



# Freedom In Christ Church

## Newsletter



### The Essence of Growth

#### Are You Still Sitting?

As far back as the Israelite's 40-year journey to the Promise Land, there have been periods of intense battles followed by a time for rest. If you read through the book of Joshua, you can see this trend set in motion. After many significant battles, it is written, "The Lord gave them rest all around".

Now today, we are not conquering lands and battling by sword and spear. However, since the very moment of the fall of Adam, we have been fighting a different kind of war. A spiritual war. Satan is the god of this world and has every intent in engaging in battle against all things that are good and holy and he will oppose everything that glorifies the Lord at any given opportunity.

The Church has suffered persecution from the beginning. When the Apostle Paul and the other disciples in the New Testament went about all the lands spreading the Good News, delivering those oppressed and healing the sick in Jesus name, they were being persecuted to the fullest extent. Imprisoned, stoned, beaten, mocked, ridiculed and killed for sharing the Gospel and teaching people about the love of Jesus Christ.

Persecution has not ceased, just evolved. Our generation and the generation before us have been blessed to have been born into a season of rest. Many of us have been sitting down, enjoying the leisure of this time of rest. We have grown comfortable and content.

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So content that Christians everywhere have become sleepy and oblivious to the battle going on all around us. We rely on signs of the times to indicate when a battle has come to our homeland. Satan has brought the battle directly to our backyard. Sickness and disease, killing people by the masses. Hatred running rampant among us, tearing down and dividing everything in its way.

Are you still sitting? Are you still resting? We are no longer in a time dedicated to rest. We are in a time of war. The Bible tells us that we do not fight against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness (Eph. 6:12). People are not our enemies; they are the object of God's love. The battle is against the demonic forces in this world that have been released to steal, kill and destroy everything that it can before Jesus comes back and Satan is locked away for a thousand years.

We are being called to battle! We are called to stand up, join hands and fight! Satan is the god of this world, but we have been given authority and power through the name of Jesus Christ to cause him to halt, to make him flee and cease. (Luke 10:19) The power of the believer is in the tongue. We hold the power of Jesus in our words.

This is a time to pray without ceasing. This is a time to speak to the problem and use the authority that we have been given by the power of the blood of Jesus. You cannot fight this battle sitting down. You cannot opt out as a believer. It is not an option to sit this one out and allow the pastors and the ministers fight alone. There is power in numbers and there is power in the name of Jesus and the blood of the Lamb.

I want to encourage you to rise up and fight! Do not allow Satan to steal any more from our country. Enough is enough. Jesus is coming back soon. It is not a time to wait it out in hiding. If you have been walking on the fence, one foot in the world and one foot in the Word, it is time to choose a side. Satan is gobbling up everyone on the fence. If you are not living in the Word, you will be easily deceived and drawn into battle on the opposing side and will be set for self-destruction.

The Bible tells us that the devil roams around like a lion seeking who he can destroy (1 Peter 5:8). The Sword of the Spirit is your weapon. The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. Meditate on it day and night. Prepare yourself to fight the good fight of

faith so that you can stand up to Satan and tell him to flee! Flee from you, from your family, from your church, from your city, your state, your country! It is time.

“Those who stand for nothing fall for anything.” - Alexander Hamilton

Sister Leah Hockenberry



## Stand Fast

“Dear Pastor John, We cannot express how thankful we are for your great faith-building messages! Two of the verses from one Sunday evening's teaching really spoke to me - Luke 6: 46 - "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?", and Luke 22: 31 -32 "..... that thy faith fail not." The first verse makes it obvious to me that we are not doing all that Jesus taught us to do, and the second verse confirms to me that many of us, even Peter, do not have as high a faith as we think. But praise God, Jay and I are growing in faith by hearing your teaching - Romans 10: 17!”

-Sister Evelyn Grove

Following is my testimony about standing strong and how God revealed to me that most people give up too quick on their prayers (which I used to do, also) because they are setting their own time limit on when it should manifest in the physical.

There are many verses in the Bible that tell us to stand fast, stand firm, be strong, but do we really do it (Daniel 10: 19, Ephesians 6: 13-14, I Thessalonians 3: 8, II Thessalonians 2: 15, I Peter 5: 12). Do we stand on what we believe or do we give up when circumstances don't look like our prayer is coming true? Do we put our own time limit on when the answer should come? There is no time limit with God. One day is as a thousand years. I love Daniel chapter 10. It describes a vision that Daniel had where he saw an angel who said, "Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in Heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for 21 days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me..... Daniel became weak, his strength was gone and he could hardly breathe.

Then the angel touched him again and his strength returned. "Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!"

In this time, we must be strong! We can't afford to give up on our faith. If we do, we are giving up on God's Word. God's Word is truth! God said his Word would not return to Him void. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. Isaiah 55: 11. But we have a part to play for that to happen. We must stand and not give up! Ken Hagin once said, "Once I pray, I never back down." He also said, "I hang on like a bulldog!" These verses and teachings have helped me to grow spiritually and see many answers to prayers like never before! Living on a farm, rain for the crops becomes very important. Every summer there seems to be a long dry spell and it looks like our crops, our livelihood, are going to burn up to nothing. Fear used to take over me. I would pray. Then I would see storms coming over the mountain, and I would become hopeful, but one by one they would pass us by and we got very little or no rain at all. I used to love summertime, but began to dread the summer season because of the dry spells. Now, I pray for rain, calling for what is not, bind the power of the enemy and loose the rain from Heaven to our area. Sometimes the rain comes within a couple days. Other times the first rain or maybe two passes us by again, but now I have no fear. I stand on my prayer, and then the rain comes! Praise the Lord! God is good and his Word really is true! But we must stand on it and not give up!

Written by: Sister Evelyn Grove



## The Prayer Team

Jesus said, “**Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by my Father which is in heaven. For where 2 or 3 are gathered in my Name there am I in the midst of them.**” AGAIN.... Jesus said. It looks to me like Jesus is reminding us to remember this! Must be pretty important, the “power” of agreement. Prayer and Praise. Twin sisters to victory.

Your prayer team: Jeanette Gelsinger, Katie Stoutamyer, Craig Daywalt, Ron Swartz and Marsha Williams, we are here for you. We will come into

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agreement according to God's Word over your request, always believing God is faithful to His Word. Pastor John started the Prayer Team about 5 years ago and we operate under the pastor's anointing. On Sunday's service you will see your team up front before the service preparing ourselves to minister, praying over the Pastor and the message, praying in the Spirit, welcoming the presence of the Holy Spirit. Come and receive! Come and receive! There is an expectancy when we believe and trust God. His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. There are times in our lives we need encouragement and our thoughts and feelings get offline, (it is that human side we deal with) and at times, we need someone to pray through with us. Your team is here for you. We will bring God's Word to the forefront and give encouragement to refocus on God's plan and promises to you His child. Our heartfelt desire is to be one in agreement with you and that you believe you received. We also carry you in our heart during the days, giving thanks to our God for His faithfulness. How can one possibly put into words the Power available to be in agreement with God's Word? Because of what Jesus said "**And you will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover**". That my dear brothers and sisters is a privilege, responsibility and mandate we have as believers, to pray for those in need and allow God to be God. **TRUST**, I love that word, when we talk with our Father and fellowship with Him and come into agreement with His Word, He in turn plants in us trust that brings peace and joy. What an awesome God we serve and love. Always remember how excited our Father is to bless His children. He looks to and fro to fulfill His Word. As you spend time with God you will come to desire His Presence more and more and realize that prayer is not work, it is only a discipline of the flesh. The love song we sing sometimes in church, "The more I seek You, the more I find You" "The more I find You, the more I love You" The Lord is always waiting for us to enter into His rest and enjoy His Presence. There is a move of excitement and expectation for The Church, the Body of Christ happening in these end times. The move of the Holy Spirit, the

miracles, and wonders we are witnessing. The body as a whole will operate in the Power of God at a new level. To God be the Glory! I thank God that He kept me rooted and grounded in His Word and provided me a church that preaches the full gospel. Be **BLESSED** of the Lord my brothers and sisters in the Name of Jesus!

-Sister Marsha Williams, Team Leader of Prayer Ministers



## Kidz Korner

As we all watch our world change and evolve right before our eyes, we feel it is of upmost importance to remember how everything is affecting our children. Our children are the ones who will carry on our legacy and take the reins of life when we grow old and pass on. Like any profession or craft, nobody can succeed without training and preparation. At Freedom In Christ Church, our children's ministry focuses on preparing our children for whatever life throws them. I have found personally in my own life, that the unequivocal answer to all of life's problems is a real relationship with God. To know Him as Father and Friend is the supreme delight of human existence! Jesus made this all possible with His sacrifice for us.

Like we always say, if you don't have a relationship with God, then all you have is a book and a building. We are striving to teach our children and youth that they can connect with God, and know Him in a deep and intimate way as Father, Friend, and God. What an exciting adventure! At Freedom in Christ Church we have an incredible team of servants who deeply love our children and have a passion to help lead them into relationships with God that lead to lives of Godliness, love, power, strength, courage, wisdom, peace, joy and bliss!

The world we live in may seem scary, but do not be afraid. The Creator of the Universe sees you as His beloved child. He loves you! All we have to do is love Him back! We are excited to see the tremendous growth our children are experiencing as they learn to know this reality. We truly are children on God. -Pastor Dane Pogue

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Baby Sparkz Nursery: Children ages newborn to 3 years of age - Baby Sparkz Nursery is available for our Sunday morning and Wednesday night services and includes a toddler class for ages 4-5 on Sunday mornings.

Kidz Igniting: Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services provide the amazing Kidz Igniting Program for children ages 6-12.

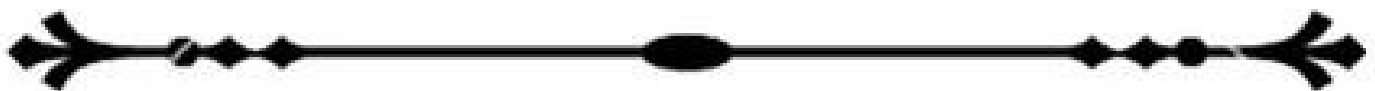
Passion Youth Group: Hosted in the upstairs portion of Pastor John and Sister Leslie's home for ages 13-18.

As Freedom In Christ Church continues to grow, so does Kidz Igniting, praise the Lord! We are building a team of Support Staff for both Kidz Igniting and our Baby Sparkz. If you are interested in joining this incredible team, contact Pastor Dane or Sister Inayah.



## Test Your Knowledge

1. Who was the oldest man in the Bible?
2. How many books are in the Bible?
3. (True or False) the Bible is written in chronological order?



**There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:4-6 NKJV**

## **Upcoming Events**

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# **First Friday Fellowship**

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30**

**Speakers:**

**Brother Clem Wagaman**

**Sister Annabella Passmore**

## **On the Wall Prayer**

**Every Saturday from 8AM-9AM**

## **Pantry of Hope**

**Alma Walter director**

**Loose change Sunday**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month**

**Guest Minister Brian Wills will be preaching Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor John's latest 4-part CD series "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit" is available in the sanctuary along with the sermon notes and scriptures.



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## WAYS TO GIVE:

**PAYPAL @ FREEDOMINCHRISTCHURCH@YAHOO.COM**

**MAIL @ 4042 SYCAMORE GROVE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**

**GIVE, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE. YOUR GIFT WILL RETURN TO YOU IN FULL-PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE, RUNNING OVER, AND POURED INTO YOUR LAP. THE AMOUNT YOU GIVE WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT YOU GET BACK. LUKE 6:38**



### Pray For Our Nation

“... the earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” James 5:16

With the upcoming elections I encourage the Believers not to be anxious but shape those worries into prayers. The Bible tells us over and over again that God hears the prayers of the righteous. All through history the prayers of the righteous have saved their nation from Satan’s destruction and preserved them for God’s glory. In the time of Elijah, King Ahab married Jezebel and she was leading the nation of Israel astray. Jezebel introduced many false gods and abominations into the land of Israel and even into God’s holy Temple. The people were drifting further and further away from God. Elijah was used by God to change the hearts of the people and bring them to repentance. The Bible tells us that Elijah’s prayers were very powerful and extremely effective. Our prayers are also powerful and effective when we get into God’s presence and seek His will for our nation. So, don’t be discouraged but rather stand up in faith and pray. God will hear OUR powerful prayers and WE will release God’s will for this nation.

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Pray for the people of this nation to have their hearts opened and softened to the will of God.

Prayer for our Nation:

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I pray for spiritual wisdom and insight so that our nation will grow in the knowledge of God. I pray the heart of this nation will be flooded with light so that they can understand the will of God. I pray that their hearts are softened and they will return to You the One true living God. I also pray that our nation will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor. I pray for peaceful and fair elections. In Jesus' name, Amen

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. II Chronicles 7:14

Pastor John Pogue



### Answers

1. Methuselah (he was 969 years old!)
2. 66
3. False

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