

FREE SPIRIT *Restoration Ministries*

Weekly Word From The Pastor

Pastor Talisa Thomas-Hall

April 2008



Sunday, April 6, 2008

Sunday Message: "Lord, Set Me Straight"

Scripture: Acts 9:1-12

Key Scripture: Acts 9:11b *"Arise, and go into the street called Straight..."*

Responsive Reading: Psalm 148

"Enduring Life's Suddenly's"

"Arise, and go into the street called Straight" Acts 9:11b

It is amazing that we can live in darkness without realizing it...and just as easily come under the light of God without realizing it is His light. We live daily as Christians, going about our business, believing we are doing God's unadulterated will and then suddenly He has a greater need for us and the average is no longer acceptable. He has to push us to a higher level, a deeper relationship and understanding of His truth. He shines His holy light upon us and those things that we perceived as righteous, we become blinded to; and that which we could not see He opens our eyes to...enlightening us and giving greater understanding of true righteousness.

It takes a "suddenly" experience to shut us in with God and allow Him to train us, even through our situation, to press toward the truth instead of a facsimile of holiness. In our uncomfortable state we are impressed to call upon God and still our own misunderstanding' in place of His truth.

When life's suddenly's come upon us they are never easy. But if we endure as Paul endured, and open our heart and mind to be receptive to what thus saith the Lord, we will come through an even stronger and well informed vessel for His use.

I encourage you to have a personal meeting with God today. Allow Him to set you straight by the truth of His Word and watch His glory renew your life. We rejoice in your new found freedom and invite you to share your joy and God's goodness with a friend.

Love and grace,

Pastor Talisa Thomas-Hall

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April 2008



April 27, 2008

Sunday's Message: When the Unexpected One is the Chosen One

Scripture: I Peter 2:6-10 (Key scripture: I Peter 2:9)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 29:1-11

"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." Psalm 29:11

A Word From the Pastor

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people..." I Peter 2: 9a

As humans we have become vessels who walk by sight and not by faith. The old saying goes, "Seeing is believing." Likewise we judge by sight or by tradition with little knowledge of the things of God and what His ultimate plan has in store. However, the Bible says in Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen..." Therefore we know that God's will is for us to walk by faith and not by sight alone for often times the mysteries of God are unseen by our human vision.

In our judgmental state we often over look those whom God has called into His family of faith...just as some overlooked you one day. Even further, just as we overlook ourselves by believing that we are not worthy or competent to be used by God. This mindset causes us to unintentionally devalue our inheritance. When we can't see our own purpose through the eyes of God, we in essence have no concept of the greatness of the calling upon our life...we miss the fact that we are chosen, hand-picked by God.

You see God doesn't judge us as man judges himself. The very one that we think is unworthy, God chooses for His purpose. The very one you may find strange, God selects for one of His peculiar people. Likewise, beware of false prophets and wolves in sheep's clothing for those who look to be the special one, may not be God's chosen. Esau himself was the first born of Isaac and worthy of the inheritance and blessing of his father. Never-the-less because Esau devalued his inheritance, it was Jacob, the younger twin, who received the blessing and served as God's chosen vessel. Likewise, Saul sought to destroy the disciples of Christ so who would have thought him to be one of God's chosen. But God chose Saul (anointed Paul the Apostle) and used him to be a mighty vessel for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ whom himself was an unexpected chosen vessel.

I encourage you today to see your worth through the eyes of God. He has chosen you to show forth His praises through the life that you live and your glory to God. Regardless of how this world judges you—in your home, in your family, in your school, on your job, amongst friends or strangers—God sees you as His very own with an awesome purpose and great potential. If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, or if you need to renew your relationship with Him, please do so today. For God desires to adopt you into the kingdom promise but this only comes by Jesus Christ. (John 1:12) We rejoice with you and welcome you. If this word has been a blessing to you, we also invite you to visit with us again...and bring a friend.

Love and grace...

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