



Re-ignite From the Only True Source

Mr. Herman Wilson

The Christian walk is not without challenges, but believers are enabled to persevere in faith. Jesus Christ said that in this world we will experience trouble, but we should take heart because He has overcome the world. (*cf. John 16:33*)

Upon conversion, a believer, a follower of Jesus Christ, becomes a child of God, a citizen of the kingdom of heaven, and is simultaneously a sojourner in this earthly realm, which is being influenced by Satan, the evil one. The evil one is the spirit that is now at work in those who will not believe or have not yet believed. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, there are changes in a believer's worldview. Some things that were once considered normal and acceptable, are no longer viewed in that regard, and inevitably wise adjustments in interpersonal relationships will be necessary yet avoiding total separation. There should be a gradual renewal of the mind despite the attendant challenges to the new way of life.

Believers in Christ, walk by faith and not by sight. (*cf. 2 Cor. 5:7*). With this in mind, faith and feelings should be kept in balance. The faith of believers is based on spiritual truths, the word of God. Feelings come and go, but the word of God is unchanging. There will be experiences of spiritual highs and spiritual lows, but power is available for believers to persevere. It is God's incomparable great power, the same as the mighty strength that He used to raise Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms. (*cf. Eph. 1:19-21*)

Word, Prayer, Obedience

Word, Prayer and Obedience are three main aspects of the Christian life.

1. The Word of God

Concerning the word of God, perhaps some believers are not frequently mindful of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to re-ignite our fervor for the things of God. This can only be achieved through continual reference to the Scriptures, the food for our souls.

Regarding the role of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ said: "He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you." (**John 16:14**)

Knowledge of the glory of God should be foremost in the minds

of believers in Christ. Spiritually speaking, every believer has been changed by the gospel – the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (*cf. 2 Cor. 4:6*) - and we should aim primarily at growing in this knowledge in all aspects of our Christian life. We have been created to glorify God and to enjoy His presence forever. God has created all things for His glory – the magnificent display of the totality of His attributes, perfections, being and worth in the universe. The Holy Spirit inspires the written revelation of this glory in Christ Jesus.

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." (**Heb. 1:3**)

The Holy Spirit reminds us in mysterious ways about who we are in Christ, the Subject of the Scriptures from Genesis through to Revelation.

The following verses of Scripture are sources of inspiration:

Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ declared: "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." (**John 5:24**)

"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." (**John 14:23**)

This spiritual truth is further reflected in the apostles' doctrine through the apostle Paul.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (**2 Cor. 5:17**)

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory." (**Eph. 1:13-14**)

We are re-ignited to focus on our eternal destiny; the following summarizes our assurance:

- We are no longer slaves to sin. (Rom. 6:5-6)
- We are made alive in Christ. (Eph. 2:5)
- We are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ. (Rom. 8:29)
- We are free from condemnation. (Rom. 8:1)

- We are members of the Body of Christ. (Rom. 12:5)
- We are partakers of the divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4)
- We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Eph. 1:3)

2. Our Prayer Life

How often do we pray? We are called upon to pray without ceasing. That is, having a running conversation with God through the power of the Holy Spirit. We should bear in mind however that God answers our prayers in accordance with His will. For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. (cf. Rom. 11:36)

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 **Thess. 5:16-18**)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:6-7)

“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” (Jude 1:20-21)

3. Obedience

Believers in Christ have been saved to do good works – works that conform to the leading of the Holy Spirit. The quality of our works should be in keeping with the Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.

Guided by the Scriptures, we are called to pursue lives of active and passive obedience. Passive obedience requires our overlooking wrong within context and leaving judgment to God. This, of course, is contrary to norms; but the Spirit enables us to do it. In all things, God works in us to will and to act according to His purpose. (cf. Phil. 2:13)

Active obedience requires, if possible, as far as it depends on us, to be at peace with everyone. (cf. Rom. 12:18)

Jesus said: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16)

All aspects of our engagement in the Christian walk under the power of the Holy are our spiritual acts of worship. This includes our gathering for corporate worship wherein we embrace through faith the spiritual realities reflected in Hebrews 12:22-24. It states:

“You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous, made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of

Abel.”

We should, therefore, consider our corporate worship as universal and heavenly.

Evangelism

Satan, the prince of the power of the air, is the usurper in this world. He has come to steal, kill and destroy humanity through evil influences in all areas of life. But Christ Jesus has come to save us from God’s holy wrath and to give us eternal life in Him through God’s redemptive plan.

Evangelism is a major aspect of our Christian duties. Before His ascension, Christ Jesus declared the following - the Great Commission.

He said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matt.28:16-20)

- Are we zealous for the salvation of souls?
- Are we enthusiastic in telling others the good news that Jesus Christ has satisfied God’s justice by dying for the sins of mankind?
- Do we give thought to the eternal destiny of loved ones and acquaintances who have passed away, and were of the opinion that they cease to exist after death?
- Do we know how to evangelize?

These are questions that require much consideration by all believers. Yielding to the Holy Spirit motivates perseverance. The Scriptures render great inspiration for the re-ignition of our faith.

Rejoice in the Lord always. The peace of God which is beyond the limits of our understanding will indeed be our comfort as we persevere toward eternal glory. Amen.



Early Detection Saves Lives

Although treatment is available for breast cancer, early detection remains at the top of the list for any successful treatment. Some breast cancer detections begin with a touch or examination of the breast. Of all the human interactions, there is nothing more significant than touch. Touch is the most important of our five senses from a developmental standpoint.

Our whole body is designed for a touchy-feely experience. The skin is our largest organ where much of the touchy-feely is experienced. Under every square inch of our skin, there are hundreds of nerve endings, and each of these nerve endings is wired to our brain, where we register what those nerve endings are picking up on each day. The feelings range from comfort to discomfort and pain. The truth is that touch connects us to people and ourselves.

The woman in **Mark 5: 24-34** knew the importance of 'TOUCH' and was not prepared to allow CULTURAL or RELIGIOUS BARRIERS to prevent her from getting well.

Isn't it true, therefore, that for us to have Early DETECTION, we must first TOUCH / EXAM ourselves?

DISCLAIMER: We cannot read into the text, nor do we know if the woman's condition was the result of cancer of any sort. What we do know is that many types of cancer are related to the reproductive system and can do many of the same things this lady endured.

So, the power of touch demonstrated by this woman helps us to interpret our theme as we explore the importance and power of touch in our lives.

BREAST CANCER TOUCHES EVERY PART OF LIFE, EXCEPT....

BREAST CANCER TOUCHES OUR TIME

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years (Mark 5:25 NIV)

Twelve years is a long time to be ill. For some people, they have been in remission for twelve years, and yet for others, they have been on the journey battling cancer or journeying to recovery for 12 years, and still yet it might have been 12 days, 12 hours, 12 weeks, or 12 months since someone's their diagnosis.

Most health issues are dealt with in the short run. A cold may last for a few days; the flu may last a week to ten days; some injuries may take several months to rehabilitate, but many who deal with breast cancer are in a grinding marathon. Since their diagnosis, the cancer has been there every morning and every evening for days, weeks, months, and sometimes years.

So, whether in recent times the experience has been as an out-patient, in-patient, surgeries, recovery, time plays a pivotal role in what takes place in the present and what will become of the person diagnosed with breast cancer.

BREAST CANCER TOUCHES OUR STATUS

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years (Mark 5:25 NIV)

This woman's condition meant that she was considered religiously unclean, and anyone who touched her would be considered unclean. Her condition meant she could not bear children. Therefore, she lost a lot of the status and respect women had in that society. Some things should not be, but sometimes, breast cancer brings a stigma.

Maybe it is the physical toll of chemo and radiation. Maybe it is the appearance of the cancer itself. Some breast cancer patients feel as if folks treat them as if their condition is contagious. Extraordinarily sad are those who would say that your cancer is the result of some kind of sin in your life for which you are being punished or the number of sexual partners you've had, or that if you just had enough faith, God would heal you. Breast cancer brings out some ugly aspects of societal perception of those with breast cancer. These things often challenge and seek to redefine the status and image we portray in society before and after a diagnosis.

One of the products of cancer is the love of relationships. Helping hurt people brings out the best in us. It shakes up our priorities and reminds us that the greatest things in life are not things but those who are integral to our lives and living in a community.

BREAST CANCER TOUCHES OUR FINANCES

She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better, she grew worse. (Mark 5:26 NIV)

This verse should not be seen as an indictment against first-century doctors. Instead, we should imagine for a moment that they were doing the best they could with what they had and with how they understood various illnesses.

The truth is that medical treatments are expensive, especially cancer. Even if you have good insurance, the out-of-pocket expenses are formidable.

Many are not able to do the mammogram that aids in early detection because of cost.

BREAST CANCER TOUCHES OUR STRENGTH

She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better, she grew worse. (Mark 5:26 NIV)

We should never miss the phrase..." she grew worse." Breast cancer can take away all your physical abilities. It can do a lot of terrible things to us physically. In addition, breast cancer patients know well that in facing their disease, they can get worse before they get better.

The effects of chemotherapy and radiation can, at times, seem worse than the disease itself. They would never choose that battle. But they face it daily. It is the greatest physical challenge and stands above other physical, financial, and emotional accomplishments of a life.

BREAST CANCER CAN NOT TOUCH OUR FAITH

When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." (Mark 5:27-28 NIV)

Remember that Jesus affirmed that it was the woman's faith that made her well. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6a). Let us not get the idea that sickness is due to a lack of faith. The truth is that faith is not the utopia of the mountaintop. Faith is moving forward in the grind. It is often in the battle that our faith strengthens.

Eventually, this lady died of something. We can cheat death. However, we can only beat death through Christ. It is about maintaining a steadfast faith and trust in God, even when answers to our prayers seem to be delayed. It is about understanding that God's timing is perfect, even when it does not align with our own.

The woman in the story exemplifies this kind of steadfast faith and trust in God in Christ. Despite the delay in her healing, she never lost faith. She continued to believe in the possibility of her healing, and when she heard about Jesus, she saw an opportunity and seized it.

Today, I encourage anyone who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is wondering what to do or has begun treatment to not lose faith! Like the woman in the story, just touch Jesus with your faith.



Members of the Lions Club of Tropical Gardens in Grand Cayman at the William Pouchie Memorial United Church on October 15, 2023. The group shared in a time of worship, public education, and awareness as part of their campaign for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Following the worship service, the group enjoyed a time of fellowship in the church hall.



EMPOWERED

"Understanding, Relating, and Connecting more effectively to today's children and youth!"

Seminar for those involved in Children and Youth Ministry

Saturday, November 11 & 18, 2023, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at the Council Office

Presenters and Topics

Cognitive Behaviour - Dr. Richard Wildman
Developmental Psychology - Mr Denver Bloomfield
Counselling Techniques - Ms April Lewis
Mental Health Awareness - Ms Ginelle Nelson

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council



Women's Fellowship



Presents

GATHERING 2023

Saturday, October 21, 2023
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Theme: Let's Realign Our Worship

Venue: Savannah United Church

Come, expecting a Training Session on
Worship Leading

- Keynote presentation
- Practicum in Liturgy, Prayers, Reading of Scripture, Notices and Offering

ALL ARE INVITED

'BY LOVE SERVE'

JGMC YOUTH MINISTRY jgmcyouthmin@gmail.com

CAREER EXPO 2023

Career Connections: Empowering Your Path to Success

27TH OCTOBER @2PM **John Gray Memorial Church Hall**



Children's Ministry Commission

"Transforming Children To Make A Difference For Christ"

Church School Month

November is Church School Month and this year our church is celebrating the month under the theme "A Peace Wi Sey!."

This Church School Month we want our children to give peace a chance by smiling, sharing words of love, hope, and peace.

Let us help our children to resolve conflicts without violence and let them know it is okay to disagree with a smile and reflect on Romans 12:18 NIV.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

PSALM 1
But whose delight is in the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

WORLD STUDENT DAY
INVITING ALL STUDENT FROM THE CARIBBEAN TO JOIN US FOR PRAYER

Persevere

20th October 2023
7 PM (ECT) | Zoom ID: 846 3035 2433

Stand firm **IFES CARIBBEAN**

REGIONAL WORLD STUDENT DAY EVENT

The Regional World Student Day event will take place on Friday, October 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm, Cayman time.

Students, staff and supporters from across the region are invited to attend and pray for and with our global family.

Please join us if possible!

Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way.



on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

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