

FREE SPIRIT *Restoration Ministries*

Weekly Word From The Pastor

Pastor Talisa Thomas-Hall

February 2008



February 3, 2008

Sunday's Message: Who's Report Will You Believe?

Scripture: John 12:37-38

Responsive Reading: Hebrews 11:1-6

A Word From the Pastor

"But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?" John 12:37-38

To 'believe' means to accept as true or to take to be true. As we continue with our theme for 2008, we learn that in order to believe in God we must accept His word as true...entirely and completely.

Daily situations arise in our life that cause us to question our very foundation in the earthly realm. Can I succeed? Am I able to accomplish this? I am the right person for the job? Do I have the physical or financial ability to do this? Will I fail? These are very similar to the questions that ran through Sarah's mind when the Word of God visited Abraham her husband promising them that they would conceive a child and be blessed for generations.

What was so hard to believe about this promise from God? Sarah was ninety years old and had never conceived a child and Abraham was a hundred years old. Impossible says the world but whose report will you believe? A promise from God is the spoken truth regardless of the situation from which the promise is birthed. Both Abraham and Sarah laughed at the promise of God (Genesis 17:17 and 18:12) because they could not see the possibility within themselves. But when God speaks, our capabilities are insignificant. The power comes from Him who cannot lie. Furthermore, through the miraculous power of God, we are able to become a testimony of His power and might.

Sarah who laughed became a testament of faithfulness in Hebrews 11:11 which says, "Through faith...Sara herself received strength to conceive seed..." Through faith we receive strength. Strength to achieve the impossible through Jesus Christ. Through faith you can receive strength to achieve that which God has ordained for your life regardless of your present situation. Remember that we have an intercessor in heaven (Jesus Christ) who is our help so that we do not have to restrict ourselves to our earthly abilities. If God said it – that settles it!

So choose you this day whose report will you believe? If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your truth and savior, we invite you to accept Him into your heart today for the remission of sins and the gift of every lasting life. If you require prayer or guidance, we are here to support you. We hope that you find this word to be a blessing to your soul and invite you to share it freely with someone else.

Love and grace...

Pastor Talisa Thomas-Hall

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Weekly Word From The Pastor

Pastor Talisa Thomas-Hall

February 2008



February 10, 2008

Sunday's Message: Blessed Are They Who Have Not Seen, and Yet Have Believed

Scripture: John 20:29

Responsive Reading: Hebrews 11:1 6

A Word From the Pastor

"Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands: and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing...because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:27 and 29b

In preparation for my journey to territories that I'd not visited before, I went to my trusted online source for driving directions and typed in my destination. As expected, I instantly received my course of travel from point A to point Z with a detailed map included. Although the street names were foreign to me, I trusted that armed with my map and directions, I would reach my destination.

How easy it is to trust technology and question the Word of God. When God sets our life on a journey of uncharted grounds, we want evidence before the journey, we want proof before practice, we seek confirmation after confirmation or worst...we simply disobey the Word of God choosing to not follow His directions for our life. What is in the nature of man that causes him or her to reject the trusting relationship with God almighty? This relationship is the very foundation of our existence (Genesis Chapter 1 and 2) and yet we constantly challenge God to prove himself before we follow. How many times must God prove that He is real?

In the beginning we see that it is the desire and pleasure of God to proactively provide for our journey. In creating the heavens and the earth, He provided all of the comforts of home before placing Adam and Eve into the garden. The same love of God that cared for us then is the same God that cares for us today. In our failure to trust Him completely, we delay or miss out on our blessings. Eight days transpired between the time that Mary Magdalene announced "He is risen!" to the time that Jesus proved himself to Thomas. For eight days the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ was delayed because of unbelief. At first the disciples didn't receive the words of women testifying that Christ liveth (Luke 24:11); some, such as Peter, needed to see the empty tomb with their own eyes and even further, Thomas needed to see and feel the wounds of Jesus in order to believe it was truly Christ risen from the dead.

In John 20 verse 29b, the Word of God says, *"because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."* I don't want to alter my blessings from God by being an unbeliever. Nor do I want to challenge Him to prove Himself in my life or delay my customized journey in life because of doubt. I do pray for Him to prove and reveal Himself to the unbelievers so that they too may believe; but let the believers walk by faith and not sight (2 Chronicles 5:7.) For our circumstances are not always as they appear and the outcome is according to God's will and plan for our life.

Have you asked God for your customized road map to life? Have you trusted Him to direct your predestined path? If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, we invite you to accept Him into your heart today for the remission of sins and the gift of every lasting life. If you require prayer or guidance, we are here to support you. We rejoice with you in your new found truth through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and invite you to freely share the good news with others!

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February 2008



February 24, 2008

Sunday's Message: Obtain the Greater Inheritance by Faith

Scripture: Galatians 3:1-9 and Hebrews 11:8-10 (Key scripture: Galatians 3:7)

Responsive Reading: Hebrews 11:1 - 6

A Word From the Pastor

"Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." Galatians 3:7

Imagine receiving a call from an old friend in your childhood neighborhood. It seems that one of the elderly neighbors has passed on to glory and in her will, she left you an inheritance. When you arrive for the reading of the will, you find a patchwork of people – all of different ages and ethnicity crowding the room. All sharing loving memories of the dearly departed as they introduce themselves to each other. You wonder how is it that this memory from your past came to include you in her will.

The executor calls the room to order and begins to read the will, "My darling loved ones, my children..." You again wonder if you've been invited by mistake but the will continues, "Through my years of living in this neighborhood I've had the fortune of touching and being touched by many lives. Each of you were called to work in my garden at some time throughout the years. As you worked, you patiently listened to my instructions for caring for each plant so that it would produce good fruit and you believed my words and faithfully arrived each day to care for them according to my instructions and faithfully awaited the fruit." You look around the room at eyes that are as incredulous as your own as the will continues, "I promised you that one day the garden would yield a great reward and you worked for little pay believing in the promise. What you did not know is that each year's crop from my little garden yielded seeds that I had planted in a twenty thousand acre plot that I inherited from my father. His plan was for his children to enjoy the garden for generations to come. This beautiful garden is now filled with fruit trees and plants that you tended and helped to grow by faith that your work would yield a reward. The land is now of a priceless value. My children, by faith, I leave the gardens both big and small and all that is within in your faithful hands. I know that you will continue to care for your inheritance and share it with other faithful tenders. Even more so, look around the room...these strangers are your new found family because you labored in this garden together, with the same vision, the same hope, the same faith."

You have an inheritance through the kingdom of heaven, the work of which was already begun generations ago. Our responsibility is to believe in our inheritance, accept the gift, and share it freely with others who believe in it. In doing so, we not only pass the gift but expand the family of believers. Such is the kingdom of heaven and the family of Christians here on earth.

If you have not accepted your place in the God's family, we invite you to enter in today by confessing belief in Jesus Christ as our savior and Lord. We invite you to begin enjoying the blessing of your inheritance today and we celebrate with you. We look forward to fellowshiping with you again...and invite a friend.

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