

A SIMPLE REMEDY FOR DEPRESSION

The late William L. Stidger, a famous minister and teacher, once had a nervous breakdown. He was enclosed in gloom and depression, caring for nothing. In the midst of his despair, a friend suggested, “Think of those who have benefited you in life and ask yourself if you have ever thanked them.” Stidger responded that many people had helped him, but he could not recall ever having thanked one of them. Stidger’s friend encouraged him to write some helpful person a letter of thanks.

After giving it some thought, Stidger remembered a teacher named Miss Smith, who had given him a love for literature. He wrote Miss Smith and expressed his appreciation for her influence in his life.

Soon he received a letter in shaky handwriting: “Dear Willy, I remembered you as a little fellow in my class. You have warmed my old heart. I have taught school for fifty years. Yours is the first letter of thanks I ever received from a student, and I shall cherish it until I die.”

This response so encouraged Stidger that he wrote another letter and another. After five hundred letters, he stopped. He was no longer downcast. All of us have benefited from a host of people—parents, teachers, schoolmates, friends, preachers, fellow Christians. Are you in the dumps, feeling sorry for yourself? Pick up a pen and write a letter. Go dial the number of a friend. Express thanks!

—Chris Smith



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CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

TEN TOP INDICATIONS YOU ARE NOT READING THE BIBLE ENOUGH

1. The preacher announces that the sermon is from Genesis and you check the table of contents.
2. You think Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had a few hits in the '60s but never really amounted to much.
3. You turn to Psalms and a WWII savings bond falls out.
4. When someone asks your favorite Old Testament character, you say Hercules.
5. Your favorite Bible verse is, ‘Cleanliness is next to godliness.’
6. You get mad because you can’t find Charlton Heston in the concordance nor in the table of contents.
7. Catching the kids reading the Song of Solomon, you demand: ‘Who gave you this?’
8. You think the minor prophets worked in the quarries.
9. You fall for it when the preacher tells you to turn to Hezekiah 2.
10. You think that Job rhymes with Bob.

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald.....Scotland
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WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
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Faithful Church Attendance

Hebrews 10:22-31

For Christians, there is no substitute for attending church. Many people, however, go to church if they feel they “need it” at the time. Christian motivation for fellowship must be to obey God and to give to others. It is important to attend church to express our Love for God and to build up our spiritual strength. However, what happens to us when we habitually forsake the assembly?

You will begin to drift (Hebrews 2:1). Slip (pararheo) means, “to flow past, glide by, drift away” (Vine’s, V.1, 339). A ship loosed from its moorings drifts out to sea. Christians leave the church by gradually and subtly forsaking the assembly. They drift away and became erring Christians (cf. Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20; 2 Peter 2:21-22).

You will begin to doubt (Hebrews 3:12-13). The Israelites wandered 40 years in the wilderness because of their distrust in God (Psalm 95). Yet, the Lord wants spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:2; 3:18). The Corinthians did not grow (1 Corinthians 3:1-4). Those that stop growing are “blind, and cannot see afar off, and have forgotten that he was purged from his old sins” (2 Peter 1:9). We must grow or we will die!

You will become dull of hearing (Hebrews 5:11). The Hebrews had become dull of hearing, which caused their spiritual development to completely stop (5:11). Dull (nothros) means, “slow, sluggish, lazy” (Vine’s, V.1, 343). Lazy Christians cultivate no home for the Word in their hearts. Their hearts are crowded with worldly cares.

You will backslide (Hebrews 6:4-6). Remember there is a great difference between falling and falling away. Falling away is not just falling into some sin; it is actually departing from Jesus Himself. Hebrews is filled with warnings against turning away from Jesus Christ, the only source of salvation (2:1-3; 3:12-14; 4:1, 11; 10:26-39; 12:25).

You will face the wrath of the Living God (Hebrews 10:31). It is fearful indeed to one day face the God that has been rejected and offended so greatly! The Christian emphasis must be in accordance with 1 Corinthians 4:2, “Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.”

In conclusion, there is great danger in forsaking the assembly! **A Christian has a biblical obligation to be faithful in attendance of the assembling of Christ’s church.**

~ Mark N. Posey ~

A LACK OF WON'T POWER

Danny Gulley

A woman went shopping and bought a new dress that she knew she couldn't afford. When she got home, her husband asked her, "Why did you do it?" She alibied, "I just couldn't help myself. The devil tempted me." The husband wouldn't let her off the hook and countered, "Why didn't you say, 'Get behind me Satan?'" She replied with a sigh, "I did. But he just leaned over my shoulder and whispered, 'My dear, it fits you beautifully in the back.'" That lady reminds me of this quote credited to John A. Shedd — "Many men have too much will power. It's won't power they lack" (The New Speaker's Sourcebook; Zondervan, 1968).

A lack of won't power — that thought gives us something to think about. Much misery and suffering has come into the world because people suffer from a lack of won't power. A couple of well-known examples from the Bible illustrate the point. Eve and her husband Adam displayed a bodacious lack of won't power. Genesis 2:8-17 reveals that these two lived in Paradise — literally! God's provisions were copious and complete. In modern parlance, Adam and Eve "had it all." Except one thing — they lacked sufficient won't power. God made very clear there was one restriction to their otherwise unfettered access to the physical and tangible delights of the Garden of Eden: "do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and if you do 'you shall surely die'" (see Genesis 2:15-17). We, as Paul Harvey was famous for saying, "now know the rest of the story." The devil, in the form of a serpent, used some slick talk and deceit to tempt Eve and break down her will power. She and Adam found themselves in a bad jam after eating that forbidden fruit — a jam that included spiritual and physical death. A second example is King David's horrible lack of won't power in 2 Samuel 11. The same powerful warrior who had earlier faced off against & brought down the mighty Goliath is done in by his own lust one night when he caught a glimpse of the beautiful bathing beauty Bathsheba. A healthy dose of won't power would have immediately turned David away from his lust. But he lingered and looked until he was hooked — and the Bible says he sent for her and had sex with her even though he knew she was another man's wife. The result was a truckload of shame, sorrow, and suffering that affected not only David and Bathsheba but also their families for years to come (chronicled in 2 Samuel 12ff).

A lack of won't power is killing us. Drugs, divorce, profanity, pornography, vulgarity, violence, greed, gossip, laziness, lust, adultery, alcohol-abuse, etc., etc. — we hem-haw around and offer all kinds of psychological and sociological explanations for these and other problems we face today. But if we were honest enough to admit it, many if not most of them are related to a lack of won't power on the part of millions of people. In great contrast to all this is Jesus Christ. Matthew 4:1-11 records Jesus facing a series of powerful temptations from the devil in the wilderness. We have little room for comment on that event except to say that won't power won the day! Read the text for yourself and see — Jesus used Scriptures (from Deuteronomy) again and again to boost His won't power! He resisted the devil and his relentless attacks until the devil left Him. God grant us more won't power as we face today's temptations.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: JoAnn Hoback is recuperating at LRMC after heart surgery. Dick Burbage is at Highlands Lake Center, Rm. 319. Also: Chuck Wyatt, Sam Bolding, Louise Starks, Jacquelin Dopwell, Joyce Burbage, Margaret Coone, & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Jo Chancey (Mother of Ginny Hamby) was scheduled for angioplasty on Tuesday at LRMC. Jimmy Mathis & Annie Beth Coone.

Shut In Members: Artis Bassett, Mary Shoemake.

Others: Maurice Davis is in LRMC. Steve Roberts, Gene & Irma Dampier, Bonnie Hendrick, Christina Feussner, Kathy Peel, Katelyn Donavant, & James Leslie Cribbs.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 17th - Annual G.I.G.S. gathering for teenage girls at Airport Church of Christ in Valdosta, GA. Several will be attending from here. Please pray for their safety.

Aug. 17th - Men's Breakfast at N. Jackson in Bartow at 8:00.

Aug. 18th - Dub Hill will report on the work in Russia.

Visitors

Jane Jessee.

Sympathy

To David Anderson and family in the passing of his father, Earl Anderson on August 9th. Funeral services were held in Tallahassee, August 13th. The burial will take place in Alabama.

Response

Linda Simpson responded to the invitation Sunday, stating she had sinned, and wanted to rededicate her life to Christ.

Baby Shower

There will be a Baby Shower for Jessica & Tyler Anderson August 25th after the evening service in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring finger foods and drinks. They are registered at Target and Buy-Buy-Baby. If you would like to contribute to buy a Group Gift, Please see Kathy Sweeney or Stefani Padilla.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Kenny French **Table** Charles Paulin
Charles Sanford **Assist** C. J. Grimes

Sunday, August 18, 2013

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer Jimmy Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Chuck Wyatt
Closing Prayer Fred Rapley

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Casey Paulin
Opening Prayer John McShane
Closing Prayer Fred Strickland
Greeters Jeremy & Stefani Padilla
Att. Cards Sebastian Rapley & Antonio Martin
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. August 21, 2013

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Jason Hendrix

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Jason Hendrix, so he can get a replacement - 537-0857

August 25, 2013

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jeremy Padilla
Prayer Phil Fife

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Stacey Paulin
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Casey Paulin
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle
Greeters Fred & Kathy Strickland
Att. Cards Quadarius Askew & Antonio Martin
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. August 28, 2013

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Jul 21 \$3,494.17
Jul 28 \$3,906.78
Aug 04 \$4,569.46
Aug 11 \$3,729.71
Contribution Average \$4,150.15
2013 Weekly Budget \$4,255.13



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