

I suppose all companies and sports teams have their “stars”. These are people with great natural abilities. Problems sometimes develop because these people realize they are “stars,” and they begin to think that natural ability alone makes them special and worthy of special treatment.

The same is often true spiritually. I have seen a few young people with exceptional speaking ability. It appears as if their potential is almost unlimited. However, their potential is often not realized. They may not finish school, and even if they do, they accomplish little of special notice. Recently, the director of a school of preaching comment on one of his young students that he was not one of the “stars.” He was not degrading the student’s natural ability. Rather, he was praising his other qualities, such as reliability, willingness to work hard and a desire to simply be the best he can be.

Those qualities are much more important than natural abilities. With those qualities, people with limited natural abilities can accomplish some amazing things. Without those qualities, people who possess great natural abilities will achieve little and certainly never come close to realizing their potential. It is great if you have abundant natural abilities, but natural abilities that are not utilized and developed are worth little. All of us, whether we are blessed with great natural abilities or limited talents, should simply try to be and do the best we can. That is all God expects, and with God’s help, any of us might accomplish some amazing things. The greatest need in the church is not eloquence, education or wealth, but the willing spirit that motivates each person to simply do what he can.

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, I will do, with God by my side.

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Church Email: kencoc@gmail.com

Meeting times:

Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday:

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 02/03: 55

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 02/03 NA

February 17, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ

Behind Closed Doors

John 20:19 – On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

Imagine the conflicting emotions the disciples must have had on resurrection day before Jesus appeared to them. Their Lord, their leader, their expected king was presumed dead. They were afraid of the Jews, expecting that they too would be taken into custody and meet the same fate as Jesus had just gone through. So when they met, it was in secret, behind locked doors.

Yet a stirring of hope had begun in their hearts, for they had heard that the tomb was empty. Then through the locked door came Jesus and stood before them. His first words were, “Peace be with you.” Wow, He wasn’t mad at them for deserting him although He had every right to be. He had forgiven them and still loved them. And had come to let them know.

Now Thomas wasn’t with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him they had seen the Lord. But he said to them, “Unless I see the marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were again locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said again, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Then Thomas said, “My Lord and my God!”

Some of us might have spiritual or emotional “locked doors” in our lives. It may be some grudge we’ve been holding for a long time. It may be some offense or some deep hurt we’ve been carrying inside for many years. It could be an ugly and terrible childhood memory that disrupts our relationships with others. It might even be an angry feeling we’ve harbored toward God because of something that happened to us many years ago.

These locked doors shut us up in our own little world of fear. They keep us from growing toward spiritual maturity and experiencing full happiness. But those locked doors did not stop the Lord when He lived here on earth, and they do not stop Him now. If you feel a stirring in your heart, that glimmer of hope comes from the Spirit of God. Encourage it. Don’t be afraid of it. Talk to Jesus. Pour out your heart to Him and tell Him what you are feeling. God is on your side and He is always available through prayer. Then search the scriptures. In them you can find joy and happiness, and as the apostle Paul said, “A peace that passes all understanding.”

~H. Hewgley

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (1 Peter 5:6-9)

Keep These Dates in Mind	February Birthdays and Anniversaries		
02/03 First Sunday Potluck 02/09 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 02/10 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 02/15 Family Fun Night 6:00p 03/03 First Sunday Potluck 03/09 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 03/10 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 03/20 Wed. Night Soup Night 5:00p 03/31 Fifth Sunday Singing	Wanda Danley 2/16 Gary Koci 2/1 Curtis Mohr 2/1 Frank Shaw 2/1 Leland & Marilyn Davis 2/8 Linda Bills 2/14 Eric & Jeffra Slagle 2/14 Ron Stephens 2/14	Joe Botts 2/15 Buzz & Cathy Heston 2/15 Wanda Danley 2/16 Al Lindsay 2/16 Rick Freitag 2/18 Jim Preston 2/22 Josh Mendoza 2/27	
	Bible Studies		
What a friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear What a privilege to carry Every thing to God in prayer	Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–Ephesians Wed pm – Shadows of the church from the old testament	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Thursday 10:00a.m – 11:30a.m.



Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Bob Childers, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Vern Mast, Sue Aldrich, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Shawna Stephens, Tami Pennington

Remember the Kennewick Church of Christ lectureship, **Humble Beginnings**, May 1 – 5, starting at 6:00pm

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:12-15)

Our Ministries

Mountain States Children's Home

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

Austin and Kennadie McCrickard – Bear Valley Bible Institute

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Going on to Perfection

"Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits" (Hebrews 6:1-3)

How would you rate your spiritual maturity? Do you feel that you are growing in your understanding of God and His Will for your life or do you feel that your faith has become dull and you feel spiritual sluggish? What are the consequences of one's failing to mature in the faith?

The Hebrew Christians were struggling with their faith and were considering giving up on Christianity (cf. Hebrews 3:12; 4:11; 10:35). Why? Part of the reason appears that they were enduring persecution for the cause of Christ, which was something they could not control (cf. Hebrews 12:4); but, a much larger reason was something they could control: they had failed to mature as Christians.

As the opening passage above indicates, the Hebrew writer encourages them to move beyond the basic teachings of the faith (e.g. repentance, faith, baptism, etc.) and "go on to perfection" (Hebrews 6:1-2). In the original language the word translated for us as "perfection" is "Teleiotes". This does not mean "sinless perfection". Rather "Teleiotes" is defined as "perfection; the state of the more intelligent moral and spiritual perfection". The same word is translated as "perfection" in another passage in the book of Colossians: "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection" (Colossians 3:14). The idea behind "perfection" is for one to become spiritually mature.

Though the Hebrew Christians had for some time embraced the faith, they had failed to grow in the faith. The inspired writer states, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

The Hebrew writer had much more spiritually deeper things to reveal to them, such as Jesus being called by God as our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, but could not because these things were "hard to explain" and they had become "dull of hearing" (Hebrews 5:10-11). These more challenging to understand spiritual truths could encourage the Hebrew Christians to have greater faith in God, but the writer had difficulty being able to reveal them because the Hebrew Christians refused to do their part in growing up and were acting as "babes" (Hebrews 5:13). Furthermore, the "solid food" or more challenging to understand spiritual truths could help these Christians to avoid temptation and evil as they exercised their senses to "discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14).

Am I able to handle spiritual "solid food" or do I still need to be spoon fed "spiritual baby food"? No matter how eloquent or dynamic a teacher or preacher may be, they cannot help me grow spiritually and help equip me with the tools I need to fight Satan if I do not do my part to invest the time and effort to grow spiritually. There is no shame in not understanding certain spiritual truths because I am a newer babe in Christ. The shame is when Christians fail to invest the time and effort to grow up.

"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:11-12).

~Susquehanna C of C Daily Devotional