

**Spring into New Life** 

Opring! My favorite season. It is a time of new beginning and life. The sun comes out, flowers begin to bloom, birds are chirping. Spring reawakens us and our surrounding environment, bringing everything back to life. It is fitting that this is the season in which we celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior.

My mind has been on the story of the "woman with the issue of blood." She is not named, but simply known for this condition. A condition which she suffered from for 12 long years. She was isolated from her family and neighbors because she was considered unclean. She "had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse" (Mark 5:26). For 12 years she was isolated. She must have thought this was how her story would end... Hopeless.

And yet, Mark 5:27 tells us when she heard about Jesus coming, she went out, not caring about the crowd. She was desperate. "For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole" (Mark 5:28). That was her plan, to touch Him. I picture her ducking through the crowd, squeezing by others and reaching out as far as she could to just touch the hem of His garment. And immediately she was healed. She knew that she had been healed. The Bible tells us she could feel it and Jesus must have too. He immediately responded. You can almost hear the laughter in Peters voice in Luke 8:45 "And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?". He could have kept walking as He was on His way to heal a leader's daughter who was dying. But the woman came to Him trembling, almost ashamed of being in the crowd, and explained herself. His response? "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." (Mark 5:34). She was no longer known by her past condition. He calls her Daughter! She was free after 12 years and given a new name.

This woman did not focus on herself as she pressed through the crowd that day, but rather kept her mind on Jesus. She had faith that only He could heal her. Do you have something that has been keeping you isolated, in pain, suffering? If we only focus on Jesus, we too can be changed and given new life. Are we waiting for God? Maybe we need to be bold and press forward. Hebrews 4:16 states, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Take that first step. He will heal you completely and restore new life within you. I pray that during this Spring season you will find new life, comfort, and hope in our Savior!

We will sing a new song
'Cause death is dead and
gone with the winter
We will sing a new song
Let "hallelujahs" flow
like a river
We're coming back to life
Reaching towards the light
Your love is like springtime

You're the living water
God, we thirst for you
The dry and the barren
Will flower and bloom
You're the sun that's
shining
You restore my soul
The deeper you call us
Oh, the deeper we'll go

"Springtime" by Chris Renzema

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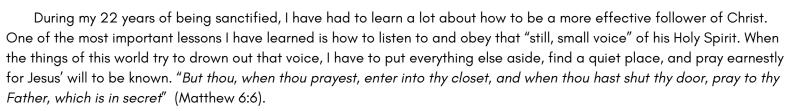
-Sis Krystle Skelton



## **Following Jesus**

I know not the future what He has for me I'm trusting in Jesus where I cannot see With love that's still unbroken, I place my hand in thine Guide me, oh, my Savior, for thy will is mine

-By Leonard Weaver and M. E. Upham



In the 10th chapter of Acts, The Holy Spirit came to Peter in a vision. He was asked to kill and eat common and unclean things that his Jewish faith had taught him to avoid all of his life. This was a metaphor for preaching to the Gentiles. A bold move for a Jewish man at that time. Even as Peter was doubting the vision, Cornelius' men were at his gate and asking for him. He finally listened, welcomed the men in, visited Cornelius, and got his entire household sanctified. "While Peter yet spake these words, The Holy Ghost fell on of them which heard The Word." (Acts 10:44)

In the 16th chapter of Acts, Paul, who had already traveled and started churches in Asia, had a dream. He had planned to visit Bithynia, but The Holy Spirit visited him in his sleep. In his dream, a man from Macedonia told Paul that he should visit him there instead. Paul woke up, "Followed Jesus", traveled to Macedonia, and started baptizing in The Holy Spirit. And just like that, The Gospel was being preached on the continent of Europe. 1600 years later, Christianity had covered Europe and was making its way into people's hearts on small wooden ships to North America and eventually to us here today. Paul "followed" Jesus' Holy Spirit, The Comforter, that He left for us as He ascended to Heaven.

I personally have had many occasions to follow Jesus. My most memorable was just a few years after getting sanctified. I was alone on a missionary trip after Hurricane Katrina. The first day on the Gulf Coast, I had the "plans". Well, after a 20-hour day, my "plans" failed. I couldn't find the right location, no one seemed receptive, and I couldn't even find a place to stay. I got down on myself and felt like I had let myself, God, and everyone that had sponsored my trip, down. At 2 AM, after getting up at 5 AM the previous morning, I am driving From Mobile, AL up Interstate 64 toward Montgomery. It was a very lonely road. I started to pray for God's guidance and St Matthew 6:6 came to me. I pulled over on the emergency lane, got out and on my knees (no closet available), and prayed my heart out for God to show me the way out of my predicament. As I finished and looked up, there was a light shining up a few miles down the road. A still, small voice told me I needed to go to that light. The light was an old Native American motel that was still open for some reason. A young lady was at the counter inside and she told me there were no rooms due to evacuations from the storm. I wandered out, mumbling to myself why God had sent me there to no avail when she stopped me. She said that she had a friend that worked the desk at a Best Western at the next exit and she would call him. He told her that he had just had a cancelation and that he had a room available for the next 8 nights. This was the exact number of nights I needed! God led me where I needed to go so that He could use me to shine His light to many others over the next 8 days. Who knows how it would have transpired if I had not "Followed Jesus". That was over 17 years ago and I want you all to pray for me to continue following.

I will keep all of you in my prayers that you do the same. Especially those of you that don't yet know The Lord. He is calling you to "follow" him, too. God bless you all!

Your Brother in Christ, Eddie Williams

## **Self-Examination**

In the spirit of 2 Corinthians 13:5 ("Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.") and the lines from the song "Holy, Holy Is Not a Dream" ("Read first John chapter third and remember it's the Living Word; it will show you how you stand before our God."), here is a short list of "proofs" from the first three chapters of first John that you can use for a spiritual check-up.

I John 1:6-7: "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

2:4-5: He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

2:0-11: "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. If But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

**2:23:** "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."

**3:8-9:** "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

## The Doctrine

Christ's Sanctified Holy Church... the name of our church stands out among most names of churches throughout America. It is clear whose church it is – CHRIST'S; how its members obtain membership when they get – SANCTIFIED, and how the congregants live – HOLY. It is not only our name that stands out to many, but our organizational structure – no paid ministers; our method of worship – standing up behind the pulpit; our singing – acapella – just to name a few significant differences.

But the largest difference that has been on my mind recently between CSHC and other churches is the Doctrine. Yes, we do express and manifest love, compassion, and forgiveness toward others regardless of whether they are sanctified or not, but those attributes are derivatives from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that abides within a sanctified soul.

The doctrine of Jesus coming down from Heaven to create a new Covenant with mankind is widely accepted, else Christian churches would be still performing animal sacrifices as dictated in the Moses' Laws. 1 Timothy 3: 16 states "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

It is after He was received up into glory, that we diverge from most churches. Even before Jesus was born, an angel proclaimed (Luke 1: 32-33) "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto



Him the throne of his father David; And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end". So, to base your soul's salvation on an End of the World, or a Rapture (a word not in the Bible) is denying the purpose of Jesus coming down to mankind and that He did not finish his work on earth, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, it is finished, and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost". (John 19:30)

What physical work did He leave incomplete and require His physical return? His return is by the Spirit imputed into our souls. We believe that each soul is born with the opportunity to obtain Sanctification and, when their physical body has expired, they are received into eternal Heaven or Hell. "and whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15). Many churches preach that after we die and when Jesus comes back to the earth, there will be a resurrection and then there will be a period of a thousand years to then live without sin or reject God again and then go to Heaven. That sounds complicated, unfair, unjust, and illogical. God's plan is simple: get your actual sins that you have committed forgiven, petition God to dwell in your soul and live a Sanctified and Holy life the balance of your Days... What a wonderful plan God has established for all of mankind! This is one of the cornerstones of Christ's Sanctified Holy Church... USE IT, PREACH IT, TELL IT.

-Bro Harry Collins

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