



The President's Message

Greetings in the Lord's Name,

I pray that as you receive this newsletter, you are well and continuing to work for His kingdom. Since this is our first newsletter after Campmeeting 2024, I just want to say that this year's Campmeeting was absolutely incredible! The Spirit of the Lord was evident and powerful in each of our services. Lives were touched and changed by the anointing of God. We had participation from several churches in the area as well as support from churches outside this area. We also were able to install two of our newest ministers and present to them their credentials. Sister Angela Beri received Ordination and Sister Deborah Smith received license. We are honored to welcome them into our Fellowship. In addition to the spiritual food, the natural food we partook of after each service was amazing! Thank you especially to Sister Conni and to all the ladies and men that helped to prepare food, serve, or anything else associated with the huge undertaking of Campmeeting! Thank you to Brother Joe Gillman's church for providing the Wednesday meal for us; barbeque never disappoints! The fellowship with all the brothers and sisters that attended was just the icing on an already exceptional cake. Sister Conni and I pray that you will be able to be with us for **Campmeeting 2025, June 3-5**. I want to take a moment to invite anyone that has a call of God on his or her life to the ministry to become a part of our fellowship. Our basic requirements are that one be filled with Holy Ghost and have a definite call to any area of ministry. If you are interested or know someone that may be, please contact me at 850-336-0063. We are excited also that we have had some new people beginning to join us in our services at Indian Ford Victory Fellowship, and the Spirit of the Lord continues to be rich and real. We are looking forward to a revival in October with Brother Greg and Sister Diane DeGrave. Also in October, Brother Joe Gillman is planning a fall meeting at Whitfield Pentecostal Church. We will let you know more information when everything is scheduled. We love you and pray that you will continue to be a vessel of honor available for God to use as He wills.

—In His Service
Bro. Danny Carnley
President FFMA



Faith Check

No one runs a race by looking backward. Runners face forward, as they propel themselves toward their destination, the finish line. A believer's destination is heaven. Look toward Jesus as you run your race. And as you cross the finish line, to the cheers of a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrew 12:1), the true celebration begins.

—Submitted by Sis Conni Carnley

Prayer Requests





Jerusalem & Israel



Our military overseas and at home



Faith Fellowship Ministerial Association and its Ministers



Our country and leaders



John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” #

Letters

*From Brother Richard Vickers, Pastor,
Bride of Christ*

I want to share with everyone that we have been blessed to have new faces visit with us and enjoy the services. We have received testimonies from folks we have prayed for to be healed, and they have reported they have received their healing. The most recent testimony is from a sister that had been diagnosed with leukemia and was getting really bad. They came out to the church, and we anointed her with oil and prayed. I also felt led to lead her in a prayer of forgiveness to anyone that had sinned against them. This lady reached out to me later and told me she felt better. She had gone to the doctor and the doctor said he could not find any cancer!! Hallelujah! Thank you, Jesus! God is sooo Good! God bless you all; we love y'all.

Brother Richard Vickers



Nothing Is Greater Than God's Grace

Zechariah 4:1 ¶ And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep,

2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?

5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest

thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

Romans 8:31 ¶ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Greetings Beloved in Christ.

Several years ago while riding down the road listening to a Gospel radio station a song was playing that stirred my heart. The primary lines in the chorus were

"There ain't no mountain, there ain't no valley, there ain't no problem greater than the grace of Jesus". Truly there is nothing greater than God's amazing grace.

Doesn't matter what the problem is or what work God has called us to there is nothing greater than God's grace. For the Word of God says in 1 John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world".

So getting back to the text above, in the days of Zechariah God had brought the children of Israel back to their homeland. Zerubbabel had led the work of rebuilding the temple, but the work had got left undone because they

got caught up in building their homes and their businesses. So God began to stir up prophets to stir up the people to once again return to the task of completing the building of the temple of the Lord. The building of the House of God had been difficult to say the least and many were discouraged in the work, but God stirred up the prophet Zechariah with encouraging words to Zerubbabel.

In the vision of Zechariah there was a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, with two olive trees, one on each side of the bowl. The angel explained to Zechariah that this is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel. Most of us older folks know how lamps work, though many of the younger generation have hardly seen a working lamp. What God had shown his prophet was not only a lamp but a complete means of light with the lamps, the pipes, the bowl and the two olive trees. The lamp works by having a source of fuel which usually was oil that was drawn up through a wick to feed the flame to produce light. The wicks had to be kept trimmed so that any charring that developed would be removed so the oil could flow up through the wick and fuel the flame.

The olive trees were the source of the oil that would be emptied into the bowl. The oil would then flow down through the golden pipes to the seven lamps and then up the wick to fuel the flame. In so many words God would provide the olives to make the oil, the bowl to disperse the oil through the pipes to the lamps and the fire to light the lamps. "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" Zech 4:6.

Continued on Page 3...



Continued from page 2....

"Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it" Zech 4:7. "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you" Zech 4:9. God's great grace would provide everything that Zerubbabel would need. All that was lacking was the wick through which the oil would flow to fuel the flame. By the grace of God we can be wick that God can trim so that the Spirit of God can flow through us and fulfill His will making us lights to shine in a dark world!

When the world had become so wicked that God had decided that he would destroy every living thing the Word of God says "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:8.)

Noah by the grace of God built an ark to the saving of his household; by the which he condemned the world. When Joseph's brothers had turned against him and sold him to the slave traders he held on to the grace of God that brought him through, for God's grace is sufficient. When Nebuchadnezzar had set up his idol in the plain of Dura and commanded at the playing of the music all should bow down upon their faces and worship, but three Hebrew young men found grace to stand and the fiery furnace wasn't able to burn them! When Daniel knew that the decree was signed, he went to his window that looked toward Jerusalem and prayed as afore time, and when they threw him into the den of lions they could not harm him by the grace of God. "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than

they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" 1Co 15:10.

No matter what we face or what or where God may send us, we must remember that God's grace is sufficient in all things and **NOTHING IS GREATER THAN GOD'S GRACE!**

There ain't no mountain, there ain't no valley, there ain't no problem greater than the grace of Jesus.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen". Rev 22:21

In His Service,

*Pastor Joseph Gillman
Vice President FFMA*



Dear Fellow Believer,

I want to share part of a message we recently preached regarding how Jesus requires a separated people. This comes from the scripture of Matthew 3:7-12.

John the Baptist began preaching in the wilderness—He comes to Jordan River and begins baptizing those coming to him. He sees the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized. These men came to John privately; they simply wanted to be baptized but had no plan of making any changes in their life. So many want to be baptized, but only as a formality; they don't want the clean and holy life those who are baptized are supposed to live. Besides, it's not baptism that saves us; it is having our sins washed away and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. He calls them a generation of vipers—venomous and poisonous—born of Abraham, but John saw them for who they really were—the serpent's seed. John then tells them they need to bring fruits meet (worthy) of repentance.

The Pharisees were a religious group that started out pure, but over time they lost their genuineness. They lost the spirit of their institution and at this time only possessed a form of godliness—Jesus would tell them later that they did make the outside of the cup and platter clean, but inside there was no more Spirit. They continued to observe the rules of their institution, but they were doing no more than going through the motions. The Sadducees were a sect who denied the existence of angels and spirits as well as the resurrection of the dead. Neither of this group had any plans of making any changes in their lifestyles. John also told them that it didn't matter who their father was—even if it was Abraham—they needed to show that they were willing to repent—to change their ways. John was basically saying, "I can baptize you, but that won't make you clean.

Fruits meet for repentance—there needed to be some action on their parts that showed they were serious about their confessions. In today's world, there seems to be more than ever a disconnect between repentance and the lifestyle that follows. Saying I am sorry is easy; asking to be forgiven is easy. The hard part comes in the proof that one truly is sorry—that one really does desire forgiveness. Is it forgiveness this world desires from God or is it approval? Do we want God genuinely to forgive us, or would we rather God simply take away the guilt feeling of what we have done with no desire not to keep doing what we are guilty of in the first place? For the most part, people don't really want to change, they just want God to change, to accept their wrongdoing. When someone truly repents, a difference in lifestyle follows.

Continued on Page 4...



Continued from page 3...

John said the time had come that the axe is laid at the root of the tree. It has not yet cut into the root, but it lays there as a sign that it will be used. It's a sign—a warning sign—turn to God or be utterly and finally ruined—cut down. He wanted them to see the metaphor he was presenting—the Jewish nation is the tree—the Romans the axe—by the judgment of God, the Romans would cut down the tree. John Wesley said “The comparison seems to be taken from a woodman that has laid down his axe to put off his coat, and then immediately goes to work to cut down the tree.” Next comes the test—there is a determination made as to whether the tree is bearing fruit—those not bearing fruit are hewn (cut) down and cast into the fire.

John is in the beginning stages of emphasizing the importance of separation. There are trees that bear fruit and trees that are not good fruit-bearing; it's those trees not bearing good fruit that are cut down. Then further separation comes as the trees cut down are cast into the fire to be burned. The good fruit are those works worthy of repentance he mentioned earlier. He is speaking to the religious crowd of the day, but the same Word speaks to each of us today.

John then speaks to those that had come with a sincere heart to repent and be baptized. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance—water didn't wash away their sins, but, it showed to the world that by God's Spirit they would now lead a different life.

But there is one coming after me—one mightier than I, One whose shoes I am not worthy to bear. Luke records it as “...the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose.” He wasn't worthy of doing the work

of a common servant or slave. He is coming to baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire; Jesus has come to baptize His followers with the Holy Ghost and with fire. That fire that helps to purge away all that is not like Christ. People don't need to receive the Holy Ghost simply to speak in tongues but to live a life of power.

John didn't end with talking about being baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire. The Baptist now says He is coming with a fan in His hand—the axe is simply laid at the root of the tree, but now this One comes with the fan already in His hand. John says fan but more correctly a winnowing fan. There is a reason why he has this winnowing fan in His hand—He comes to make a separation—

This winnowing fan was an agricultural instrument used by the Jews to separate the grain from the chaff, the wheat from the husk. The preaching of God's Word is intended to act as a winnowing fan—it's designed to separate the grain from the chaff—to separate the sincere believers from the spiritually worthless. John Wesley said, “Whose fan - That is, the word of the Gospel. His floor - That is, his Church, which is now covered with a mixture of wheat and chaff.”

The allusion here is to the process whereby wheat, barley, and other grains were separated from the outside husk of the head of the stalk. The wheat stalks were generally gathered by hand using a sharp instrument called a sickle. It consisted of a curved metal blade attached to a short stick that could be held in the hand. This process of harvesting the wheat was called reaping. And the bundle of grain gathered was called a sheaf. In the Bible there are several references to the word reap in different tenses as well as references

to the word sickle. The sickle was used by the reapers to cut down the stalks and bundle the stalks into sheaves. They were then carried to a large wide-open flat area and laid on the ground and separated. This area was called a threshing floor made from either dirt or rock. After there had been a significant amount of stalks gathered, they would use different processes to get the grain separated from the chaff, and from everything other than the grain, the seed kernels. They would bring in oxen or cattle and drive them back and forth over the pile of stalks until it was evident the grain had been dislodged. Sometimes, they would stand on a sled, sort of like a toboggan that had pieces of metal or stone set in the bottom, so the wheat could be cut off the stalk faster. If animals were not available, they would beat the pile with large sticks or walk around on it themselves to dislodge the kernels. There is even a reference to how to treat the animals that were used to do this. Dt 25:4, “Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.” Now on the ground lay the good kernel of wheat or other grains, dislodged from the rest of the head of the stalk, but it is only the grain itself that is used in food preparation. Then the winnowing process would begin. The purpose of having the threshing floor in a wide-open area is so to have the advantage of the wind. The grain was tossed in the air by a winnowing shovel or fan and the good, heavier grain would fall to the ground while the no good, lighter chaff would be blown away by the wind. If there was no wind, they would also use winnowing fans to make a manual breeze while others tossed the chaff and grain into the air or they would wait until the wind came, usually in the evening.

Continued on page 5...



Regardless of the method used, the idea was in the end, there would be good clean wheat and other grain kernels to be used to make bread. This good grain would be gathered and everything else either left to blow away or it was sometimes used as fuel in household ovens. To what John was referring would not have been strange or uncommon language to the people of his day. He knew they would understand the meaning of what he was saying. In the final day of judgment, there would be a separation. The word says that Jesus came to bring division. Luke 12:51, "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:" From the beginning of time as we know it, we have record of separation—separation first began when God cast Satan out of heaven. Ever since Satan was cast out, he has tried to mix back in—trying either to fit in with God's chosen or to get God's chosen to fit in with him. When you think about separation, think about harvesting. There are not many things that you eat the entire plant that is grown. Even though we eat the roots and tops of turnips, there is still some waste as well as some separating that must be done. When was the last time you pulled turnips out of the ground and placed them right in the pot without separating the dirt (and bugs) from them? There are so many different references in the Bible about separation. Jesus spoke of a parable about wheat and tares. About how they would be allowed to grow up together, but one day, there

would be a separation. Not only would there be a separation, but there would be distinct different places where each of these would end up. One would be gathered into the barn; the tares would also be gathered but gathered to be burned. God has always wanted a distinct, separated people. In the end, this is what He will have. On what side will we be when the separation takes place? If we do not separate ourselves from this world, we will be separated from God's chosen in the end. When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, Ex 12:38, "And a mixed multitude went up also with them;..." A mixed multitude—part of the Egyptian culture tried to mix in with them. God didn't cause them to wander in a wilderness for 40 years to get them out of Egypt; He did it to get Egypt out of them. We see example after example in the Bible of separation of good and evil. Moses cried unto the people after they had committed adultery, fornication and claiming that a golden calf was now their god, "who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me..." In Joshua's farewell address to God's people, he gave them the choice of which God to serve. Josh 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell:" He then went on to state, "but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." A few books later Elijah stands on top of Mt Carmel and cries out these words in

1Kings 18:21, "...How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him...." In the end of this contest, the people would say the Lord He is God.

Is He our God today? Does our life show valid and plenty evidence that I am part of that separated church? That is what Christ has come to do—to separate us unto Himself. However, I must make the choice to be separate and not try to mix in with this world. It is our choice we have been given by God. We can choose to separate ourselves and be His separated people, or we can allow Him one day to separate us. The problem with this idea is, though, if we wait for God to separate us, we will be separated to the side of the chaff, the goats separated from the sheep. Even though we are in this world, we are not to be of this world. God will only have a separated people. If I look like the world, talk like the world, act like the world, go to the places the world goes, see the same things the world sees, and hears the same things the world hears, how different am I from the world? Am I really separated, or am I just hoping He will be able to pick me out of the crowd? How different am I from those that are not His? My prayer is, "O God let me separate myself to be on the side of the right." Let us be gathered into the barn, and let us not be burned with unquenchable fire.

Brother Danny Carnley



Faith Check

Worship in the Old testament was structured around the natural rhythm of morning and evening, to remind believers of His steadfast love in the morning and His faithfulness in the evening (Psalm 92: 1-2), Perhaps we need that reminder as well.

A Day hemmed in prayer is less likely to unravel..

—Submitted by Sis Conni Carnley



Welcome to the Fellowship

Join us in welcoming
Sister Angela Beri and Sister Deborah Smith to
Faith Fellowship Ministerial Association.

Sis Angela Beri (Ordained Minister) from Tennessee and

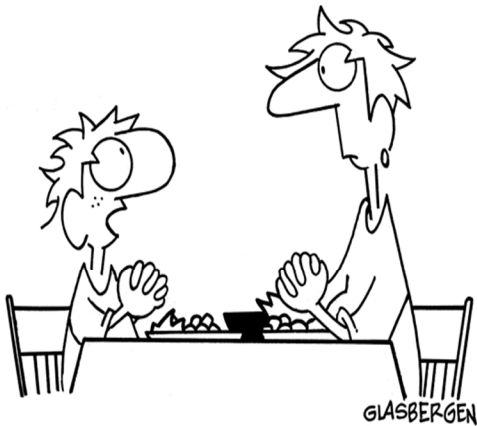
Sister Deborah Smith (Licensed minister)
of Milton were recognized as newly
inducted members during the
2024 Campmeeting.

We are honored to have you join us and
look forward to serving with you for the
Glory of God.

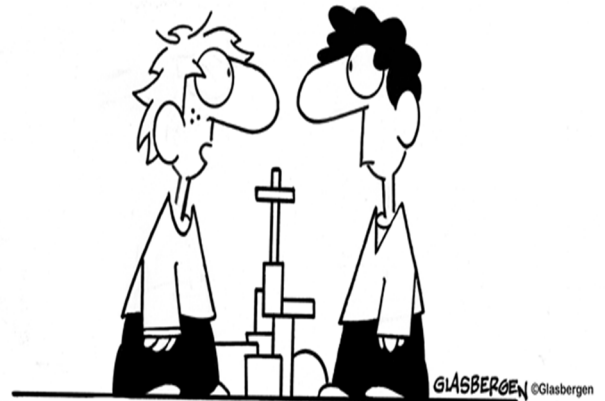


Pictured Left to Right:

Bro Joe Gillman (V.P.), Sis Paulette Allen (Advisor),
Sis Deborah Smith, Sister Angela Beri,
Sis Conni Carnley (Secretary), Bro. Danny Carnley (President)



"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables,
why did He make them taste like vegetables?"



"I'm not sure what religion my family is.
It's the one that forbids running with scissors.
And eating before dinner is the worst sin."

*For newsletter comments , contributions,
or if you would like to join our mailing
list, please contact*

*Bro. Danny Carnley at:
Carnleydc@FFMAssociation.org*

*"Approach the Bible not only as a book
which was once spoken, but a book
which is now speaking...God's speaking
is in the continuous present. "*

— A.W. Tozer

Bible Wordsearch

Peter the Rock

Matt. 16:17-28

D	N	U	O	B	L	F	O	R	F	E	I	T	S	C
A	S	Y	E	K	D	I	C	R	O	S	S	B	H	R
N	D	N	I	H	E	B	T	R	U	T	H	U	B	E
G	R	L	S	U	S	E	J	W	E	D	R	I	E	T
E	A	U	S	T	O	N	O	A	E	C	N	L	L	E
L	W	O	E	N	O	R	C	S	H	D	T	D	D	P
S	E	S	O	M	L	H	I	B	F	A	T	H	E	R
C	R	T	I	D	E	A	D	P	L	G	G	M	R	H
S	O	S	S	R	R	E	Y	R	E	E	A	O	S	A
E	C	M	S	I	N	R	Y	I	W	K	S	T	O	N
D	G	Y	I	R	R	R	F	E	T	O	U	S	E	D
A	O	A	A	N	O	H	R	S	V	A	L	B	E	S
H	M	W	I	L	G	C	C	T	E	A	S	L	E	D
M	O	D	G	N	I	K	K	S	R	C	S	T	O	R
J	O	N	A	H	S	Y	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	F

BIND	ANGELS
BOUND	BEHIND
BUILD	BLESSED
CHRIST	CHURCH
CROSS	COMING
GAINS	ELDERS
GATES	FATHER
GLORY	FOLLOW
GOOD	FORFEITS
HADES	HEAVEN
HANDS	KINGDOM
JESUS	LOOSED
JONAH	PRIESTS
KEYS	REBUKE
PETER	REWARD
ROCK	TEACHERS
SAVE	RAISED
SIMON	TRUTH
SOUL	WARNED
TASTE	WORLD

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Faith Fellowship Ministerial Association Webpage

Take a look at the wonderful work Bro. Joe Gillman has been doing with our webpage at : www.FFMAssociation.org

God's Way of Escape

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)



I don't know if this saying is used elsewhere, but in the United States people sometimes say, "Nothing in life is certain except for death and taxes." It's supposed to be a slightly humorous observation on the uncertainties of life, but I think at least one more thing could be added to the certain things of life: temptation.

God's Way of Escape

We're all tempted, and none of our temptations are truly unique; what we go through is common to man. Others before you have found strength in Jesus Christ to overcome the same temptation you experience, or even worse. Therefore, you can be victorious, but in the strength of Jesus, not in your own strength. We fight temptation with Jesus' power, like the girl who explained what she did when Satan came at the door of her heart with temptation: "I send Jesus to answer the door. When Satan sees Jesus, he says, 'Oops, sorry, I must have the wrong house.'"

The truth is God is faithful and has promised to supervise all temptation, whether it comes at us through the world, the flesh, or the devil. God promises to limit temptation according to our capability to endure it, or at least according to our capability as we rely on Him, not our capability as we rely only on ourselves.

Satan would destroy us in a moment if God would allow him, even as he wanted to destroy Job (Job 1:6-12) and Peter (Luke 22:31), but God will not let him. God faithfully supervises what comes to His children and though we may face grievous hardship, in Him we have the power to endure.

God has promised to not only limit our temptation, but also to provide a way of escape in tempting times. He will never force His children to use the way of escape, but He will make the way of escape available. It's up to us to take God's way of escape.

One commentator noted that in the original language, the word for a way of escape has the idea of a mountain pass, with the idea of an army being surrounded by the enemy, and then suddenly seeing an escape route to safety. Like a mountain pass, the way of escape isn't necessarily an easy way—but it is available.

At a market, a little boy stood by a candy display, looking as if he was going to take some without paying. A clerk watched the boy, and finally said, "Looks like you're trying to take some candy."

The boy answer, "Mister. I'm trying to **not** take any."

For the time, that boy was able to bear it. In Christ, you can also bear temptation.

Bring your needs to God. Don't wait until you can't hang on much longer. Make prayer your first resource instead of your last resort.

—Submitted by Sis Conni Carnley



The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving.

— H.U. Westermayer

4 Questions To Ask When You Think You Hear From God

‡ **Does what I heard line up with Scripture?**

The Bible determines whether or not something is from God. If you feel led to do something that goes against the teachings of Jesus or the principles of Scripture, then what you are hearing isn't from God (2 Timothy 3: 16-17)

‡ **Does what I heard line up with wise counsel?**

God speaks through community. Look for mentors in your life who can provide wisdom concerning finances, relationships, career, and faith. (Proverbs 11:14)

‡ **Does what I heard leave me with a sense of peace?**

In excitement from hearing from God, we experience a wide range of emotions. But before you act, wait for peace—a gift that acts as a guardrail in our lives preventing us from moving in the wrong direction. (Colossians 3:15)

‡ **Is what I heard blanketed in love?**

God's voice calls us to maturity in love. If love is protecting our actions and decisions, then we'll be restrained from making grievous errors. (1 Corinthians 13)



Easy Crockpot Potato Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 30 oz. bag of frozen, shredded hash browns
- 3 14 oz. cans of chicken broth
- 1 can of cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1/4 tsp. ground pepper
- 1 8 oz pkg. cream cheese

Garnish: bacon, shredded cheddar cheese, green onion, sour cream

Directions:

Combine everything (except cream cheese and garnish) in your crockpot. Cook on low for 6-8 hours. About one hour before serving, add cream cheese to the crockpot and cook until thoroughly melted. Ladle soup into bowls and top with garnishes of your choice: bacon, cheddar cheese, green onion and/or sour cream.

www.pccrafter.com

Faith Fellowship Ministries, Inc.

8145 Whiting Field Circle

Milton, FL 32570

Phone: 850-336-0063

www.ffmassociation.org

QUALIFIED TO BE CHOSEN

Walking by a pet shop on his way to school, a young boy stopped and stared through the window. Inside were four black puppies playing together. After school he ran home and pleaded with his mother to let him have one of the puppies.

The mother, knowing full well the complications having a new puppy would bring to a busy household, still couldn't resist her son. She said "Yes, if you promise to take care of it."

Filled with excitement, the little boy hurried to the pet shop. The pet shop owner led him to the window so he could make his choice.

After a few minutes the boy said, "I'll take the one in the corner."

The shop owner shook his head. "Oh no. You don't want that one. See how he doesn't move; there's something wrong with one of his legs. He can't run and play like the other puppies."

"That doesn't matter," the boy said.

Then the owner noticed what he hadn't noticed before: The corrective shoe the boy was wearing, and the chrome brace slightly visible at the bottom of his pant leg.

Again, the boy said, "I'll take the puppy in the corner."

It turned out that what disqualified the puppy from being chosen by others is what most qualified him to be chosen by the little boy.

It's amazing how few of us believe in the unqualified grace of God. Oh yes, God loves us, as long as we're clean and whole and fixed. But it turns out that what disqualifies you and me from "spirituality" — the mess of our lives and our brokenness — is what most qualifies us to be chosen by Jesus.

