

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Enduring With God"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

John 15:7 says, "If you remain in Me and My Words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you." People have a tendency to overlook the first half of this Scripture and focus on the last half. This is because sin of the flesh and its quest for self-satisfaction causes people to pray with wrong motives.

I would propose to you that true power in prayer is only enjoyed by those who understand the truth in this passage of Scripture. This power of prayer is what enables Christians to fully complete what God has called them to do.

Thank God for great spiritual leaders who have kept accurate accounts of their walk with the Lord and thus model for us true power in prayer! The Bible tells us to consider the "outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." (Hebrews 13:7)

One such spiritual leader was a man named David Brainerd. After reading the "Life and Diary of David Brainerd" (missionary to the American Indians 1742-1746), I came to the conclusion that this young man who died at twenty-nine was one Christian leader whose ministry and life exemplified the truths found in John 15:1-17. David Brainerd's selfless life of prayer and devotion has and is inspiring Christians to give themselves wholeheartedly to the Lord. His remarkable story of genuine piety in heart and practice reflects a Spirit-

filled walk with Jesus Christ. David Brainerd endured hardships on his missionary journeys for God. Often he slept exposed to the elements. He was hungry, often eating bread that had become stale and moldy. He suffered with effects of consumption which left him weak and often bed-ridden. In the early

part of the work God called him to do he found that he had many enemies. He was disliked by the Indians and hated by many white men.

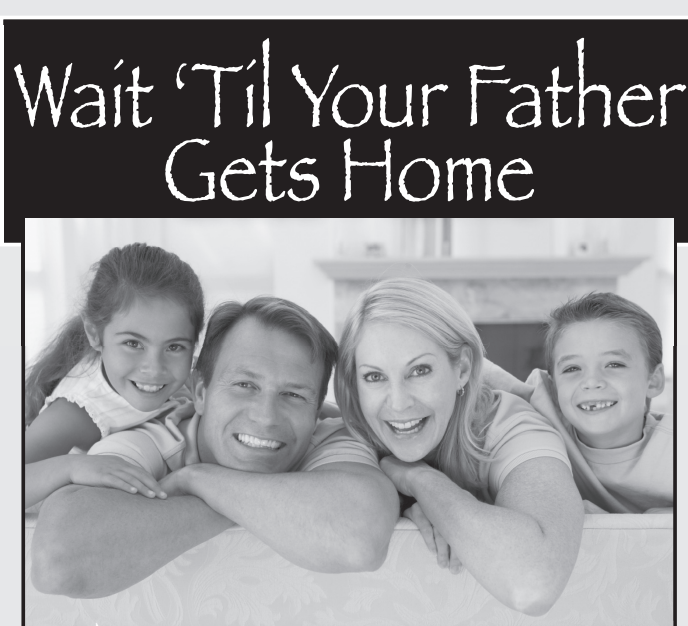
Through his years in ministry David had a heartfelt desire to produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit and carried on the Lord's ministry in a manner worthy of

the gospel he preached. Mr. Brainerd allowed the Word of God to expose sin that was in his heart and through true repentance he experienced the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit leaving him renewed. Through trusting in what Jesus did for him on the cross, David experienced God's mercy and grace, enabling him to do what others could not have done. David knew that God's promises are true. He remained faithful to Jesus and allowed His Words to remain within his spiritual heart.

It was prayer, Bible reading and surrendering to the will of God that enabled this young devoted man to fulfill his calling. Despite periods of extreme weakness he had freedom in prayer and found strength to preach with authority and effectiveness. God worked through him to give many Indians and white men the opportunity to hear the gospel. He saw souls come to Christ.

True strengthening and effectiveness comes through remaining in Christ, no matter how tough the trials are. Allowing His Word to remain in the spiritual heart births forth joyful obedience. The Lord blesses those who are surrendered to His will. He enables and empowers Christians to focus on what is important.

Have heart-felt determination, make Christ Lord and Savior.



Wait 'Til Your Father Gets Home

Though the world is constantly changing, this phrase is still around. While it might be helpful to those mothers who are at the end of their rope, it sure does give dads a bad rap. After all, dad doesn't know what's awaiting him behind the front door. Although his children might be rightfully apprehensive, they know that he loves them even though he expects them to behave. Therefore, some appropriate repercussion is not a surprise. Like dad, Our Heavenly Father loves us even more than we can imagine. His words to us are found in the Holy Bible. Though we may cause ourselves grief when we do not obey, God still forgives us when we ask Him to. His love never wavers. Psalm 115:11 reassures us, "You who fear him, trust in the Lord - He is their help and shield."

Worship this week and learn more about your Father's eternal and unconditional love.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 John	Matthew 6.1-18	Luke 11.1-13	Luke 18.1-14	Psalm 32	Psalm 33	Psalm 34

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