

Growing Together By Travis Main

Continued from page 2... However, as time goes forward, a man and a woman who exercise love toward one another and spend time with one another will steadily be growing together. Their knowledge will increase, their bond will increase, and if their path is walked with God, their joy for the future will abound. The Bride of Christ need never fear about the faithfulness of their Groom. He loves at all times. He longs for us to embrace eternal life together. Yet, as in any marriage, we must spend time together so that we will draw closer to one another. Encouragement in scripture such as 2 Timothy 2:15, Acts 17:11, and I Thessalonians 5:17 call for us to discover who our Lord is and to communicate with Him. The Apostle Peter encouraged continually growth in knowing Christ to those who took His name (2 Peter 3:18). When we walk with Him, showing our love for Him (John 14:15) our relationship will bloom. In any marriage, the longer you discover one another, you know what pleases, comforts, and brings peace and happiness to your companion. Efforts such as this, applied over time, come from the inner man, allowing Christ and His Bride to be growing together. Consider psalm 119. Over and over David, a man after God's own heart, speaks of the blessedness of the words of God. He delights in His testimonies. He wants to know God's thoughts. He knows the presence of the Lord in his life makes him a better man. David cannot help, but praise God because of the relationship God extends to Him. He does not have to worry that God won't be there, that God might fail him, or that God cannot be trusted upon in times of trouble. This comes from seeking closeness and building a stronger relationship with God with each dawning day. This bond comes from not neglecting a relationship, but cultivating it. Would you consider simply not hearing your spouse's voice for days or weeks at a time? If you answered yes, by the way, it isn't because things are as God planned them is it? It is because you and/or your spouse have stepped away from God's plan, if only in a moment's display of poor behavior. As previously stated, exercising love and spending time together is core to a happy relationship. When either point is neglected, the relationship will suffer. God will never be the contentious spouse. He will never fail to love you. He will never be unkind. He will never be unfaithful. So, when the relationship with God seems to be crumbling, you feel your faith waning, it isn't God, it is you. There is a solution, breathed from the mouth of God himself: "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." If you desire God, seek him, and love Him, you will never be alone. You will experience the joy of togetherness eternally. That union will always grow and produce the fruit of joy.

Brushy church of Christ
774 Hwy 48 South
Centerville TN 37033



The Brushy Beacon

"Open up Your Heart & Door in 2024"

December 15, 2024

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:00
Sunday Morning Service	10:00
Sunday Evening Service	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

The church of Christ at Brushy

Elders

Ricky Atkinson
James Atkinson
Tony Duncan

Deacons

Paul Johnston Terry Banks
Kevin Johnston Justin Atkinson
Caleb Truett

Preacher: Kevin Johnston

Let the Holy Spirit Change You by Dan Jenkins

How the Holy Spirit changes us from our former life into a mirror image of Jesus is misunderstood by so many. The Bible nowhere teaches that the Spirit works directly on our hearts to make me a more spiritual person. The Spirit does change us, and the Bible clearly shows how this happens.

It is true that the Spirit is part of our walk with the Lord. It is true our growth as a child of God involves change and Paul describes it this way: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed" ([Rom. 12:2](#)). The words that follow the word "transformed" show how this is done. It is not done simply by submitting to the Spirit, but it involves "the renewing of your minds." The Spirit is involved in this renewal, but we are not passively waiting for it to happen. So few really understand how the Spirit is involved.

Paul describes the renewal in his second letter to the church at Corinth. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (10:4-5). Look carefully at what is said. The way we win the battle against evil involves casting down the "arguments" of Satan we confront using the knowledge of God and changing our thoughts. We are actively involved in bringing all thoughts to submission through obedience to Jesus. We are not passive as this change happens. We control our thoughts, and we are the ones who use the knowledge of His will. We actively are determined to obey His will.

Paul's letter to Titus speaks of this in these words: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" ([Tit. 3:5](#)). In Romans, he says we are transformed by the renewal of our minds, and in this book, he says the Holy Spirit is part of that renewal.

However, the clearest description of the Spirit's work in changing us is found in the last verse of 2 Corinthians 3. We come to the Bible as one comes to a mirror with our hearts open and submissive to God. In the Bible we see the image of Jesus. We are "...beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." We see His glory. This is how the Spirit transforms us in the glory of Jesus to become like Him.

Do you want the Holy Spirit to transform you? It will never happen unless you actively study Jesus' words and make His words your words. There is no transformation by the Spirit without diligent study of the Bible!



Family News & Notes

TEAM 3 – Compassion Card Group You will need to sign cards TODAY. Please go to the Ladies Classroom following the morning worship service. It will not take you long. Please see Justin & Emily if you have questions. *James, Kim, Tate Annis Patricia Bowman Tammy & CJ Glenda Keith and Nancy Maelynn David and Crystal Rodney, Tessa, Carter, and Cade*

Looking for a Theme Please be thinking of a theme for 2025. We need one that will encourage, uplift, and motive us for 2025. Please write down your ideas and give them to Ricky or one of the elders.

**The deadline for turning in a theme is Wednesday, December 18.*

Fruit Baskets We will assemble fruit baskets on Friday, December 20, at 5 P.M. There is a signup sheet on the table in the back. Please have all items here by Wednesday, December 18. If you know of someone who is widowed, lives alone, or could just use some cheer; please give their name to Amy, Pamela, or Joanne. We would be glad to give them a basket.

Christmas Caroling We will sing Christmas Carols and share a meal on Friday, December 20, at 6 P.M. There is a menu on the table. Feel free to invite a friend and join in on the fun and festivities. If you have questions, please see Caleb & Paige.

You're Invited The Elders, Deacons, Preacher and their wives invite you to the Congregation Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, December 29, following the mornign worship service. We want to take this opprotunity to thank you and honor you for all you have done throughout the year! We hope you will make plans to attend!

Special 5th Sunday We are looking forward to Sunday, December 29, when the young men will be conducting the worship service. They always do an excellent job and we hope you will plan to attend.

We Need Names We need your help to keep the Compassion Card ministry going. We have received a lot of positive feedback and want to contineu to be an encouragement to those who are outside of Christ. You can put their name and addresss on a card and put it in the box or give it to one of the Elders. We are looking to encourage those you know who are celebrating a milestone or dealing with a difficult time. We are using the cards as a way to show love, encouragement, support, and compassion!

Remember to... pray for our Evangelism Efforts, the names on your bookmarks, and those who are receiving the compassion cards. We know that God will add the increase to these efforts.

A Happy Anniversary to... Fred & Patricia Bowman...December 10

Our Deepest Sympathies to... the family of Jeffrey Bryant. He is the son of Carl & Ann Bryant. The visitation will be at The Hermitage Funeral Home in Old Hickory, TN on Monday, December 16, from 12 – 2 P.M. and a Celebration of Life Service will be at 2 P.M.

Growing Together By Travis Main

My son and daughter-in-law (greatest one ever) were married about ten months ago. They do not live to far from me, so I get to see them on a fairly frequent basis. They took a fair amount of time during the engagement period getting to know one another, but getting to know one another extends far beyond the engagement and into the marriage. My wife and I have been married 33 years this year and I continue to discover who she is. Do I know much more about my wife than my son does his? Yes I do. This is a product of time spent with my spouse and deliberately trying to understand who she is. Of course, as any man knows, he will never figure his wife out in complete Continued on page 4...

Pray for Those Sick Among Us...

James & Helen Bryant are dealing with covid.

Melissa Bryant is at home after being in the hospital and is still not feeling well.

Daryl Wade is in the hospital in Dickson waiting to have a leg amputation.

Larry Tucker Keith & Rodney's dad, is recovering after having heart surgery.

Cindy Winebrenner Jacinda's Mother, will not have to have surgery on her shoulder/is healing good.

Randy Dotson nephew of Anita Quillen has several broken bones and damage to his organs.

Continuing Prayer Requests

Dealing with Cancer - Glen Herrington, Shannon Irwin, Rodney Tune

Special Requests - Chris Allen, Miranda Smith, Judy Goodman

Pray for Those in Nursing Homes

Community Living Center in Murfreesboro... Fred Bowman

Ongoing Prayer Reminders

- All in the military and civil workers overseas and their families right.
- All those Preaching and teaching the Good News all over the world.
- Our Government Leaders – Local, State, and National (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Our Elders and Deacons who oversee, care for, serve, and feed us spiritually. (Hebrews 13:7)

Upcoming Events

*Friday, December 20 ~ Assemble Fruit Baskets at 5:00 P.M. in the Ladies Classroom

*Friday, December 20 ~ Christmas Caroling at 6 P.M. at the Annex

*Sunday, December 29 ~ The Young Men will conduct the Service

*Sunday, December 29 ~ The Congregation Appreciation Dinner Following Morning Worship

For the Record

Sunday Morning Bible Class	41	Sunday Morning Worship	73
Sunday Evening Worship	28	Wednesday Bible Study	38
Contribution		\$2351	

Merry Giftmas by Aaron Veyon

“And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35). Many around the world celebrate Christmas as a religious holy day, though the origin and practice of it is never mentioned nor endorsed in the Bible, for Christmas is a man-made holiday. But to many of us, this time of year is a wonderful family holiday, full of tradition and the joy and warmth of togetherness. It is also an excellent time to practice something we should be doing year around: GIVING. Though it is always enjoyable to receive gifts (ask any child), it is far more rewarding to give them – especially when they are greatly appreciated. The “Haves” always need to help the “Have Nots;” as Paul said, “Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (I Tim. 6:18). Please be generous to those in need, for this is truest reason for the season.