – New Years refocus and renewal can be valuable in beginning to redeem the time, and make the most of every opportunity that God has given us.

For some, they step into eternity having wasted so very much of their earthly life on themselves. They will live to regret that mistake. For others, they will be fortunate to face some crisis or experience or some life changing circumstance that will cause time to stand still – will cause them to take brief inventory of life’s priorities – and will fill them with a renewed passion for life and reason for why God spared them. Those people will become to everyone else – the most obnoxious people on earth. Someone

with more passion than I have, becomes obnoxious, unless I allow that passion and fervency to fill me as well.

Christians with passion and purpose are often obnoxious to us because they are so convicting to us. We realize, that is the way I should be living but don't. That is how I should be feeling, but don't. That is the way I should be serving Christ, but am not.

### **Make a strong commitment to be part of Gods' solution**

I know one individual in this church who recently was approached by someone they knew who needed help and prayer. This Christian agreed to be of whatever help them might be and also to pray for that person who was in need. After a period of time the two of them ended up having a Bible study together. This Christian said to me, "I was praying for that person, but never thought I'd be the one who would help."

God answered that prayer by making the person who prayed the prayer the very answer.

"Strong faith is evidenced when what we pray for, becomes the very thing we are willing to do."

Why make a once a year resolution to change, when that is what we should be doing every day.?

If I were to ask you, "What will you do with the next second of life God has given you?" – Oops – too late - that second is gone.

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Ok, what will you do with the *next* second of your life? -- Oops, too late again – that second is gone forever and is irretrievable.

You might think I have become a fanatic – focusing on seconds? But put enough seconds together and you get a minute. Put enough minutes together and you get an hour. Put enough hours together and before you know it a year – a decade – or a life has passed by. If we are not careful with what we do with our insignificant seconds, we may just lose the significant life and its kingdom opportunities that God has gifted us with.

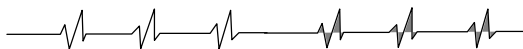
## **Significant Signs of Life**

What characterizes your life?

What would you like to characterize your life?

### **Closing Congregational Prayer for the new year.**

- 1) To pursue God's purpose and calling for my life
- 2) to fulfill Gods expectations for my life
- 3) That I'd make the most of the gift of time and every kingdom opportunity God brings into my life.
- 4) For God to strengthen the vital signs of Christian life in my life, so I can contribute to the significant signs of life in my church.



# *Stewardship*

## Significant Signs of Life In The Church

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### **Stewardship: What We Do With What We Have**

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**January 10, 2010**

Things on Load from God

**Title:** “Possessions: Blessings, Snares or Tools”

State, Read, Summarize, Explain, Apply, Repeat

**Overall Big Idea:** The life of the church is always reflected in the life of the Christians who make it up. The church will never evidence any more significant signs of life, than those who make it up. The strength of the church lies in the strength of every believing Christian, united in the cause, and purpose.

### **INTRO**

Consider a question: How do I view the things I call my own?

Possessions are things that belong to us. They are tangible things we have acquired in this life, -- none of which will go with us when we leave this life

How should we view things or possessions? How should we treat things we consider as our own possessions?



Perhaps we might consider viewing possessions as things on loan to us from God – things bestowed to us, not always for us, but that we might be a blessing to others.

## **POSSESSIONS ARE BLESSINGS: GIFTS FROM GOD**

Possessions may be blessings as Gods provisions for our life.

\* Blessings remain blessings until we get the gift and the Giver turned around.

The believing Christian is to be holy or set apart from the World for Jesus Christ. In fact the Bible tells us that . . .

### **Christians Out of this world**

**Joh 17:15-17** I do not pray for You to take them out of the world, but for You to keep them from the evil. (16) They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (17) Sanctify them through Your truth. Your Word is truth.

We are not “of this world”, therefore we should not have our desires and affections focused too much on the things of this world.

The fact that a person has possessions is not necessarily an indication of worldly love. We don’t have a meter to register “worldliness” – that is between each one of us and God. Only God knows our hearts.

### **Put away worldly desires**

Focus our affections on things of the world that we belong to – spiritual world – God’s kingdom -

**1Jn 2:15-16** Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, (16) because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

The more our heart longs for and loves things of this world, the love of God lessens – love for the world purges out love for God.

Blessings from God are provisions for life and must never be allowed to receive that which only God deserves – our adoration, devotion and worship.

**Col 3:1-4** If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth. (3) For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory.

\* Too much earthly focus diverts our passions from our heavenly focus.

## **POSSESSIONS CAN BE SNARES OR OPPORTUNITIES TO STUMBLE**

Blessings remain blessings until we get the blessing and the Blessor turned around. When we get the gift and the Giver confused, then the blessing can become a snare or an opportunity to stumble into sin or even idolatry.

### **Snare may be Things we stumble over - Stumbling blocks**

**Heb 12:1** Therefore since we also are surrounded with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Snare = trap \* God doesn't give us blessings in hopes of causing us to stumble. He gives us blessings to help us and to help us help others. We stumble and become ensnared or fall into a trap when we begin to view blessings from God – things that are on loan from God, as though they were our very own personal possessions.

## **Snares may be Things we bow down to**

Possessions may become snares or stumbling blocks to our spiritual life – hindrance to accomplishing and achieving what God wants us to do.

Blessings remain blessings until we get our affections misplaced. Once we begin giving to things, that which should be reserved for God alone, that interest, and affection may turn to idolatry

It is a matter of Using things vs loving things (of this world)

Owning things, vs things owning us

**1Jn 3:17-18** But whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him? (18) My Little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth.

Idolatry can occur when we begin considering Gods blessings – things on loan from God to us – as personal possessions.

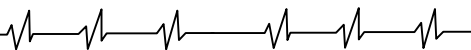
## **Things that draw us in the devil's path**

### **Pride**

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.

This thing makes me feel or appear more valuable, more popular or more likable. It makes me feel more fulfilled or satisfied, it adds to the value of life and supplies a need in my heart.

That is a very real danger when we begin to view Gods blessings as things that are our very own possessions.



## VIEWING POSSESSIONS

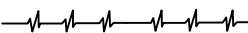
Perhaps the better way to view possessions are as blessings from God and Tools for His Kingdom work

### Possessions are to be used for God's purposes

**Act 2:42-45** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (43) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. (44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common; (45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

**Act 4:32** (32) And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. (33) And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. (34) Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were **possessors** of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, (35) And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

\* Our church helped several families but has recently had opportunity to help one family in particular. I have been encouraged by the examples of others who have given household items as well as food to this family – not begrudgingly as having to get rid of something of their own – but willingly helping and giving as though the things they were giving were given to them by God for the very purpose of helping others.



## **When Zacchaeus met Christ, his values changed.**

**Luk 19:2-9** And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. (3) And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. (4) And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. (5) And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. (6) And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. (7) And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. (8) And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. (9) And Jesus said unto him, This day is **salvation come to this house**, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

When Zacchaeus met Christ his values changed because Jesus changed him. --When our attitude about our possessions change, and we begin to consider the things we have as tools on loan from God rather than personal possessions - that is a sign that a true inner life change has occurred and that Christ is ruling as LORD in the life of those believers.

## **APPLY Lessons on Possessions**

**Possessions are to be used and enjoyed** – and considered a blessing from God as a help for life – that’s what Ecclesiastes teaches us.

**Possessions should be viewed as being gifts from God – things on loan from God that are to be used as tools for**

Gods purposes. – possibly to help others in need to help us to reach others for Christ.

## Regain a proper perspective

Love people and use things -- BJ Thomas

**Using things and loving people** That's the way it's got to be  
Using things and loving people Look around and you can see  
That loving things and using people Only leads to misery  
Using things and loving people  
That's the way it's meant to be

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## Mat. 25 – parable of the talents.

3 servants given loans by their master. Expected, not to hoard or bury that loan, but to use it for the master.

2 Examples of possessors of great treasures.....

### 1) Rich Young Ruler

**Mat 19:16-24** And behold, one came and said to Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life? (17) And He said to him, Why do you call Me good? There is none good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments. (18) He said to Him, Which? Jesus said, You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, (19) honor your father and mother, and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. (20) The young man said to Him, I have kept all these things from my youth up; what do I lack yet? (21) Jesus said to him, If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in Heaven. And come, follow Me. (22) But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. (23) Then Jesus said to His disciples, Truly I say to you that a rich man will with great difficulty enter into the kingdom of Heaven. (24) And again I say to you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

\* the thought of having to give up some of his possessions was such a stumbling stone that it caused him to walk away from Christ sorrowful. – it was going to cost him something...

I cannot say, “I am not like that” – but I can say, “I do not want to be like that”.

2<sup>nd</sup> example of a possessor of great treasure.....

## **2) Abraham**

IN Gen 22 God tells Abraham to go sacrifice his only son Isaac. Abraham was faced with surrendering his greatest blessing and dearest treasure back to God.

His son was clearly a gift from God - Abraham surrenders his own will and offers that treasure back to God.

## **APPLICATION**

**Let us consider today...**

1) ...As those blessed by God – we could follow Abraham’s example – perhaps we should regularly remind ourselves that all we have and all that we call our own, are blessings on loan from God which are intended to be used as tools or implements for Gods’ kingdom work.

2) Also, Consider regularly surrendering all that is dear to us, back to God -- entrusting Him for all our needs and to use us as His own instruments of honor for His kingdom purposes.

Closing Song: #388 – I Would Be Like Jesus.



# *Giftedness*

Significant Signs of Life In The Church

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## **Giftedness: Spiritual Power For Spiritual Work**

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**January 17, 2010**

**Overall Big Idea:** The life of the church is always reflected in the life of the Christians who make it up. The church will never evidence any more significant signs of life, than those who make it up. The strength of the church lies in the strength of every believing Christian, united in the cause, and purpose.

INTRO

Children's Church

**Q1: What is a spiritual gift?** Something God has given to us as a gift, in order for us to use for His purposes. It is how God has chosen to use each of us.

One pastor said: "Spiritual gifts are Gods power tools for ministry"

We could say: "Spiritual Giftedness is Spiritual power for Spiritual Work"

"When our goals are supernatural, our means must be supernatural"

-Larry Crabb, *SoulCare*



Hopefully we would all agree that serving Christ is a spiritual work with spiritual goals in which we must utilize or exercise spiritual means.

And God has provided the spiritual means for His work

### **Christians are indwelt by God**

**Joh 14:16-17** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

**1Co 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

In urging the Corinthians to put away immorality and to live Godly lives He says The temple of the HS – that is the dwelling place of Gods Spirit ((God indwells every believing Christian))

**Q2:** What are the spiritual gifts? - diversity of grace

**Rom 12:4-8** For even as we have many members in one body, and all members do not have the same function, (5) so we the many are one body in Christ, and each one members of one another. (6) Then having gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, if prophecy, according to the proportion of faith; (7) or ministry, in the ministry; or he who teaches, in the teaching; (8) or he who exhorts, in the encouragement; or he who shares, in simplicity; or he who takes the lead, in diligence; or he who shows mercy, in cheerfulness. (9) Let love be without hypocrisy, shrinking from evil, cleaving to good;

V5-“each one members of one another...” i.e. we are others focused – in other words the church is made up of many believers

and many believers make up the church. The church is corporately, what each believer is individually.

**ILL:** - We are accustomed to receiving gifts which are our own – they belong to us. Yet, spiritual gifts or the gifts of the Spirit are God’s gifts on loan or assigned to each of us as He sees fit.

\* When a gift is handed to you we might say “Here, this gift is for you.” But with the giving of the Gifts of the HS, we might say that God gives you a gift, and says “Here, this is for the church.”

(( We are to be others oriented)))

### **Q3: What are the purposes of the spiritual gifts?**

To perform Gods kingdom work and to build His church.

**Mat 16:15-18** He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. (18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus has a building project going on. He is building His church. Part of that is the strengthening and building up the church – both numerically, but also with maturity

And we can be participants in Gods work or we can hindrances and obstacles in that work.

The Gifts of the Spirit are Gods’ power tools for accomplishing His spiritual goals in building His church – not a physical structure, but the people who make up the church.

(( The purpose of the spiritual gifts are to build up the church.))

### **Q4: How does sp giftedness fall into stewardship category?**

Jesus gives the HS to every believer. The HS indwells every believer and imparts His spiritual Gifts to every believer. We in turn, give those gifts back to God as we live our lives and utilize our spiritual gifts for His kingdom purposes in our daily obedience.

We use what we have for the purpose of Gods kingdom, for the building up of the church and for the glory of God Himself.

Its how we use what He has given to us.

**Q5: How do you find your spiritual gift?** (Acts 13)

Different tools and means such as Spiritual Gift surveys can be useful tools which can aid us in determining someone's spiritual giftedness, but not the prominent source.

- There is the temptation to seek a short cut solution to Christian maturity – there is no short cut. There is also a temptation to seek a short cut to finding our spiritual giftedness – I believe there is no short cut. Maturity is a lesson that comes only from time, refining and correction. Spiritual giftedness can be identified – I believe – only by time and development, as we are consistently participating in kingdom ministry – that involves, time, experience, time, obedience, more time, Christian growth, and a little bit more time – no short cuts!

**Acts 13**

- Leaders in place
- worship together in the church
- chs 9-12 - involved serving and & actively obedient
- praying and fasting - seeking
- Church observes and HS speaks to the believers to confirm

**Q6: How does the HS speak?** Some received visions, or had dreams

- Seems to me it was far less mystical than that. It seems that as Paul and Barnabas were busy serving Christ and exercising their

Holy Spirit Gifts, the church was observing them, and the HS began to “speak” or impress upon the church and the leaders that Paul and Barnabas were truly gifted, passionate, mature and obedient followers of Christ and should be sent out as missionaries.

I believe, this is one of the most important processes of finding our Giftedness – growing & maturing in the faith - active & involved in the work of the Lord in the church – praying & seeking Gods direction – Observation and confirmation from other Christians around you.

Any kind of info gathering process can be of great value. Yet this seems to be the most Biblical approach and should not be discounted in the church today.

“Spiritual Giftedness is Spiritual power for Spiritual Work”

“When our goals are supernatural, our means must be supernatural”

-Larry Crabb, *SoulCare*

**GOD HAS A PURPOSE AND CALLING FOR EACH CHRISTIAN**

**As a church, We are a Body – many who make up one.**

**1Co 12:4-12** But there are differences of gifts, but the same Spirit. (5) And there are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. (6) And there are differences of workings, but it is the same God working all things in all. (7) But to each one is given the showing forth of the Spirit to our profit. (8) For through the Spirit is given to one a word of wisdom; and to another a word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit; (9) and to another faith by the same Spirit; and to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; (10) and to another workings of powers, to another prophecy; and to another discerning of spirits; and to another kinds of tongues; and to another the interpretation of tongues.

(11) But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing separately to each one as He desires. (12) For as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.

a body ministry

\* the church as a whole is made up of many believers – Each believer makes up the church. Therefore, what each believer is individually, will characterize the church as a whole.

### **We need one another – We are Interdependent**

**1Co 12:14-21** For the body is not one member, but many. (15) If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? (16) And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? (17) If all the body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If all hearing, where would be the smelling? (18) But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body as it has pleased Him. (19) And if they were all one member, where would be the body? (20) But now indeed many are the members, yet only one body. (21) And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no **need** of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

We need one another – We are interdependent. – “Oh wait a minute! Isn’t that an admissions of weakness?” - YES.

- A puzzle is made up of many pieces. Loaf of bread is made up of many slices. Body is made up of many parts. Church is made up of many believers.

\* **Yes**, we need one another.

### **We are to be body builders**

**Eph 4:15-17** (15) ... speaking the truth in love, may in all things grow up to Him who is the Head, even Christ; (16) from whom the whole body, fitted together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the

measure of each part, producing the growth of the body to the **edifying** of itself in love. (17) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should not walk from now on as other nations walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Edifying = building up – construction – the building of the church of Jesus Christ is believers working together to minister to one another, in strengthening one another in faith and encouraging one another toward love and good deeds (Heb.10:24)

**1Co 14:26** Then how is it, brothers? When you come together, each one of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be for **building up.**

((God has a purpose and calling for each of us..))

## GOD HAS A SPIRITUAL GIFT FOR EACH OF US

One Significant Signs of Life in the church is the utilization and exercising of our Holy Spirit Giftedness – or our spiritual gifts.

### **SSoL – Christ focused and service oriented**

- Calling or lack of calling
- choosing God's purpose or refusing God's purpose

### **God's giftedness involves Good works** \_\_\_\_\_

Ordained – character – who we are

Service – What we do

**Mat 5:14-16** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. (15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- good works and glorify your father in heaven

**Eph 2:8-10** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**Spiritual Gifts are** Gods' HS working through us from the inside out to accomplish His kingdom work – The Gifts of the HS is Gods spiritual means of accomplishing His spiritual goals through each of us in His church.

\* It is God in us, working through us, to Carry on Christ's ministry on earth

-Seek and save that which was lost

- Body of Christ has same ministry

\* Spiritual gifts may complement one another, such as *giving* and *faith* or *helps* and *mercy*

\* Spiritual gifts may conflict with one another, such as organization ( details ) and teaching ( get the lesson taught ).

\* Up to the Christian to exercise our spiritual gifts in harmony, so that as we work individually – we work as a body – together to accomplish our assigned tasks.

((God has a spiritual gift for each of us. ))

RECEIVE AND UTILIZE THE GIFT

**It is important that we are Aware of Gifts**

\* knowledge – Biblical understanding

Gifts are not independent of its Source. Remember, spiritual gifts are the way in which the HS has chosen to use you. Not so much

what we have or possess, as it is how God is pleased to accomplish His purpose through us.

### **We must have a Willingness**

\* Choice / will

**2Co 5:15** and He died for all, that the living ones may live no more to themselves, but to Him who died for them and having been raised.

\* Gifts don't use us – we use our gifts. They don't work automatically on their own. We choose to serve Christ and the HS uses us according to how He has enabled or gifted us.

### **Persistently trusting**

\* Heart and desire – stand on God's promise to build His church / your choice / our choice – His power and His ability

We receive the gift when we receive the HS, which is at the point of salvation. Like salvation is a gift, so is the Spiritual Gift which is given to us by the HS Himself.

### **APPLY**      - Lessons on Spiritual Gifts

Franklin Graham said: “There is nothing better in all the world than to be used by God”

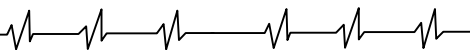
**Q:** How is God using you? How are you involved in His kingdom work? How are you using your spiritual giftedness?

- 1) Sp gifts often connected with or compliment other natural abilities, skills or even desires (but not necessarily)
- 2) God's spiritual gifts are for His church work and for the overall benefit of the church as a whole.
- 3) God's gifts can be misused and misfocused on self

1 Cor. 12-14

- Seek God's Gift through prayer





- Use God's Gift – through service
- Try different areas of ministry -

5) Gods gifts can be neglected all together

**1Ti 4:14-16** (14) **Do not neglect the gift you have**, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. (15) Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. (16) Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

\*\* Get deeply committed and actively involved in the life and ministries of your church.

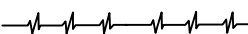
\*\* Ask God to help you find your place of ministry and your area of spiritual giftedness. – no matter how young or how old you are – God has a spiritual gift for you.

“The mind is a terrible thing to waste.” - “Spiritual Gifts are terrible things to waste.”

“If our goals are supernatural, our means must be supernatural.”

For your church to be used by God for His spiritual, eternal kingdom purposes, each Christian must be used by God for His eternal, spiritual kingdom purposes.

\* Our Gifts are God's way of using us individually to accomplish His overall purposes corporately – to build His church.



# *Finances*

Significant Signs of Life In The Church

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## **Finances: The Struggle Between God and Mammon**

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**January 24, 2010**

**Overall Big Idea:** The life of the church is always reflected in the life of the Christians who make it up. The church will never evidence any more significant signs of life, than those who make it up. The strength of the church lies in the strength of every believing Christian, united in the cause, and purpose.

INTRO

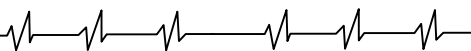
Kids Sermon / Communion

“If God is not Lord of your finances, He is not Lord of anything?”

Tithing – law of God & Offering – law of the heart

Home Church, Missions, helps, donations in name of Christ, etc.

-Purposes      - worship      -ministry partnership



**Luk 16:9-13** And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the **mammon** of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. (10) He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. (11) If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous **mammon**, who will commit to your trust the true riches? (12) And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? (13) No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and **mammon**.

- \$ is a tool to use worldly money for Kingdom purposes.

How can we view money and finances, Biblically and how can we use it properly?

Giving – act of faith and worship

2 Cor. Chs. 8 & 9

Acts 2:45      4:32-36

\*Gift of faith and gift of Giving – act of obedience, and worship.  
And identification and commitment to your church.

Eph. 4:28 – we are to work in order to give to others in need --

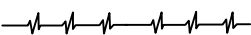
- the world's money for God's kingdom purposes

"Business is the art of extracting money from another man's pocket without resorting to violence." ~Max Amsterdam

"The only reason a great many American families don't own an elephant is that they have never been offered an elephant for a dollar down and easy weekly payments." ~*Mad Magazine*

"If you can actually count your money, then you're not a rich man."

--J. P. Getty



"Formula for success: rise early, work hard, strike oil".

--J. P. Getty

"Inflation hasn't ruined everything. A dime can still be used as a screwdriver."~ Quoted in *P.S. I Love You*, H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

"The real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you lost all your money". ~Author Unknown

WHEN MONEY BECOMES A LOVE, IT BECOMES A GOD.

David Jeremiah – "When God has your pocketbook, He has your life"

"Your money, or your life." We know what to do when a burglar makes this demand of us, but not when God does.  
~Mignon McLaughlin, *The Second Neurotic's Notebook*, 1966

It doesn't start out that way.

### **A snare**

It's a Wonderful Life, George Bailey asks Clarence, his guardian angel, "Do you have a place to go? Do you have anything to eat? Do you have any money?" -To which Clarence responded, "Oh, we don't need that where I come from." To which George Bailey replied, "Well is sure comes in handy down here."

**1Ti 6:6-10** But godliness with contentment is great gain. (7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (8) And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. (9) But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. (10) For the **love of money** is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Money is not the root of all evil. The Love of money is the root of all evil.

### **Its vision vs. faith An idol**

We cannot see God – we can see money. We see our financial statements on paper, we see the check book growing or dwindling and that is what is real to us – often above everything else.

We cannot see God paying our bills. We don't perceive God as providing for our needs. We perceive money as meeting all our physical earthly needs.

And when your perspective is worldly, we tend to slip into a worldly dependence upon money.

It's a snare that slowly closes in around you. You don't hear the trap snap shut, but all of a sudden one day it has its steel trap teeth in you and you cannot get away.

## **MONEY AND ETERNITY**

When money becomes something we use for Gods' glory, it becomes an offering and an eternal investment

Always borrow money from a pessimist, he doesn't expect to be paid back. ~Author Unknown

Not so with God.

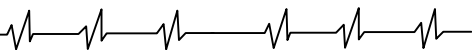
### **Some people will never tithe**

"When it comes to giving, some people will stop at nothing." ??

"One day I'm going to write this church a check for a million dollars."

What are you giving right now? – nothing. If you aren't giving now, you won't give when you are rich. You will never have enough.

<b>2Co 8:1-5</b> And, brothers, we make known to you the grace of God which has been given among the churches of Macedonia; (2)
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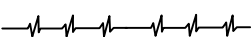
that in much testing of trouble, the overflowing of their joy, and the depth of their poverty, abounded to the riches of their generosity. (3) For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability; they gave willingly; (4) with much beseeching, begging us that they might receive of us the grace and the fellowship of the ministry to the saints. (5) And not as we hoped, but first they gave themselves to the Lord, and to us through the will of God,

If anyone had a good excuse not to give, it was these people. Lacking in so much earthly possessions, yet rich in the grace of giving the faith to trust God for what they provided for others.

**Those who tithe faithfully have experienced Gods provision for their own needs**

**Mal 3:7-11** From the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says Jehovah of Hosts. But you say, In what way shall we return? (8) Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, In what have we robbed You? In the tithe and the offering! (9) You are cursed with a curse; for you are robbing Me, the nation, all of it. (10) Bring all the tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house. And **test Me** now with this, says Jehovah of Hosts, to see if I will not open the windows of Heaven for you, and pour out a blessing for you, until there is not enough room. (11) And I will **rebuke your devourer**, and he shall not decay the fruit of your ground against you; nor shall your vine miscarry against you in the field, says Jehovah of Hosts.

- 1) robbing God – keeping tithe from God
  - excuses            - fears            - faithless
- 2) “Test me...” (v10)
- 3) windows of heaven (Gen.    – the flood)
- 4) I will rebuke the devourer (v11)



We can't afford not to give.

### **Our Offerings and gifts**

Offerings/Tithes are an act of worship and a demonstration of faith – i.e. obedience when you can't understand how

**Heb 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

GIVING IS PART OF GODS PLAN TO PROVIDE  
FOR HIS PEOPLE AND FOR HIS KINGDOM  
WORK

### **What is it that keeps us from giving generously?**

We believe the Devil's lies!

**Lie # 1: We deserve whatever we have.**

American culture –

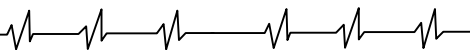
**Deuteronomy 8:17-18** takes this a step further back: You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

**Lie #2 : Money brings happiness.**

This myth takes many forms. Usually it takes the form of, "If I only had such and such, then I would be happy." If I only had . . . a newer car, If I only had . . . a larger house, If I only had another few thousand dollars per year

What's considered enough money? Just a little bit more.  
Will Rogers

**In Philippians 4:11-13** Paul says I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or



hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

**Lie #3 : *Money brings security*** If ever this was evident, our nation's financial woes have proven this to be true.

Proverbs 11:28: "Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf."

**Lie #4: We believe that what we have is ours** – it belongs to us.

We fail to realize that all we have is God's and all we have is from God. We forget that what we have is on loan from God as we are not owners but stewards of all the things God has bestowed to us.

We consider as our own, that which belongs to God alone.

**Luk 6:38** Give, and it shall be given to you, good measure pressed down and shaken together and running over, they shall give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you measure, it shall be measured to you again.

1) worry and fear - We believe that once it is given, it is gone.

2) selfishness and greed

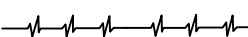
3) Idolatry

**What is it that allows some to give both generously as well as cheerfully?**

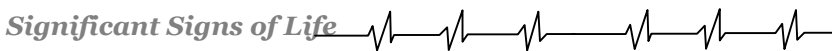
They have realized the truth that they in giving, they are making eternal kingdom investments – and that is what matters most.

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you – Mat. 6:33.

What things? Things we tend to need and tend to worry about.







## Sowing and reaping – sparingly vs bountifully

**2Co 9:6-7** But I say this, He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. (7) Each one, as he purposes in his heart, let him give; not of grief, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- 1) heart for others
- 2) an understanding that they are making an eternal investment
- 3) awareness that they are being obedient to God
- 4) They have experienced kingdom sowing and kingdom reaping.

## APPLY

### Lessons on Finances and the Christian

"I have held many things in my hand, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands that I still possess."

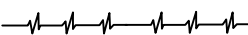
- Martin Luther

\* Commit to give your tithe to the Lord

1) Moms and Dads, talk to your children about tithing. Lead your child to know the value of tithing. Model that for your family. Help your children to grow to be tithers and givers. Make it a family affair.

“\*Teach your children to pray and to give.”

2) Evaluate your commitment to the Lord's work. Is serving Jesus Christ, reaching the lost and helping others come to know, trust and follow Jesus a priority in your spiritual life?



3) After you have evaluated your commitment to the Lord's work, evaluate your commitment to your church.

I don't know who gives what, but I do know when one of our shut-ins sends in their offering envelope. I can't help but notice that kind of commitment.

If you are praying and giving your tithes and offering to this church, Thank You for your partnership and support.

If not, I'd ask you why not?

\* pray and ask God what you should give?

\* Consider giving \$1 a week. That's 1 cup of coffee. 1 soda, 1/5 pack of cigarettes, 1/2 bag of chips.

"Not much". But \$1 a week over 1 year \$52 dollars. It's a start.



# *Missions*

Significant Signs of Life In The Church

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## **Missions: Jesus and the Heart of Missions**

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**January 31, 2010**

**Overall Big Idea:** The Heart of Jesus must be reflected in the heart of the church. Jesus' heart was a heart for Missions, therefore the church must have a heart for missions. And in order for the church as a whole to share Christ's heart for missions, every believer that makes up the church, must at some level, share Christ's heart for missions.

### **INTRO**

God is committed – and unwaveringly so – to accomplish those things that He has ordained for His kingdom purposes. If our heart does not reflect the heart of Christ, is it right to expect god to do anything for us?

**Or** If we do not do what He expects of us, does he have any obligation to do what we request of Him?

Do we love the things that God loves? Do we desire the things that Christ desires? Do we share Christ's heart?

## **A HEART FOR MISSIONS IS A HEART THAT BURNS**

A Heart for Missions is a heart of passionate urgency that burns for an erring world to come to Know and trust Jesus Christ.

### **Jesus**

**Mat 23:3-3** (37) O **Jerusalem, Jerusalem**, the one killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to her, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you would not! (38) **Behold, your house is left to you desolate.**

**Luke 13:34-35** (34) **Jerusalem! Jerusalem!** the one killing the prophets, and stoning those having been sent to her; how often I desired to gather your children in the way a hen gathers her brood under the wings, and you did not desire it. (35) **Behold, your house is left to you desolate. ..**

i.e. Jesus was speaking in terms of eternity and eternal destruction.

Consider the words just prior to these.

**Luk 13:22-28** And He went through the cities and villages, teaching and progressing toward **Jerusalem**. (23) And one said to Him, Lord, are the ones being saved few? And He said to them, (24) Strive to enter in at the narrow gate. For I say to you, many will seek to enter in and shall not be able. (25) And once the Master of the house has risen up and has shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, **Lord, Lord**, open to us, and He shall answer and say to you, **I do not know you**; from where are you; (26) then you shall begin to say, We ate and drank in Your presence, and You have taught in our

streets. (27) But He shall say, I tell you, **I do not know you;** from where you are. **Depart from Me, all workers of unrighteousness!** (28) There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you will see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrust out.

In these words from Christ, we read both judgment for their sinfulness and rejection of Christ, but we also read of the burning passion within the heart of Christ and the burden of urgency He feels for the lost.

## **Paul**

**Rom 10:1** Brothers, truly my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel [Meadville / Saegertown etc. ] is for *it* to be saved.

Both Paul and Christ Himself, carried heavy burdens for the souls of their people. That burden was a continuous motivation to direct them spiritually.

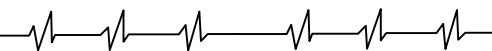
What about your people? What about my people? Do we share Christ's heart for Missions? Do we have a heart that burns with an urgency for the lost?? Have we lost any sleep over this matter?

((A Heart for Missions is a heart of passionate urgency that burns for an erring world to come to Know and trust Jesus Christ.))

## **A HEART FOR MISSIONS IS A HEART THAT WEEPS**

\* A Heart of Missions is a heart of sorrowful grief that breaks for a perishing world that does not know or trust in Jesus Christ.

**Luk 19:41-44** And as He drew near, He beheld the city and **wept over** it, (42) saying, If you had known, even you, even at least in this day of yours, the things for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. (43) For the days will come on you that your enemies will raise up a rampart to you, and will surround you, and will keep you in on every side. (44) And they



will tear you down, and your children within you, and will not leave a stone on a stone because you did not know the time of your visitation.

Jesus wept over His own. Knowing what they could have had, but rejected. Knowing what they might have experienced, but will not, because of their rejection of God's salvation, they have rejected any hope of blessing and help from God.

If we apply to the gospel focus of God's word, we can view this as *eternal* destruction.

Previously – Lord Lord! I never knew you.

Christ wept out of love for His own and out of sorrowful grief that they had rejected God's salvation.

Christ wept for the lostness of His own

Christ wept for the rejection by His own

\* He didn't adopt the mindset, "well they were really good people"

\* He found no consolation that they may have been very religious people

\* perhaps they'll make it – they did so much good – they mean well.

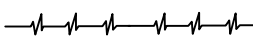
- He wept because He knew they had rejected God's truth,

- He wept because He knew they had rejected God's salvation

- He wept because He knew they had and were in the process of rejecting God's Son and Messiah

- He wept because He knew they would burn with eternal destruction in hell for their sin.

\* Perhaps if we had Christ's heart of missions, we would not need other forms of motivation – modern methods of church growth strategies



\* Is a broken heart of compassion not enough to motivate any true believer to be obedient to Christ's command to reach the lost – to proclaim the gospel – to share our faith – to make disciples –to be missions minded. Is the fact that Christ's heart broke and that He Himself shed tears of remorse over the destiny of His own lost world – Is that not enough to motivate true followers of Christ to be about the very same business?

\* Perhaps if we truly had Christ's heart for missions, surely we would spend less time making up excuses for those who reject Christ, and spend more time weeping over them and praying for them.

\* If we truly had Christ's heart for missions, wouldn't we would spend less time making excuses for why we are disobedient, and spend more time finding creative and productive ways to effectively share the gospel of Christ with them.

Do you share Christ's heart for Missions? Do you have a heart that grieves over lost souls who are bound for an eternal hell?

((A Heart of Missions is a heart of sorrowful grief that breaks for a perishing world that does not know or trust in Jesus Christ.))

## **A HEART FOR MISSIONS IS A HEART THAT REJOICES**

\* A Heart of Missions is a heart of joyful praise that celebrates the Salvation of those who come to know and trust in Jesus Christ.

### **Luke 15:1-7 – Lost Sheep and the Seeking Shepherd**

**Luk 15:5-7** And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. (6) And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost. (7) I say to you that likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

## **Luke 15:8-10 – Lost Coin and the Worried Woman**

**Luk 15:9-10** And when she has found it, she calls her friends and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the drachma which I had lost. (10) Likewise I say to you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

## **Luke 15:11-32 - Lost Son and the Forgiving Father**

**Luk 15:23-24** And bring the fattened calf here and kill it. And let us eat and be merry, (24) for this my son was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry.

**Luk 15:32** It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Glory of God to be displayed over all peoples of the earth

A heart of Missions rejoices not only for those closest to you, but for those who are distant from you - not only for those you know and care for, but for those you never knew or cared for. – All the nations.

**Psa 67:1-7** 1 *To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.* May God be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine on us. Selah. 2 So that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. 3 Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples thank You. 4 O let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You shall judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations on earth. Selah. 5 Let the peoples give thanks to You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. 6 The earth shall yield its increase; and God, our own God, shall bless us. 7 God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.



**Isa 11:9** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.

**Hab 2:14** For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.

Do you share Christ's heart for Missions? Do you have a heart that rejoices over the testimony of hearing about others who have trusted Christ for the Glory of God?

((A Heart of Missions is a heart of joyful praise that celebrates the Salvation of those who come to know and trust in Jesus Christ.))

## **CONCLUSION**

If our heart does not reflect the heart of Christ, is it right to expect god to do anything for us?

**Or** If we do not do what He expects of us, does he have any obligation to do what we request of Him?

Sing the Kiddie Song - "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock" - with hand motions.

**Mat 7:21-27** Not everyone who says to Me, Lord! Lord! shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. (22) Many will say to Me in that day, Lord! Lord! Did we not prophesy in Your name, and through Your name throw out demons, and through Your name do many wonderful works? (23) And then I will say to them I never knew you! Depart from Me, those working lawlessness! (24) Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock. (25) And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house. And it did not fall, for it was founded on a rock. (26) And everyone who hears these sayings of Mine and does not do them shall be compared to a foolish man who built his

house on the sand. (27) And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house. And it fell, and great was its fall.

Great was its fall. – i.e. it was totally and hopelessly destroyed  
-- eternal destruction

Do we share Christ's heart for missions?

Perhaps our familiarity with this Bible story has caused us to view it as a kiddie Bible Story. And because we view it as a Kiddie Bible story, we view it lightly – harmlessly – “If you love God, you'll love His word” - Rather than viewing it in terms of missions – perhaps that would view this a non-negotiable requirement of eternal life or eternal destruction.

When we say that kiddie song, did it touch your heart at all? As you were singing, did a sense of gloom and grief move across your spirit? When you sang that last line, “—and the house on the sand went CRASH!—“ When you sang that – did you experience a constricting of your vocal chords, as though a fist was gripping your throat?

If not, then perhaps its safe to say we don't share the heart of Christ for missions. – Perhaps we don't share His grief over the doom and lostness of humanity. And perhaps we need to experience a fresh and personal revival, in order to have a proper heart attitude toward missions.

If Saegertown was destroyed like Port-Au-Prince Haiti, and if its was due to their own lostness and sinfulness – would we be moved to tear?

Oh Saegertown, Oh Saegetown -- How we attempted to share Christ's love and forgiveness with you – How we tried to share Christ's sacrifice for your sins with you – Oh Saegertown, Saegertown - – How longed to see you saved! but you would **NOT!**

Oh neighbors, dear neighbors, how we tried to reach you with the gospel, but you would have nothing to do with it.

Oh Families, local families that we tried to build relationships with through your children, whom God brought us in contact with through VBS, BBC, RT, KK and ACTION – How we prayed for you and tried to find opportunities to share Christ with you – but you would not – you would not – you just would have nothing to do with us.

Oh Mission field, how we tried – but you rejected – now your house – your family – your children are left to you desolate. How unfortunately! -- How eternally and devastatingly unfortunate!

If Saegertown, our own mission field and our neighbors were destroyed due to sin, how would we react? Fact is, most are headed in that direction – How does that affect us? Eternal destruction – what does the sound of that, do to your spirit? Does it leave us with a knot in our stomach? If so, Praise God - Perhaps we have a missionary heart after all. Perhaps we do share Christ's heart for missions.

Then what will we do about the constricted throat? What will we do to remedy the knot in our stomach? What will we do to cure the concern and sleeplessness and the overwhelming burden for the lostness of our mission field? Take two Tylenol and Roll over and see if it goes away? Go and take in a good movie and attempt to amuse ourselves until the feeling passes? God have mercy on the Christian who takes any plan of action that attempt to erase the concern, without sharing the answer that God intended- - that is experiencing lost souls coming to faith in Christ and being gloriously saved, forgiven and redeemed and delivered from the judgment of hell. - that is the only remedy that can be accepted.

The best remedy for concern for the lost is to share Christ. Share the gospel. Talk to them about Gods love and Jesus' sacrifice on the cross – let them know that God had demonstrated His own love for us and that Christ has shed His own blood for us – that any and all who believe in Him can have their sins forgiven and will spend eternity with Him.

**Heb. 9:27** – appointed to man once to die then the judgment.

**2 Cor. 5: 17-21** – God has called us to be ambassadors – reconcilers – messengers of the hope of the gospel. He has given us the only remedy for eternal destruction – it is Christ crucified and risen again.

Do you share Christ's heart?

The Heart of Jesus must be reflected in the heart of the church. Jesus' heart was a heart for Missions, therefore the church must have a heart for missions. And in order for the church as a whole to share Christ's heart for missions, every believer that makes up the church, must at some level, share Christ's heart for missions.

Do I share Christ's heart for Missions? If not, we have to experience a change in heart!

Closing Prayer



# ***Don't close this booklet yet***

*without considering this all important question.*

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## **Is Jesus Christ the Savior or *your* soul and the Lord of *your* life?**

Every person is born guilty of sin and in need of forgiveness.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of  
God; --Romans 3:23

Our sin is against God, therefore our forgiveness can only come  
from God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only  
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should  
not perish, but have everlasting life. --John 3:16

God has appointed His Son as the payment for sins and sent Him  
to die in our place.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is  
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
-- Romans 6:23

God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial payment of  
Jesus Christ in our place for our sins.

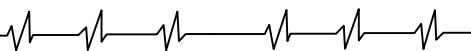
...but God shows his love for us in that while we were  
still sinners, Christ died for us. ---Romans 5:8

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
will be saved." -- Rom 10:13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his  
name, he gave the right to become children of God, -  
John 1:12

Before you close this book, why not be absolutely certain that you  
are truly a citizen of God's eternal kingdom and loving family?

*Trust in Jesus Christ today and receive forgiveness for your sins  
and citizenship into God's family and His Kingdom.*



## **The ABCs**

**A** - Admit you have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

**B** - Believe Jesus died in your place, and you can no way help yourself.

**C** - Confess your sins to God. He already knows. Also Confess Jesus as you LORD. He desires and deserves to be your Lord.

**Prayer**: Take time to talk to God right now and open your heart and life to His instruction and leadership.

**Connect** with a local Bible believing, Christ centered church.

**Commit** yourself to meeting regularly with other Christians who are growing in their faith.

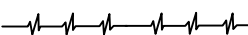
**Heb 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Act 2:41-42** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

For more information or for spiritual help, please contact us at:  
Christ E. Free Church, PO Box 619, 19682 Hill Rd,  
Saegertown, Pa, 16433, Ph: 814-763-2934, [www.christefca.org](http://www.christefca.org)

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*It is our prayer that you find **Jesus Christ** to be...  
your highest calling,  
your greatest purpose,  
your soul's source and joy,  
and your all-consuming passion.*



Other Free Booklets

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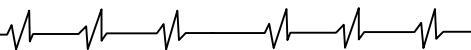
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*May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout our mission field.*

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