



SHEKINAH

(Heavenly Glory)

You are the light of the world. Matt. 5:14a

October 2007

ZIKKLAGGING Part 2

I Samuel 30

Inking my thoughts ...



Pastor Daniel Israel

Time well spent in seeking the will of God should never be considered as waste of time. When David sought the will of God in recovering his family and possessions, God gave the green signal and said, "You shall surely overtake them (Amalekites), and without fail recover them all" (1 Sam. 30:7,8). David went with 600 people to pursue, but 200 stayed back on the way because they were too tired to move! How could we rest, when the enemy has taken our spouse and children? They could have rested little bit and then tried to catch up with David. Instead, they rested for good! Probably, they transferred all their problems in the hands of the Lord, and went to sleep, as many of us do! **Prayer without works is a dead faith!** God wants us to work for what we ask for, but ultimately, it will be obtained only through His grace. 200 people failed to follow God's will in their life. They were too concerned about their own welfare. They did not even take effort to free their own captivated wives and children. Devil has taken many of our loved ones captives. **Unless, we are fervent in prayer and action, and apply pressure on the enemy, and chase him, he will not give back our loved ones.** The people who stayed back, did not also care about the fate of the weakened army of David. For some people, all their decisions are always about themselves, and no one else!

On his way, David and his men showed compassion to an Egyptian who had not eaten or drunk for 3 days. **No matter what situation we are in, let us show mercy and compassion, so that we may obtain mercy from God.** After the Egyptian had eaten, his spirit came again to him, and he began to speak. He was part of the Amalekites team who raided Ziklag. His master had left him to die because he became sick. The servant was touched by the compassion, and he was more than willing to show where the Amalekites were. Finding people in the dessert is like finding a needle in a hay stack. You need the grace of God to be successful in such an endeavor! While the enemy was partying, David sneaked in and slaughtered the Amalekites, and recovered all the wives, children, and possessions as God promised. God enabled David to be victorious over his enemy, even though David was out numbered. **This could only happen by the providence and grace of God.** But David had to do his fair share of works, that is, fighting the enemies. **We see a beautiful relation between the works and grace here. They do go hand in hand! It was by grace, David was sent back by Philistines in time to catch up with Amalekites (1 Sam. Ch.29). It was by grace, David found the Egyptian, and it was by grace, he won the battle with just 400 people and recovered them all!**

1 Sam. 30:18-20 says that David not only recovered what was his, but also took all their flocks and herds, and returned back as a rich man. Now David came to the two hundred men, who were still resting, and greeted them. But some of the "**wicked men**" of David said that the 200 men should not get anything other than their wives and children, because they did not come with them to fight. But David replied, "You shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the Lord has given us....."

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Prayer

The Women's Ministry has started a 12 week Bible Study on Prayer. We meet every second Saturday of the month at 2:30 p.m. So come and join us!!! We would love to see you.

How would we describe prayer? - Talking With God

Prayer is our direct line with heaven. He wants us to communicate with Him, like a person-to-person phone call. In today's society, cell phones and other devices have become a necessity. These means of communication allow two or more people to interact with one another. All relationships need good communication to grow. The quality of a person's prayer life reveals the type of relationship that person has with God. As you read on, think of your communication with God. Remember, your access line is always open so you can approach Him. Wow...isn't that comforting????

People have the desire to pray, but don't know how. Consider these tips:

What do we say?

Praying is like talking to your best friend! It's easy to talk to someone when you know they love you unconditionally!

1. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and make you new in Him
 2. Tell Him your needs! (1 Peter 5:7).
- Thank Him, for He died on the cross at Calvary for us! (John 3:16).

How do we say it?

1. With confidence and belief that He will deliver.
2. With joy that He can deliver.
3. With expectation that He is going to deliver. I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray" (Psalm 17:6).

What does the Bible say about prayer?

* **Pray for each other.** Jesus set an example for us on what to pray. He prayed for His disciples His prayer was that God protect and strengthen them.

* **Pray with faith.** "So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

* **Pray with worship and reverence.** "Exalt the LORD our God! Bow low before his feet, for he is holy!" (Psalm 99:5). "Yes, Lord,' the man said, 'I believe!' And he worshiped Jesus" (John 9:38).

"I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding" (Philippians 1:9).

* **Pray in the name of Jesus.** '*In the name of Jesus*' is an acknowledgment of the believer's position in Jesus Christ. We cannot pray in our own standing but we pray in His. He is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and he gave himself to purchase our freedom" (1 Corinthians 1:30). Praying in Jesus' name means praying **according to God's will.**

"You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. Yes, **ask anything in my name**, and I will do it!" (John 14:13-14). "And you will always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the **name of our Lord Jesus Christ**" (Ephesians 5:20). "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in **the name of the Lord**" (James 5:14).

* **Kneeling to pray - What is the significance?**

Kneeling to pray has been practiced for centuries. In the olden days, when you came before a king, you knelt as a symbol of humility. The Bible shows us many positions for prayer. Solomon stood before the altar (1 Kings 8:22), Jonah prayed in the belly of a fish (Jonah 2:1), Jesus prayed on a mountainside (Matthew 14:22-23), Jesus gave thanks at the table (Luke 24:30), Stephen prayed as he was being stoned (Acts 7:59), Peter went up on the roof to pray (Acts 10:9), Miriam and group danced and sang their prayers (Exodus 15:20), Job fell to the ground to petition God (Job 1:20). We read that Jesus did kneel when He prayed. Jesus was accompanied by His disciples as they prayed on the Mount of Olives. There were also times He prayed in a standing position as the disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. Jesus instructed them in what we call the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). "There he told them, 'Pray that you will not be overcome by temptation.' He walked away, and knelt down and prayed" (Luke 22:40-41).

Come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker (Psalm 95:6)

Next month : Pleading in Prayer

Toward an Active Church

Part 4: Growing a church by growing compassion

Not very often, but often enough to really bless us, a few guys from the band and I head to central Maryland's Brockbridge Correctional Facility to meet with prisoners. We play our instruments and sing. We help lead the men to worship. We preach and lead altar calls. We do our best to encourage them, but also challenge them. In short, we minister.

Before we go to the prison, we meet at the church. We rehearse and gather what we need such as guitars, overhead transparencies and sheet music. We pray for the men and for ourselves to connect effectively with them. Then we adjourn and go to the prison.

That is the purpose of a church building. Get your stuff together, then leave!

Somehow, Christianity today doesn't seem to understand that. Our religion has developed the idea that the church building, which did not even exist during the first few centuries of Christian history, ought to be the primary destination of every believer.

In reality, a believer showing up at a church is like a football player showing up in a locker room. It's where you gather your equipment. It's where your coach gives you the pep talk. It's where you build camaraderie with your teammates. But if you never run onto the field, what's the point?

There actually are a number of similarities between a football player and a believer. Both have a field (one has a ball field; the other has a field ready for harvest). If they're really doing their jobs, ball players and believers both get dirty. Both get hurt. Both occasionally fall and embarrass themselves. But both experience a thrill no one on the sidelines can understand.

Because if you don't play, you don't win.

I'll admit something I probably shouldn't admit. I'm growing weary of the church world using up most of its time and resources blessing people who already are abundantly blessed. I realize churches need music programs and educational programs and hospitality programs. But one more program designed for the church building instead of the world outside of it seems quite misguided.

If believers never venture out and compel others to come in, what point are all these programs? We're just passing the ball around the locker room to the same few people! And those people will never know the joy of actually being in the game.

As always, our primary example should be Jesus Christ. Let's look at a very important verse of the Bible, Acts 10:38, to see where He wanted us to be:

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power...

The Holy Spirit and power have been promised to all who believe in Jesus. But for what purpose?

... he went around...

The verse says Jesus went around! He didn't just show up at a building once or twice a week.

... doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil...

Jesus was actively engaging people with problems—the poor, the sick, the depressed and the powerless.

... because God was with him. (NIV)

If we want God to be with us, we need to be where He is. He's on the field. He's in the game!

But are we in the game? Each Sunday we gather in the locker room trying to bless one another with inward-focused programs. All the while, we rob ourselves of the thrill of living an active faith; the kind that moves mountains; the kind that makes compassion a compulsion; the kind that changes the world.

When Jesus went around doing good, He drew crowds. From the crowds, He drew out a core of committed men and women who became the foundation of the church. Those committed men and women went around doing good, and drew crowds. From those crowds came the next generation of committed men and women who went around doing good.

See how it works? The church grows if compassion grows, not if we keep adding activities primarily for ourselves. The church would have died early on had the people stayed in the locker room just trying to bless one another, instead of running onto the field.

Indeed, let us meet in the church building and encourage our teammates. Let's listen attentively as the coaches instruct and motivate the players. Let's gather whatever we need to get the job done. Then let's adjourn and take to the field!

The poor, the sick, the depressed and the powerless need us. We need to experience the thrill of selfless living. And the world needs to see a compassion that matches our confession.

In my final installment of the series: Getting specific

Pastor Andrew O'day



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Vision of our Church

- ✠ To reach out to all people for Christ .
- ✠ To reach out to all children and lead them to CHRIST.
- ✠ To help out the mission work in the Indian subcontinent.
- ✠ To be a light to this country and be a blessing to the needy people in the USA.

Directions From Route 29

Merge onto Baltimore National Pike (US 40) West
At the 5th traffic light, turn Right onto Pine Orchard Lane (0.1 miles)
Turn Right onto Corporate Ct (<0.1 miles)

Schedule for the month

Sunday Worship Service - 11 am
Children's Sunday School - During the service
Prayer Session every Tuesday 7:00pm
Women's Fellowship - October 13 at 2:30pm
Kidz Bible Club - October 13 at 4:30pm

ZIKLAGGING

Continued from Pg 1

We must share our blessing to all those who are in need, because, our blessing is actually from the Lord. The rich cannot get richer always. They must share their excess abundance. David forced those men to share. You may call David's government anything you want: Socialism, capitalism, communism? (Please read Acts 2:45; 4:34, 35 for more of these compassionate acts). In all these circumstances, the rich did share with the poor, even though, the poor did not deserve it, and work for it. Let church of Christ make sure that it fights for the basic needs of poor people. The church makes so much noise about abortion and homosexuality, but it is awfully silent when it comes to the legislations of meeting the basic needs of the poor. The church rejoices over rich man getting a fat tax break, but it becomes silent as a lamb, when those legislations that could help many poor people, fail to pass. Ideally speaking, David's 400 men should not have shared their hard earned "booty" to those 200 men. But mercy triumphs over justice always. Let us first provide the basic needs of every human being, and afterwards, let us focus on training them to be better Stewards. **It is indeed a real "wicked thing" to say that the poor should suffer for their wrong choices in life.** (To be concluded next month)

We appreciate you Pastors for your unselfish sacrifice to the cause of Christ and His church. We pray that you and your families will be showered with abundant blessings. May your hearts be filled with joy as you lead the flock entrusted to your care. May all the stumbling blocks that seem to come your way be turned into stepping stones for the furtherance of the Lord's Kingdom.

Youth & Kids Corner

Pastor's Kids Appreciation Month

Most of you know that October is 'Pastor Appreciation Month'. You may have seen how pastors are appreciated in your church with cards and gifts. Some churches honor the Pastor's wife as well, but very rarely are the Pastor's children appreciated. They are also put through so much pressure. They are expected to have impeccable manners, always be on their best behavior especially in church. They are expected to be doing a lot of helping-out in the church. They are constantly advised at home by their parents to be role models. Even in school, they cannot let down their guard. Worst of all, they see their parents often putting their ministry with all its pressures, ahead of their needs.

In these times, when it is tough enough just being a kid, the Pastor's kids carry a heavier burden. I'm sure many of us know quite a few Pastor's kids. At least this month, why not celebrate the Pastor's kids too... and be nice to them throughout the year too! Treat their parents with the respect they deserve. Help to make their lives a little less stressful.

WORD for the month....

Praise the Lord; praise God our Savior! For each day he carries us in His arms. Our God is a God who saves!
Psalm 68:19,20

Let us reflect the Light of our Lord Jesus Christ