



APOSTOLIC TRUTH

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI DISTRICT OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

November/December 2021



Faith is Expectation

Pastor Michael G. Adkins, Missouri District Secretary/Treasurer

Acts 16:25-26: “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bands were loosed.”

Here we have two men setting out to do a work for God. Then the devil used some people to attempt to stop the work of God. However, we find what God ordains no man can interfere with or put a stop to effectively.

Hebrews 11:1: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Faith goes deeper than hoping for things you cannot see with your natural eyes. Faith is expectation. It is expecting something to happen or expecting God to move on your behalf.

Hebrews 11:5: “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

God was pleased with Enoch because of his testimony. His testimony was that he expected to leave this world without seeing death as we know it today, and not only did it please God, but God acted on his behalf.

Hebrews 11:6: “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

If you want to please God, you have to expect Him to act on your behalf, the same way that you did when you expected God to forgive you of your sins because He promised He would. If you think you can handle everything on your own, why should God show up? You will find God is always on time - never early or late but right on time. Faith is expectation: believing God for your miracle.

When the Son of Man comes, will there be faith in the earth?

Luke 18:7-8: “And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

Verse 7 said that He would avenge you. Don't give up on God but hold fast to what God has given you. When He comes for his bride will He find faith on the earth?

Things will not always be a bed of roses. The Psalmist said it best when he said, “I was brought low, but thou helped me.” That's the difference between the saint and the sinner. We have help.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

IN THIS EDITION

2022 WINTER CONFERENCE INFO	PG. 2
“WHEN I LEARNED HOW JESUS BLESSED THOMAS”	PG. 4
NEW LADIES' AUX. LEADER	PG. 6
MINISTERS BANQUET INFO	PG. 6



REMINDER

The first Monday of every month has been set aside as a day of prayer and fasting for the Missouri District.

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ ...” Colossians 6:2

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Continued from page 1, “Faith is Expectation”

Unbelief is a sin. This will blow some peoples theology slap through the roof, but unbelief is a sin and it displeases God. Listen: He is not coming back looking for unbelief. He is coming for people that believe.

He is looking for people that have placed faith and trust in Him. Unbelief robs the favors and blessings of God from you. It steals from you what God has for you. Unbelief steals your blessings.

Unbelief causes you to see from a distance. But, you shall never taste of the promises of God with unbelief in your heart. You cannot experience the glorious experience the Bible talks about with unbelief. Unbelief forfeits the benefits or promises of God by allowing it to reside and build a nest in your soul. We must take God’s Word for what it is.

Faith is expectation. In order to please God, you have to expect Him to act on your behalf.

Hebrews 11:7: “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”

Noah built an enormous boat because he expected a flood, not because it was convenient to be building a big boat when there was no sign of rain. He had the sun beating down on his head and all his neighbors were making fun of him. Not that he had the extra money for this project, but he expected a flood and his family expected him to save them.

Hebrews 11:30: “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.”

The walls of Jericho fell after seven days because they expected God to move on their behalf. Faith is Confidence that someone or something is reliable. Faith is expectation.

The woman that had the issue of blood for twelve years did not want to see what the Lord’s garment was made of,

she expected something to happen when she touched the hem of it.

In the 16th chapter of Acts, Paul and Silas had suffered the humiliation of imprisonment, their feet fastened in stocks, and their backs lacerated. Yet in the middle of this suffering, they prayed and sang praises to God. They were knocked down but not knocked out. They expected God to move on their behalf. That is why they were able to sing praises unto God.

In the 3rd chapter of Acts, Peter took the man by the right hand expecting his feet and ankle bones to receive strength. Because faith is expectation. This is the same Peter that just a short time ago was backslidden, having denied his Lord and cursed.

Luke 22:31-32: “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: [32] But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

Peter got nose to nose and toe to toe with the Devil and told him, “I’m Back!”

In the 12th chapter of Acts, Peter was in prison waiting, most probably, to be executed just like the king had done to John’s brother James. Peter was at great peace because he expected God to move on his behalf. The Bible says that Peter slept with two chains and a guard on each side. He was at such peace that when the angel came to rescue him, the angel had to smite him on the side. **“GET UP PETER.”**

You cannot determine your future, but you can determine your daily habits, which *do* determine your future. Your financial situation today could be because of your habits of yesteryear. It is the same in the spiritual economy. We need the Word of God every day. Listen to it daily while getting ready for the day.

God knows the future better than we know the past. We need to be committed to the Word of God on a daily basis and expect God to move to change our situations. ●



When I Learned how Jesus Blessed Thomas

Pastor Jason M. Hood, Missouri District Chairman

Matthew 12:20: “A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.”

I do not remember what time it was exactly. I just remember that it was either extremely late or early depending on your perspective. I was laying on the floor of my house in Belize, Central America and I wanted to die. The thought of facing another sunrise was more than I felt I could reasonably handle. I was on the brink of total despair. Life had thrown me the single greatest curveball I could imagine, and I was very confident I was about to strike out for the last time.

Having thoroughly mopped the floor with my tears and dried it with my forehead, I got up for some inexplicable reason and turned on the small shortwave radio I kept by my bed. The radio had been a gift from my grandmother so I could still listen to broadcasts from the United States without benefit of internet (and often without electricity). As I started scrolling through the frequencies, a voice came through quoting Scripture. I did not know who it was nor did I care. It was another voice in my empty house and that was enough.

The preacher started talking about “Doubting Thomas” and challenged his listeners to rethink the story of Thomas in light of the true Gospel account rather than our Christian traditions. While it is true that Thomas said, “I will not believe until ...” he did NOT say, “I will not believe at all.” He was willing to be convinced. There was an openness within this man who had just watched the object of his faith be beaten half to death, walked up Golgotha, and nailed to a cross – succumbing to a horribly violent death as the life was squeezed out of the body of the Son of God with every breath He attempted to take.

“We are quick to call him ‘Doubting Thomas’ because of what we think he did,” the preacher said. “Never mind that he was still willing to believe in spite of everything that was going through his heart and mind at that time.”

Perhaps it is because none of us have ever been as close to Jesus as Thomas was that causes us to write him off so quickly. Maybe it is the conviction we feel because of our

own distance from Christ that leads us to judge the man so quickly. We never think of him as SUFFERING Thomas, or WOUNDED Thomas, or BROKEN Thomas. No. We sit back and piously call him DOUBTING Thomas.

As I resumed my position upon the floor considering the preacher’s message, I realized he was absolutely correct. Thomas was not a DOUBTER by nature; he was sitting alone in the darkest room of his own soul with the door ajar with all of his hopes pinned to the word “until.” He *could* believe, just not “until.” This was not chronic doubt. This was hope deferred which makes the heart sick (Proverbs 13:12).

Suddenly, the preacher pivoted to Matthew 12:20. Here, the writer cites the prophecy of Isaiah 42:3 concerning the coming Messiah: “A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench.” Or, as the New Living Translation renders it: “He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle.”

It hit me like a ton of bricks. Tears began to flow again. Only this time it wasn’t the weight of what I was going through in life at that moment that opened the floodgates of my eyes. Rather, it was the sweet relief in knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ was not so concerned with the fact that I was a reed that had been bruised almost to the point of breaking as much as He was concerned that I not be completely crushed. And, if anyone was going to do the crushing, it most certainly would not be Him.

Jesus Christ was my safe place. My bruises, my wounds, my suffering – everything that had amassed against me as a hoard of locusts against a field of grain – none of this would Jesus hold against me. There was still an “until” in my heart, and He knew it. Though my fire was all but gone, He was willing to pick up a fan in His hand and try to bring life back to me without condemning me for the present condition of my faith. As always, Jesus was far more interested in restoration than condemnation.

And in that moment of revelation and healing, Thomas became my favorite character in the Gospel narrative and, yes, a hero of FAITH to me – not the paragon of unbelief.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Continued from page 4, “When I Learned how Jesus Blessed Thomas”

As with every man of faith, Thomas was not without his doubts. A journey through the backstory of almost every character in Hebrews 11 will tell us of their own struggles in the midst of trials. Yet, they are heralded as heroes of faith, not because of their perfection, but due to the reward of their persistence. Thomas left the door of faith open with his “until.”

So of course, we all know how the story goes. Thomas said he wouldn’t believe until he placed his finger in the nail holes in Jesus’ hands and his hand in the spear hole in His side. In other words, he wanted the same personal contact the other Disciples could have had when Jesus appeared to them earlier when Thomas was not present (see John 20:19-24). Yet we treat him as if he were asking something unreasonable. All he asked for was a chance of his own to experience that of which the others testified.

And, of course, Jesus appeared and rebuked Thomas sternly and berated his lack of faith. Right?

Wrong.

One week later the Disciples were locked in a room just as they had been when Jesus appeared before, only this time Thomas was with them. Notice as you read the account in John 20, it was not until AFTER Jesus appeared and offered to Thomas the very thing he asked for that He said, “Stop doubting and believe” (vs. 27). But the first two commands were to do exactly what every other Disciple had the opportunity to do: REACH OUT and TOUCH.

Jesus met Thomas at the point of his objection. He held His hand out to the bruised reed and said, in essence, “Thomas, I’m here to fulfill your ‘until.’ You do not have to have even a shadow of a doubt now. I heard you, and I’m here.”

In verse 29, Jesus pronounces a blessing upon those who have not seen and yet have believed. “So there,” you might object. “Obviously Jesus excluded Thomas from being blessed.”

Really?

God manifest in the flesh who, as God, owed no man anything condescended to meet Thomas at the point of his brokenness and offer healing on Thomas’ own terms. If you cannot consider that a blessing, such a thing as a blessing does not exist.

I arose from the floor never to return for the same reasons. My moment of doubt did not knock Jesus off His throne, nor did my struggle negate my status as a “man of faith” in God’s eyes. Let us not judge Thomas for his moment. Let us judge him, and ourselves, as blessed. Because, when faced with every possible reason to throw everything away, Thomas held onto his “until.” And, in doing so, he demonstrated the mechanism of faith in a real world application.

Thank you, Thomas. Thank you for being human. And thank you, Jesus, for blessing a “Thomas” like me and helping my unbelief when I was nothing more than a bruised reed. ●



Come Celebrate With Us

5th Church Anniversary
& Building Dedication

Saturday, April 23, 2022 1PM

Special Speaker:
Pastor Douglas Raynor
Souls Harbor Apostolic Church - Scotts Hill, Tennessee




380 South Washington Avenue
Lebanon, Missouri 65536
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Pastor Jason M. Hood



New Ladies' Auxiliary Leader

When the Missouri District ACJC was reorganized in April of this year, Sis. Karen Adkins very graciously and selflessly accepted the position of Ladies' Auxiliary Leader in an effort to serve the needs of the newly reorganized District. As many of you know, there has been an onslaught of physical obstacles she has tried to overcome, and has done an exemplary job of pressing on through the pain.

At Sis. Adkins' request, a new Ladies' Auxiliary Leader for the Missouri District ACJC was appointed at our most recent fellowship meeting. Sis. Sandi Sapp (pictured above) was selected to succeed Sis. Adkins in this office. Sis. Sapp is the wife of Pastor Randy Sapp of New Beginnings Apostolic Church in Buffalo/Louisburg, Missouri. We are thankful to have the Sapps with us in the Missouri District and pray for Sis. Sapp's leadership and the future of the Missouri District Ladies' Auxiliary. And a big THANK YOU to Sis. Adkins for a job well done and our continued prayers for you and your family.



ALL ACJC MISSOURI DISTRICT LICENSED MINISTERS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

MISSOURI DISTRICT MINISTERS BANQUET

Saturday, December 4, 2021 1PM
Christ Fellowship Apostolic Pentecostal Church
380 South Washington Ave. - Lebanon, MO

November/December 2021