

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### "The Person of Change"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

There is a truth that is just as prevalent today as it was during Jesus' ministry. Contrary to popular belief, glorious buildings, unbiblical fellowship, legalistic rules of the day and faithful religious attendance cannot enable people to enjoy nor live out the holiness of God. The Person of change, the Holy Spirit, must be allowed to do His purifying work so the Body of Christ can enjoy God's best for them.

There are three key truths to walking in the holiness of God. 1.) You must go through God in Christ's Name. (John 14:6) 2.) You will benefit from constant humble intake of the Word of God. (Isaiah 66:2; Ephesians 6:17) 3.) The Holy Spirit will strengthen you. (Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 3:16)

Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth." (John 14:15-17A) The Apostle Paul's heartfelt prayer for the church is, "... out of His glorious riches that He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being." (Ephesians 3:16) Paul being lead of the Holy Spirit wrote to the church in Colosse, "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will

through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in

the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light." (Colossians 1:9-12)

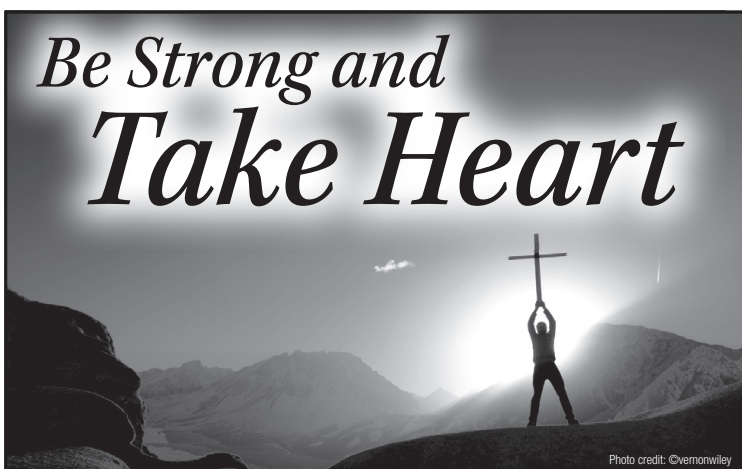
Christians who are growing in the knowledge of God have Christ as Savior and Lord. They are enabled by the Holy Spirit to mature in holiness because their spiritual heart's first focus is on a life that will please God in every way thus becoming more worthy of being called Christian. Christians who grow in holiness

know the truth of Jeremiah 17:10, "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct..."

King David learned this truth the hard way and he, like all of us needed someone to point out his own spiritual blindness. 2 Samuel 12:1-13 records David's act of adultery with Bathsheba. Instead of repenting over the fact he had sex with another man's wife, he committed murder to cover his sin. In fact David was ready to condemn another man to death for a lesser crime. (2 Samuel 12:5) It wasn't until the prophet Nathan exposed his spiritual blindness that David was able to say, "I have sinned against the Lord!"

Today, only the Holy Spirit can examine the heart, bring a man to repentance, and cause him to be broken before God. Christians who allow the Person of Change, the Holy Spirit to do a work within them fear these words which Nathan spoke to David, "... by doing this you have made the enemies of the Lord show utter contempt..." (2 Samuel 12:14)

Let a reverent fear of breaking the Lord's heart and bringing contempt upon His work be the key reasons for seeking the holiness of God. Then give permission to the Person of Change, the Holy Spirit of Christ to do His purifying work!



**When faced with a distasteful situation** there is often no choice but to take a deep breath and swallow hard. It takes a lot of strength to meet life's challenges. We can do so with hope and faith if we have God's wisdom to guide us. "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord." (Psalm 31:24) Grow in strength as you worship each week and be prepared for whatever comes your way.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Acts	Acts	Leviticus	Deuteronomy	Matthew	Mark	John
27.39-28.10	28.11-31	19.1-18	6.1-25	19.13-30	12.28-44	3.1-21

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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