



# Freedom In Christ Church

## Newsletter



## The Essence of Growth

### Be Still and Know How To Overcome Worry

The Lord says in Psalms 46:10 “Be still, and know that I AM GOD; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth”.

Have you ever noticed how often a problem or concern comes along and our first instinct is to worry, analyze, overthink and try with our own intellect and might to make rectifications? Then and only then after our attempts end in failure, we pray. Often even after lifting our concerns to the Lord, we take them back and resume ownership and worry. I would like to challenge you to break that cycle and redirect your instinctual response to a spiritual one.

In order to do so, let's first break down the scripture we opened with above. The Bible is God's gift to mankind. It acts as our “user guide”, if you will. The Lord is all knowing, He knew that man would need guidance to navigate through life. Our Father's desire is for us to not only live but to live a life of abundance, joy and peace.

“Be still”, the Lord commands. It is not a request, the Lord is saying to us, “stop”. Stop worrying, stop overthinking, stop analyzing and trying with our own strength to fix everything. God can't move in your life until you stand still,

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Volume 6 November 2020

silence yourself and wait on Him. When we do this, we are saying “It’s Your will Lord, not mine.” When we are able to stop the incessant thoughts, fears and doubts and listen for His voice, He will move on your behalf.

“Know that I AM GOD”, the creator of the universe. Elohim, the Supreme, the One and Only. Yahweh, the God who holds all the power. Abba, Daddy Father, the God who intimately knows and loves each one of us, the One who can be fully trusted. El Roi, the God who sees everything. El Shaddai, God Almighty, He is the Mighty One. Yahweh Yireh, “The Lord Will Provide”. Yahweh Nissi, “The Lord Is My Banner”, the Lord proclaims His protection, leadership and deliverance. Jehovah Rapha, “Healer, the Lord who heals you”. Yehweh Shalom, “The Lord is Peace”.

Knowing who God is will better your understanding of His promises to you. The Lord is saying, “know that I AM GOD”... the God who cares, heals, provides, sees all, the God who is all sufficient. If He is for us, who can be against us? There isn’t a single problem that could ever occur that He cannot overcome. Nothing is too big for our God. This is vital knowledge to take with you today and every day to come. What can the devil throw our way that the Lord cannot handle? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. Knowledge is power, my friends.

“I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth”. This declaration is one of power! The devil is the god of this world through the fall of man, but make no mistake. God is still on the throne and has a plan for the nations. He will be exalted! Praise His holy name!

Satan is opportunistic. He illuminates avenues to fear and worry. But once we understand who our God is and His will for our lives and our nation, we can overcome worry. Worry is the enemy of faith. Let’s break the cycle. The Lord wants us to come to Him first, for everything. He is our source, the well that will never run dry. Jesus is our intercessor, the Bible tells us that anything we ask in His name, He will do, so that the Father will be glorified. (John 14:13)

So I ask, why worry? Lift it up to your heavenly Father through the name of Jesus Christ. Leave it at His feet. Let it go and give it to Him. Trust that He loves you and truly desires for you to live life abundantly. All that is left to do is praise. Praise His holy name for He is worthy of all praise.

Sister Leah Hockenberry



## The Lulav

In Biblical times the Israelites would worship God in the Feast of the Tabernacles with branches. They would hold in one hand a fruit and in the other hand, a cluster of three branches. During the feast the people of Israel would remember how God led them through the wilderness through the waving of the branches.

The largest of the three branches is the Palm branch. The Palm tree grows in the valleys. So the Palm reminded the Israelites of their journeys through the valleys that God was with them.

The smaller branch with dark green leaves is the Myrtle. It grows in the mountains. So the Myrtle reminded them of their journeys through the mountains, and that God was with them there as well.

The drooping branch of light green, is the Willow. The Willow grows by the water brooks. It reminded them of their journeys through the dry places, that God was with them and gave them water in the desert.

The wilderness is the world. The journey is this life. And to the child of God this is the message of the lulav: The Palm tells you that no matter what valley you go through in your life, no matter how dark and deep, you will never be alone. He will be with you.

The Myrtle tells you when you go through the rockiest of times, He will go through it with you and will keep you from falling.

The Willow tells you that in the dry and empty places of your life, He will never leave you, but will stay close, and will even give you rivers in your desert.

The fruit speaks of the Promise Land, and its message is this: No matter what you go through in this life, it is not the end, only the journey to your destination. And when you get there, you'll give thanks that your journey was blessed, that you were never alone, and that He was with you every moment... to make sure that you would get through it all... and make it to the Promise Land.

Today gather your lulav. Remember and give thanks that in all your valleys, mountains, and deserts He was there – and always will be.

-Pastor John Pogue



## A Moment In Time

I have been asked to write an article about our Nursing Home Team. We go to three nursing homes; Manor Care, The Magnolias, and Shippensburg Health Care Center. We visit Shippensburg Health Care Center the first Saturday of the month at 2:00pm, The Magnolias is on the third Thursday at 6:30pm, and Manor Care is the third Saturday at 2:00pm. For the moment, we have been put on hold because of COVID-19.

We bring the joy of the Lord into their lives but for a moment in time – one hour at a time. I think sometimes that this is so little for God to ask of us. I know I have and I am sure, if asked, you would find that each one that has helped in the nursing homes, has left there having felt the love that each nursing home resident shares with them.

Our church Nursing Home Team is led by Pastor Dick Schriver. He has brought such a powerful presence into the nursing homes. When we were scheduled for 2:00, Pastor Dick would show up about 1:30 and would visit with each and every resident that came for church. Before we started, he would already know the needs of each one. He brought such a heart of love to them. Jesus walked in the door with him each

and every time. He so loved them and it truly showed. His messages were always strong and powerful. I admired his ability to relate to each and every one. Many times the residents would have questions and he would stay later and talk to them. He was such an inspiration. God truly chose the right person to lead the Nursing Home Ministry.

I want to also give this next dear, sweet sister in Christ to you as an inspiration. This is Sister Ruth. She has been going to the nursing homes for a very long time. These times I share with her are very special to me. She has a such a wonderful spirit and she just brings it right on in to share with the residents. She treats them all like family. She is truly full of joy. Jesus has found a loving heart and spirit within her and He uses her to reach out with love to all of them. One lady at Manor Care just loved her and she would walk back to her room after we were finished. There is so much I learn from her example.

We have had others who are or were part of our Nursing Home Team and each one has brought a piece of themselves to each resident. I've seen them radiate with joy as each one shared their heart with the residents. This has to be truly what Jesus meant when He said to shine His light because theirs would shine and the residents' smile would shine right back.

Brother Bob and Sister Kim Meier came to share their love, Brother Bob would bring Pastor Dick when he could no longer drive. This was a beautiful labor of love. He had such a kind, generous spirit. He is now spending his time walking and talking to Jesus, but the many times I got to share his presence at the nursing homes was such a blessing to me. His wife, Kim, also came when she wasn't working. The Lord had touched her heart to just be a part as often as she could and we would stand and bring praise and worship to the Lord along with the residents. She was also led to bring a few messages to the residents, they were wonderful and always timely.

Next is Brother Ron and Sister Kelly. Brother Ron also helped to bring Pastor Dick to some of the nursing home visits and he would sit with some of the men and talk and turn pages in their songbooks, just to be a part. Sister Kelly would do the same. She would come and sit between a few of the women and would just give them special

attention. Just a laugh, good conversation and to help with whatever needed to be done.

Sister Cenona would stop at Manor Care when she could and would bring a special song for the residents. Her songs always touched the residents. I would see a few tears as she sang. Just to know that she cared for them and brought these special songs. You could see how it touched them.

There was also another couple, Sister Marty and Brother Rusty. They didn't come to do anything but be there to help in any way they could. You know, it isn't always that God has called you to give messages, maybe just be a presence. The nursing home residents just love to have people visit. Brother Rusty has since joined Jesus in heaven, I'm sure that the Lord was pleased with this dedication.

The newest member of the Nursing Home Team is Brother Darin Bartron. Last year, he came to me and asked if he could be a part of the Nursing Home Team. He came as a willing servant. He helped with songbooks (this may not sound a very important job to do, but many of the residents can't do this for themselves) and every visit, he would do the closing prayer. He never hesitated at all. I can't tell you how I truly appreciate these times when he just jumped right in.

I also have to include my mom who is also walking in heaven now but she was such an inspiring, strong woman for the Lord whose life was filled with helping others and this was just one more time but her being there made me so happy. She wouldn't leave without talking to every resident. I was so blessed with this wonderful lady and her heart for the Lord. It was her heart for the Lord and her unfailing prayers that brought me to the find the Lord.

I left myself to last. There was a moment where God asked me to do my part and gave me a heart opened wide for all the beautiful souls – to reach out and shine His light into a part of the world where souls have been forgotten. But He wanted them to know that He had remembered their names, that they were still His children and their wants and needs were every bit as important to Him as they have always been, and that He heard their cries. I don't know if I can ever tell you how much love I have for every resident at the nursing homes that we visit. They have become like having

a second family. I have never felt so much love. These are such special souls, special spirits, those who can't get out to come to church so we bring church to them. They are as much a part of our church family as those who attend our church. Some come because they are curious others come because we are new faces and someone to talk to, some come because they know the Lord Jesus Christ personally. There has to be no special reason but they come. We bring to them what they may not be able to get from anyone else – Jesus, because I know he is present, He is there in the midst, where two or more are gathered. I thank you, Lord, because I go in as your humble servant, and I walk away from every visit feeling even more humbled, knowing how much all of those residents' love has touched my heart. So, if you want to get your heart full of love, come and visit with us when we are able to go once again.

It's in Jesus' name and by His touch in our hearts that we are serving as your Nursing Home Team.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Debbie Best

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

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## KIDZ KORNER

**FREEDOM IN CHRIST CHURCH OFFERS FIRST CLASS CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES! 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. BOTH AGE GROUPS OF LITTLE ONES WILL BE TAUGHT THE BASIC FUNDAMENTALS OF KNOWING AND LOVING GOD THROUGH CREATIVE AND FUN WAYS DESIGNED TO KEEP THE CHILDREN'S ATTENTION AND MAKE A LASTING IMPACT, ALL WHILE EXPERIENCING AN ATMOSPHERE OF CHRIST LIKE LOVE AND A SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE. OUR NURSERY DIRECTOR IS SISTER INAYAH POGUE, AND THE PROGRAM TEACHER FOR AGES 4-5 IS**

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SISTER LISA DAYWALT. KIDZ IGNITING IS OUR AMAZING SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AGES 6-12. PASTOR DANE POGUE USES THE CREATIVE AND EXCITING PROGRAM, KID NATION, TO CAPTIVATE OUR CHILDREN'S MINDS AND TEACH THEM THE POWERFUL WORD OF GOD. KIDZ IGNITING SERVICES FEATURE A KEYNOTE PRESENTATION, SKITS, GAMES AND TICKET INCENTIVES WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO WIN PRIZES EVERY WEEK. KIDZ IGNITING IS ALSO AVAILABLE DURING OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE. OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDZ IGNITING PROGRAM IS TAUGHT BY A TEAM OF FOUR TEACHERS: CHILDREN'S PASTOR, PASTOR DANE POGUE AS WELL AS TEACHERS SISTER MARSHA WILLIAMS, BROTHER RANDY AND SISTER SHERRY MILLER, AND SISTER DEBBIE BEST. PASSION YOUTH GROUP IS HOSTED IN THE UPSTAIRS PORTION OF PASTOR JOHN AND SISTER LESLIE'S HOME FOR AGES 13-18. PASSION YOUTH GROUP OFFERS A SMALLER SETTING WITH A WARM AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT. WE HAVE AIR HOCKEY AND FOOSBALL TABLES AND A HANGOUT AREA TO RELAX AND FELLOWSHIP. PASTOR DANE PREACHES THE TRUTH IN LOVE TO OUR YOUTH AND TACKLES THE BIGGEST AND MOST CHALLENGING ISSUES WE FACE TODAY. PASTOR DANE'S APPROACH OF NOT HOLDING BACK HAS CHANGED THE LIVES OF MANY YOUTH OVER THE YEARS. PASSIONATE, POWERFUL, ENLIGHTENING AND LIFE CHANGING SERVICES, WEEK AFTER WEEK. ABOVE ALL ELSE, PASTOR DANE IS DEDICATED TO TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD AND HOW TO KNOW GOD, LOVE GOD AND EXPERIENCE GOD.

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.

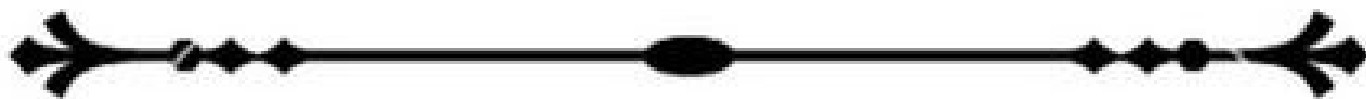


### DID YOU KNOW...

1. MAHERSHALALHASHBAZ IS THE LONGEST WORD IN THE BIBLE! IT MEANS "SWIFT IS THE SPOILS, SPEEDY IS THE PLUNDER" (ISAIAH 8:3)
2. THE 10 COMMANDMENTS HAD WRITING ON BOTH SIDES. (EX. 32:15)
3. DOGS ARE MENTIONED 41 TIMES IN THE BIBLE, CATS ARE NEVER MENTIONED.

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"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." John 1:1-5 NKJV

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." I John 5:14-15 NKJV



## **WAYS TO GIVE:**

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**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**

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## Thanksgiving is Upon Us

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Although this Thanksgiving may feel different than the years in the past, I pray you are encouraged to count your blessings. As the old hymn goes, name them one by one! Thank the Lord for the beautiful life He has provided. Give thanks for the Son of man, Jesus Christ. Give thanks for our church, Freedom In Christ Church. Thank the Lord for Pastor John Pogue, Pastor Dane Pogue and Pastor George Pogue, Sr. who are highly anointed and highly favored men of God. Be thankful for your family, those near and far I encourage you to carve out some time, before carving some turkey, to look deep within and truly reflect. A grateful heart is good medicine.

Happy Thanksgiving, God bless!

1 Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

**F o l l o w   u s   o n   s o c i a l   m e d i a**



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