

BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAR./APR. NEWSLETTER IN BRIEF
ISSUE 4: VOL. 2



2019 THEME: The GOD of the Towel – A Year of SERVICE

- FACTS ABOUT THE WORD SERVE
- The GOD OF Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- Closing the Gap -BRO. RICKS
- Testimony without Words -BRO. RICKS
- THE GATES
- WEDNESDAY NIGHT NUGGETS
- SERMON SNIPPETS

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:
10:00 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM – MORNING WORSHIP
5:00 PM – SUN. EVENING
WORSHIP
* 5TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP
6:00 PM – WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE STUDY
* * 4TH WEDNESDAY NIGHT
PRAYER AND SONG SERVICE

MISSION STATEMENT:

WE, The FAMILY of GOD's
people at 428 Bird Street are
devoted to:
Worshipping GOD,
Loving One Another,
Caring for Those in Need,
Growing in the UNITY of the
SPIRIT, and Sharing the Gospel
of JESUS, so that CHRIST May
Be GLORIFIED!

JOHN 13: 4, 12-15

⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'TEACHER' and 'LORD,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your LORD and TEACHER, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have SET you an EXAMPLE that you should DO AS I HAVE DONE for you.



LEADERSHIP

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BRO. KEITH CHUNN

BRO. TERRY LOOPER

BRO. RICKY MCGEAR 931-607-9029

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SEE SUNDAY BULLETIN:

-  PRAYER REQUESTS
-  SICK AND SHUT-IN
-  MEMBERS AT HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
-  BIRTHDAYS
-  YOUTH ACTIVITIES/SPOTLIGHT
-  ANNIVERSARIES
-  NEW MEMBERS
-  RESTORATIONS
-  ANNOUNCEMENTS

[BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST PRAYER WARRIORS \(Group\)](#)

[BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST @ BIRDSTREETCHURCHOFCHRIST \(Page\)](#)

WWW.BIRDSTREETCOC.ORG

VISIT BIRD STREET ON FACEBOOK:

SERVE is the Word!!! Fun facts(per KJV): Number of times mentioned in the Bible – Yes, I “googled” it ☺

Servant(s) mentioned 965- 489(476); **SERVE** mentioned **209**; Service mentioned 132; SERVED mentioned 74; Servile mentioned 12; Servant’s mentioned 9; Serveth mentioned 9; Serving mentioned 7; Servants’ mentioned 4; Servest mentioned 2; Servitude mentioned 2; Servedst mentioned 1; Servitor mentioned 1 **TOTAL FOR SERVE OR A FORM OF THE WORD SERVE: 1427 TIMES IN THE BIBLE**

FROM THE GREEK-HEBREW KEY WORD (KJV VERSION) BIBLE

SERVE *Diakoneo* (dee-ak-on-eh-o)(1247) – TO BE AN ATTENDANT i.e. to wait upon(mentally or as a host, friend or [figuratively-teacher]; techn. to act as a Christian deacon: – (ad)minister (unto), serve, use the office of a deacon

-from *Diakonos* (1249), servant, deacon. To serve, wait upon minister to

(I) to serve at a table, to wait upon (Matt 8:15, 20:28, 27:55; Markb1:31, 10:45, 15:41; Luke 4:39, 10:40, 12:37, 17:8, 22:26, 27; John 12:2. In Acts /6:2 to serve over money tables i.e., have charge of the alms and other pecuniary matters.

(II) To minister to the wants of someone, to supply someone’s needs (Matt 4:11, 25:44; Mk 1:13; Lk 8:3)

(III)Used also of the alms collected by the churches, the distribution of alms (Rom 15:25, Heb 6:10, 1 Pet 4:11)

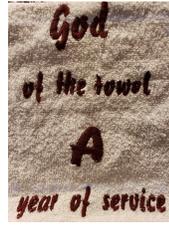
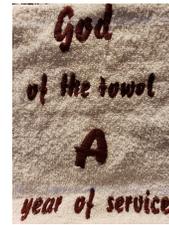
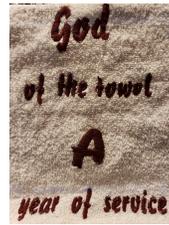
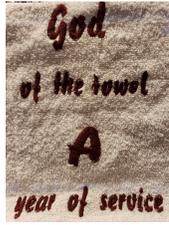
(IV) To be an attendant or assistant to someone as Timothy and Erastos were said to be ministering to Paul Acts 19:22. Spoken of service in the early church; to fill the office of a deacon i.e. to have charge over the poor and sick I Tim 3:10, 13

(V)Of things to administer, provide something for someone. Spoken of prophets who minister ie deliver the divine will I Pet 1:12 Also to minister something to someone; to administer, provide (2Col3:3, 2 Tim 1:8) By implication: to minister to one’s wants 1Pet 4:10)

VERSE OF THE DAY

PSALM 2:11 SERVE the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling

Rm.12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; SERVING the LORD



The GOD OF Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

What is the reason that many people in the bible use the 3-fold expression of “the GOD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? GOD, himself uses this phrase to describe HIMSELF in Exodus 3/6 as he is talking to Moses.

⁶Then he said, **“I am the God of your father,^[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.”** At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Then Moses perhaps a being a little less than enthusiastic about going back to Egypt asked God?

¹³Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴God said to Moses, **“I am who I am.^[a] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”**

¹⁵God also said to Moses, **“Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord,^[a] the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’**

**“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.**

¹⁶“Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.

New Testament finds for this **reference to GOD: Matt 22/32; Mark 12/26; Luke 20/37**

Why would GOD employ this expression in dealing with mankind? Why would GOD more than just the expression? What is the magnitude behind this expression? What is the significance for us today?

We already know that he is JAHWEH, ELOHIM, GOD Our Strong Tower and a plethora of other names!

To UNDERSTAND the GOD of Abraham: We must know something about something about Abraham.

Joshua. 24/2-3. ²Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. ³**But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau.** Abraham was chosen by GOD from the other side of the flood-God saw something in Abraham and chose him to go to a place (CANAAN) that he knew nothing about-in today’s language GOD told Abraham to just “pack up your stuff and go to the place I am sending you” – And Abraham in today’s language JUST DID IT! Unlike others Abraham did not run away only to be caught up in a whale, Abraham did not ask a bunch of questions about what to say or do – HE just went where GOD told him to go. And as GOD chose Abraham – remember that he has chosen Us from the before the foundations of the world-how then can we not have the desire to do as Bro. Walls says, “Learn about Jesus and what you are supposed to do and DO IT”.

We must do as Abraham did and JUST FOLLOW GOD!

Even David in Psalms 119 Seeks after, Keeps, Meditates on, Forsakes not, Erred not from, Did Not Forget and Has Chosen GOD’s Precepts. The word PRECEPT-(“piqqud” (pik-kood) – appointed i.e. a mandate (of GOD: plural only collective of the LAW): a commandment, statute, precept – It is a masculine noun meaning precept, instruction The root expresses the idea that GOD is paying attention to how HE wants things ordered. GOD’s precepts strike those who LOVE HIM as right and delightful.

In order to UNDERSTAND the GOD of Isaac. We must know something about Isaac Genesis 26/3-5

²The **Lord appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live.** ³Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. ⁴**I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring, all nations on earth will be blessed,** ⁵**because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.”** Isaac RECEIVED the INHERITENCE. His father Abraham was Blessed because he did what was required by GOD and Isaac is now receiving the blessing as an inheritance. There is not anything he did, he received the inheritance because of what Abraham did! For us today, this is the transferring of the OT to The NT because GOD is the source of ALL BLESSINGS and EVERYTHING we RECEIVE is through JESUS. We just received the inheritance by the Jews. GOD is the source of the blessing – we accept Jesus because of what HE did for us and we receive the gift.

In order to UNDERSTAND the GOD of Jacob. We must know something about Jacob There is struggle because of Jacob – Galatians 4/29 Hebrews 11/17 and John 3/16

²⁸ Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. ³⁰ But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” ³¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death

⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Abraham laid Isaac (a blessing from GOD) on the altar with the Faith and was received back as from the dead to be HIM the RISEN one.

Jacob's life is one that is turned. Jacob tried to do all with his own natural strength by being a conniver, a deceiver, and a schemer. He even sought to steal the inheritance. Jacob was subject to the disciplinary work of the Holy Spirit.

GOD had to discipline Jacob – in fact Jacob was deceived by Joseph. The deceiver became the deceived. We mess up when we do not allow GOD to work through us. In order for us to complete and do the work of GOD we must TRUST IN HIM. He will equip us with what we need to do HIS Will/the WORK.

Abraham displays the PURPOSE – Isaac displays the LIFE of GOD – Jacob displays the WAYS of GOD Our salvation is entirely from GOD – HE is the SOURCE.

Do you know THE GOD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Psalm 46/1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble
GOD's Place in the midst of trouble is right here with us.

Story: Couple have a baby that just cries and cries at night



Bro. David Ricks – Keeping the Gap Closed

Joshua 14/8-9 but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly. ⁹ So on that day Moses swore to me, 'The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have **followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly**.

How committed are we to GOD's cause? Can family/friends/others sway you from your commitment? Do feel you can be even closer to GOD? Do you pray? Do you feel your prayers are being answered? Study, learning and reading versus are very important in the process of keeping the gap closed. Wholly following GOD will close the gap. Wholly following GOD.

Caleb means dog – creatures that live outside usually. Dogs are loyal, obedient and faithful. If trained well once a dog learns the dog will without fail do it and do it the same way every time.

The gap was closed between GOD and Caleb. Caleb was one of the representatives that Moses sent to scout out the land that GOD had promised. When he returned with the others, he boldly

endorsed pursuing (remember that word pursue-enthusiastically going after something with zeal [how Paul defended the law before his conversion] or fervor). He felt strongly about this pursuit because he TRUSTED GOD WHOLLY! All of the others that went on the scout team were trusting what men could or could not do – NOT what GOD can do. Remember **Matthew 19:26** Jesus looked at them and said, “**With** man this is impossible, but **with God all things are possible.**”

They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anakthere. ²⁹The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

³⁰**Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”**

Caleb had commitment – confidence and controllability!

³¹*But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”* ³²And they spread among the *Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored.*

This land was currently inhabited by some **giants**– the spies totally forgot what GOD had ALREADY done for them in the direst of situations. IF GOD opened up that Red Sea, IS/would ANYTHING BE TOO HARD FOR GOD including defeating the inhabitants of the land of milk and honey!!!!

We all have our giants to face but if we Close the Gap – then we know that GOD will slay ALL of Our giants. In the midst of giants not everyone will always have the strength to stand alone but Paul tells us in **Ephesians 6:14**

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

Giants cause us to be intimidated, cause us to falter, to waiver in our belief even our faith but GOD has promised us that giants cannot stand against HIM(or us who are in HIM). Moses was the leader but faltered. Joseph and Caleb were not intimidated understanding what GOD would do for them and the battle was really GOD’s to fight and them to witness, testify and receive the blessing/inheritance of the promised land.

Peer Pressure is a giant for young people. Peer pressure works on people of all ages really but our teens, 20’s, even 30’s need our leadership, our understanding, our patience, our wisdom, our knowledge and our help. Most sermons are preached to adults. At times we wonder why kids just don’t listen and behave. But they are an element that MUST be engaged. When we continue to talk over them instead of to them, we make it easy for all of the outside elements of the world to communicate with them better and more than we do. STOP USING AGE AS AN EXCUSE-We should not sell ourselves short of what work GOD can do through us NO matter what age we are. GOD’s promise is that he will equip us and preserve us for whatever he wants accomplished. Old

Heads have to engage the Young Heads !!☺ As Sis. Booker has said we must refuse to give our relationships to Satan – we must demand through GOD nurturing the relationship of GOD and our young people. We must be careful at all ages of what is the popular thing, what the majority thinks – are we therefore widening the gap.

Caleb could care less about giants because GOD PROMISED. The giants could not stay in the way of GOD's will – HE will move the giants because HE promised. Stop Worrying- HE will remove the giant. First ,you must believe that through GOD you can overcome ANY giant! RECOGNIZE GOD'S POWER – THAT FAITHFULLY WORKS FOR YOU. Then, We should Never see Ourselves as the other Israelites in the spy group did, that they would be overpowered or defeated.

Overcome the giant of negativity/disbelief/doubt. Walk around looking down at the ground – GOD is not DOWN THERE! Look to the Hills from whence cometh our help. A very present help in times of trouble. We ARE CONQUERS/OVERCOMERS by the scriptures! [Romans 8:37](#)

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through HIM who loved Us.

Sometimes we need to PRAY to close the Gap. But ask GOD what HE wants, is there a giant that HE wants to remove from us. Then in GOD's timing and will it will happen. HE has to move – HE PROMISED!!! What if we are in the midst of a terrible problem – there are so many from all sides today? Ask GOD to show you what he is trying to do for you? TRUST GOD!

1 Peter 1/ 1-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,**⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Caleb closing the gap RECEIVED THE INHERITENCE because Joshua made good on the promise of Moses.

We closing the gap RECEIVED THE INHERITENCE because Jesus made goo on the PROMISE of GOD.

Caleb was owed and received because he WHOLLY FOLLOWED GOD our FATHER

We are owed a mansion, robe and crown and have received because GOD PROMISED us an inheritance. HALLELUJAH!!! CLOSING THE GAP. This is more than just knowing that GOD exists it is knowing WHO HE IS.

I am reminded of the story from the young minister from Mississippi about the man who invited JESUS into his home and put HiM in the best and highest room in the house and closed the door. Later after JESUS had been there, Satan's workers came and the man fought and fought every night that week with the devils. Disappointed that JESUS had not come to his rescue, he went upstairs to inquire as to why he was not getting in help in these battles? JESUS replied that the man had put him where he wanted him – in a room – the man had put the POWER of JESUS in a room! BUT IF You REALLY KNOW ME/MY POWER – you will let me have the ability to be everywhere in the house. JESUS could even answer the door. The man learned more about JESUS and gave HIM freely the WHOLE house (WHOLLY FOLLOING)! That night when the devil returned – JESUS Answered the Door – the devil fled! Not even a fight – the devil fled! KNOWING GOD/KNOWING GOD's PROMISES!

BRO. DAVID RICKS -TESTIMONY WITHOUT WORDS

²² Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. Feast of Dedication during the winter. **Background:** *The Feast of the Dedication was a celebration-one of great importance to the Jewish people. Previously the Jewish way of worship had been severely disrupted by the Greek King Antiochus. Everything that the Jews held sacred and dear, this King turned it into a way of idolatry using it to worship other gods. The Jews totally persecuted and totally unhappy. If you know anything about Jewish worship and the items used in their worship You do not touch anything that had to do with their worship/it is sacred and not to be touched. This king was eventually overthrown and the temple was cleansed and rededicated which was cause for the celebration.*

This translates today that we should be in Celebration and Remembrance as an EVERY DAY thing we do. The BLOOD of JESUS through HIS death, burial and resurrection, we were put in a right standing and given the opportunity to be in a relationship with GOD. We should be celebrating this opportunity to be in freedom, in a right relationship with GOD because of the time that we didn't have it.

Remembrance/Celebrating should be every day during the time of worship, on our jobs, and when we are going through problems, issues, giants, heartaches, troubles. We celebrate and remember what GOD/JESUS/HOLY SPIRIT has done for us. This celebration doesn't start on Sunday AM. WE celebrate that what was written against you and me, GOD has Dealt with and finished.

Jesus was ready for those who were ready to do HIM in...

²⁵ Jesus **answered**, **"I did tell you, but you do not believe.** The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** ²⁸ **I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.** ²⁹ **My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.** ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

Jesus shows his skillfulness/wisdom – HE knew that they wanted HIM to directly admit that HE was Messiah so that they could kill him right then.

A Testimony without Words - Jesus Doesn't have to say, I AM JESUS – HE explained that HIS SHEEP knew HIS voice. The Jews had witnessed HIS acts – HE shouldn't have to tell them this – HE gave Hearing to the deaf – Walking to the lame-take up your bed - Rise and Walk – Raising those from the dead. All of HIS deeds tell you who HE IS!!!! The Sadducees and Jews had impaired vision and could not see or understand that a ruddy looking guy not very regal or stately could possibly be the Messiah. We might be the same way today. We are biased toward titles-thinking no one can tell us anything but the preacher, elder, deacon and we may look for power in the wrong place because it could possibly be the sister or brother on the back row that provides the spark that gives you a fire for the week. All of us at any given moment must have the capability to have our mentality wrapped up and around GOD so HE can use us to influence others.

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. GOD does not want you proclaiming how great a Christian you are if the world sees you as acting just like they do. Or do our actions say something

else about us? Your works bear witness to what you do says who you are...works speak louder than saying you are a Christian.

Here is a question maybe a stunner to think about: Does JESUS KNOW you not of you / WHEN I PRAY - Does GOD Recognize my voice. Not just a knowledge of JESUS/GOD – are they KNOWN INTIMATELY.

²⁵ Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

MY Sheep know MY VOICE - that is intimacy with GOD/JESUS. It does not come from need so let me pray right quick;

it doesn't come from “let me pray my way out of this trial”-and remember trials are sometimes for you as a child of GOD to be an example/help to someone else; it doesn't come from I coming to worship so that Bro. Booker will leave me alone!

¹⁹Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” We become disciples before we are baptized-Before the water a decision is made to follow CHRIST. The sheep are receptive which keeps us Elevated in wisdom and knowledge. This is a benefit of being a sheep because JESUS state “I GIVE” not I will give. It is right then and there that we receive the benefits. Because we are following HIM – he makes sure we have all that we need immediately upon our confession of HIM of our lives to HIM. He equips us with whatever we need to go to work for HIM. Our heart, lungs, brain(mind), knowledge, health is all there-we can't talk about being too young, too old – WE ARE EQUIPPED with WHATEVER it TAKES for the WORK! All vital organs are working. He knows what we will need to work within a “crooked and perverse nation” and HE equips us to do the work. However, if we are not using our benefits (praying, reading the WORD, hearing the WORD, working on our intimate relationship with GOD, JESUS and the HOLY SPIRIT). It is the opposite for those who don't know Christ – the ones who don't know CHRIST are perishing, there is no life, no energy, no hope, no satisfaction, no movement of the Spirit in their lives.

We should Celebrate because we KNOW all these BENEFITS!

Ever wonder what GOD thinks about US – When HE equips us with HIS BENEFITS and we sit in the few hours that we devote to worship and act bored as if we don't really know HIM. After work we go to a game and jump up and down and cheer – but we sit in a pew and may not even muster up an “Amen”. Does HE wonder how soon we are going to ask for something YET when we had our opportunity in the setting of likeminded individuals to worship and praise HIM we were watching the clock and now HE is thinking Well Hmmm I promised them....but they had a hard time celebrating me....Thanking HIM right now for GRACE and MERCY! FOCUS – it is WHOSE HANDS we are IN that is Worthy to be PRAISED.

It is not what we are dealing with, it is not what we are going through-it is what others who do not know Christ that need our help! GOD is constantly supplying Us with EVERYTHING (our needs and wants) to be able to help those who HE also wants to provide benefits. We ask for patience or strength but guess what HE has already given us those things. James tells us that if we ask for WISDOM – we will receive it in abundance. FOCUS on GOD/JESUS/HOLY SPIRIT – Utilize the Benefits from and don't just exist but LIVE! Flourish as a CHRISTIAN and DISCIPLE! SEE GOD work through Us! Spirituality will change the Situation of those who are perishing Being spiritual in

the presence of others to help them receive the benefits of GOD – Your circle of influence expands because numbers are benefiting from knowing you who knows GOD. People who see your works will respond because GOD’s WORD does not return to HIM void of that which HE sends it out. Double security for us in vs. 29 – and we have no reason that anything we are going through will defeat us – IT Can’t – GOD won’t let it.

²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

GOD/OWNER and CHRIST/Shepherd

In them we are SEALED, LIBERATED, CELEBRATED, PRESERVED, PROTECTED, UPHeld, PROTECTED, SECURED, MAINTAINED AND EXHALTED!!!!

Critically examine ourselves and KNOW GOD – KNOW JESUS – KNOW Ourselves in THEM – and

¹⁹ Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely **I am with you** always, to the very end of the age.”

We ALL can REACH another LEVEL – GOD can take Us THERE!



THE GATES – NEHEMIAH

Builders of the Wall

3 Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. ² The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them.

³ The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. ⁴ Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. ⁵ The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.

⁶ The Jeshanah Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. ⁷ Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah—Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth—places under the

authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. ⁸ Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ⁹ Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. ¹⁰ Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. ¹¹ Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

¹³ The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. They also repaired a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

¹⁴ The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Rekab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.

¹⁵ The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Kol-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David. ¹⁶ Beyond him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Heroes.

¹⁷ Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district. ¹⁸ Next to him, the repairs were made by their fellow Levites under Binnui son of Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah. ¹⁹ Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, from a point facing the ascent to the armory as far as the angle of the wall. ²⁰ Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹ Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.

²² The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region. ²³ Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. ²⁴ Next to him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner, ²⁵ and Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the angle and the tower projecting from the upper palace near the court of the guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh ²⁶ and the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower. ²⁷ Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.

²⁸ Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. ²⁹ Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shekemiah, the

guard at the East Gate, made repairs. ³⁰ Next to him, Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs opposite his living quarters. ³¹ Next to him, Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate, and as far as the room above the corner; ³² and between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.

Nehemiah was charged with rebuilding the walls of the temple but it also involved bringing people together to get the work done. There were actually 12 Gates but Nehemiah's story mentions 10 gates. **The GATES: Sheep Gate – Fish Gate – Old Gate – Valley Gate – Dung Gate – Fountain Gate – Horse Gate – East Gate – Water Gate – Inspection Gate**

Spiritual Meaning of the Gates there are personal and prophetic aspects of the Gates even the leaders have significance in their involvement with the gates! Eliashub-his name means GOD restores and he is among leadership rebuilding the gates – starting project with a GODLY leadership will succeed. Directed to follow the leader.

SHEEP Gate: (or the Lamb Gate) The sheep which have been chosen for sacrifice. Meek and without blemish. JESUS always entered through the Sheep Gate and we know that HE would become the sacrificial LAMB.

FISH Gate: All the fish were brought through this gate to sell. JESUS makes us fishers of men. The men of Jerico joined in to repair restore rebuild [the Body of CHRIST]

OLD Gate: Literally the oldest gate – rebuilt by Meshullam In Jeremiah 6:16 ⁶Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

There is always work to be done in the Kingdom of GOD – can HE count on Us – Our most important ability is AVAILABILITY. Jedaiah – means he who call unto GOD – start the work at own house – be leaders out in the forefront doing the work. Women were involved in the WORK. Shallum had daughters who were involved in the rebuilding.

VALLEY Gate: Looked out over a valley in Jerusalem. Everyday is not spent on the “mountain top” – we have valleys that we will go through. Stay humble to GOD when you are in a valley when you are in a valley. 2 Chronicles 7/14 ¹⁴And said, O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and shewest mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts:

Trust GOD – there is something we need to learn when we are in the valley before leaving it. Fear no evil – Walk by FAITH – Valley can be any stressor in our lives and it really does not matter what it is – GOD will decide whether or not you have learned and when it is time to exit the valley. BUT GOD will bring you through!!! And be like the 1 of the 10 and DON'T FORGET to THANK HIM!!!!

DUNG Gate: All of the garbage was removed from within the wall through this gate. The city was cleansed of the dung/trash/waste. There were many festivals and as many as 75,000 sheep would be slaughtered – human waste of upwards of 125K people – it was all removed by way of the Dung Gate. We must cleanse ourselves of unrighteousness. We need to get rid of our wastes/sins – we are cleansed of our dung/sin by the BLOOD of JESUS! We don't need to worry about cleaning anyone else up – we need to catch the fish and JESUS Blood do the work of cleaning people up. The Jewish custom of Rosh Hashana feast is 10 days before Yom Kippur. This festival is for repentance – the pockets of apparel are turned inside out as a symbol of emptying oneself of all sins/getting cleansed of any sin in their lives. We are sheep who have strayed/filthy rags and JESUS came to cleanse us of our unrighteousness.

FOUNTAIN/WATER Gate: Represents cleansing! JESUS is the living WATER and will supply all that we need. ⁷In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

The woman at the well would receive living water from JESUS -he knew her situation and he extended the opportunity that changed her life.

¹⁰Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

¹¹The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

¹²Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

¹³Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

¹⁴But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

¹⁵The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

Water Gate – There were servants who were charged with bring wood and water into the temple because they were descendants of people that had deceived the children of Israel and GOD made them servants of the temple. Joshua 9/23. ²³Now therefore ye are cursed, and there shall none of you be freed from being bondmen, and hewers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God. The Law was read at this gate: All of the people gathered standing to hear the Law being read which started in the morning and ended at midday! Nehemiah **8** And **all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate;**

and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:

6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

7 Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place.

8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

The people were very attentive to the WORD being read by Ezra-it was important to hear about GOD and know and understand what GOD was/is saying to the people/us. Bringing people to GOD = HE will cleanse!!

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Wash the body of CHRIST with the WORD of GOD. We have a responsibility to bring others to CHRIST. JESUS/CHURCH – HUSBAND/WIFE. GOD loans man a wife and it is the husband's responsibility in living a GODLY life to educate his wife in the ways of the LORD. GOD will hold a man responsible for his family. He must teach his family. Psalm 119 is a whole chapter on the WORD of GOD and how POWERFUL it is. Psalm 119/9 **⁹ Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.**

Matt 27/24

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

Matt 3/11

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Water is always important part of GOD's PLAN – we can come and bring others to JESUS through the Fountain/Water Gate! HE is waiting at the Fountain/Water gate.

At the FOUNTAIN Gate is where the work of regeneration is done and is done by the sent one-THE HOLY SPIRIT. In John 9 the blind man was told to wash in the water at the pool of Shallum. There is a flow/abundance of the HOLY SPIRIT working in our lives! JESUS sends us the COMFORTER in John 16/7 and John 14. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, **the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.** ¹⁶**And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;**

¹⁷Even 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.

¹⁸**I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**

The living water is The HOLY SPIRIT is in us and will flow out of us. We are comforted and we should help to comfort others. Because the Holy Spirit is not just with us it is IN us. Fountain which flows up and out of us is the HOLY SPIRIT.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT NUGGETS

2 TIM 6/12 ¹²**Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,** whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

VS. 12 Lay hold on = to seize, grasp in a way as not to let go – hold onto at all expense. How does one lay hold to something that they already have – WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE – it is a gift from GOD. It is not something we are looking forward to after we die. We HAVE it. We must gain an understanding of the gift that is already in our possession.

There is Zoe life-Eternal life with GOD and Bio Life – the physical life we currently are in/living.

Eternal life does not begin at death or when we leave this world – it is our spiritual life in JESUS – it began/we took possession of it when we accepted JESUS. John 3/36. ³⁶He that **believeth on the Son hath everlasting** life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. Hath is not a verb of going to get it – you HAVE IT! What then is Eternal life? “Alonios” – meaning without end. We put a quantity on situations with Time and GOD has not set a time on things – we use time to try and understand situations. Amazing GRACE is the time we are giving to come to JESUS. Exercising FAITH in JESUS is our JOURNEY into Eternal Life. We will not live a defeated life if we gain understanding that we are living in our eternal life spiritually. When we do not adamantly believe that we are going to heaven, we are not living in what it means to have received eternal life through JESUS from GOD. We typically joke by saying things like, “I hope I make it in” or “I messed up I don’t know if I am going to make it to heaven or not”!

WE sing a song, “after all the things I been through, I still have JOY! Knowing JESUS we have Eternal life – We Have JOY. No every day is not joyful/valleys come...and people will try to steal your joy but in JESUS as an OVERCOMER; HE equips us to overcome those who would try to steal the JOY given to us.

John 17/2-3. ²As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

³And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

When we have and nurture our relationship with GOD/JESUS/HOLY SPIRIT – we know and we overcome and we live well spiritually in our eternal life. We don’t just know of/about GOD/JESUS/HOLY SPIRIT – we have an intimate relationship. John 5/11-15

¹¹And this is the record, **that God hath given to us eternal life**, and **this life is in his Son**.

¹²He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

¹³These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

¹⁴And this is the **confidence that we have in him**, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us**:

¹⁵And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Mark 10/17

¹⁷And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, **what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?**

¹⁸And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

¹⁹Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

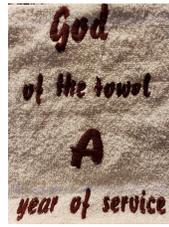
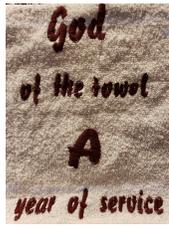
²⁰And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

²¹Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

²²And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

²³And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

The Pharisee came to JESUS and recognized JESUS for who HE was but he didn't really know JESUS – JESUS knew his heart however and did reveal it because the rich man was willing to believe that he had obeyed the first 5 commandments but JESUS knew there were shortcomings with some of the other commandments. The rich man believed and sought this eternal life until JESUS pointed out a shortcoming and the rich man sadly rejected his opportunity at eternal life. The rich man loved himself more than JESUS because he did not have the enthusiasm/desire to HELP and SERVE others. JESUS died for us to have eternal life right now. The rich man never had a repentant heart in that moment – never acknowledged that he was a sinner that needed a SAVIOR. You don't have to wait for Eternal life – Spiritually live in it right now – Experience the JOY now!



SERMON SNIPPETS GATES

Proverbs 29/1. He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Jesus knew that he was sending his sheep out among wolves to deal with the world to try to bring those in the world to HIM.

5 Types of People that Won't Allow you to Help them:

- 1) People who don't think that they need help.
- 2) Know they need help but don't want it.
- 3) Just don't want help right now....maybe later.
- 4) Don't want help, in particularly, from you.
- 5) Not willing to do what it takes to once they know what to do.

Until these 5 types of people arrive at a certain place: 1) Ready to Hear/Listen and 2) Ready to do the work – the only thing you can do for them is PRAY!

18 REASONS WHY OUR PRAYERS MAY GO UNANSWERED

- 1) Refusing to HEAR the Truth 2 Chron. 7/14. 2) Forsaking GOD 2 Chron. 15/2 3) Provoking GOD Deut 3/26. 4) Hardheartedness Zech 7/12-13 5) Lack of Charity Proverbs 21/13 6) Regarding Iniquity in our Hearts Psalm 66/18 7) Wrong Motives James 4/3 8) Ask Amiss James 4/3 9) Dishonoring Compassion 1 Peter 3/7 10) Unbelief Matt 17/20 and Matt 21/22. 11)Vain Repetitions Matt 6/7 12) Unforgiveness Matt 6/14-15 13) Hypocrisy Luke 18/9, 14 14)Being Discouraged.

Luke 18/1-8. 15&16)Worry and Anxiety Phil. 4/6 17&18) Doubting and Doublemindedness – James 1/5-8

GOD will answer our prayers according to HIS Will and in HIS Timing!!! He won't answer a prayer if HE knows you are not ready to live the blessing in a way that benefits HIS purposes for your life! Prayer is not just a means of asking GOD for what we WANT – IT is an opportunity for GOD to let us know what HE WANTS from Us. – As the song goes, “GOD’S trying to tell you something – **LISTEN**”!!

FAITH:

Faith is the substance – Substance is what it is made up of – Substance is like a support. You can't see it. When you have a 7 story building – the base of it is underground and it must be 7 stories deep into the ground. That base/foundation has to be there or the building will topple. Our faith is like the wind – we see the results of Faith. But we can not necessarily define it. Faith is a relationship and cooperation – it is action.

Faith is commitment – Nothing can turn us from GOD – We do not waiver in our commitment. Saving faith is progressive it is continuous commitment faith.

Our Faith is only as real as the our LOVE – Love like faith is an Action – It is what we do. Love never fails and it does not keep a record of fails.

ACTIVITIES

