



T.E.A.M. VOICE

Issue #1-2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



LUKE 2:4-14

“Hope Was and Will Be Forever”

By Petros

Last month, the Holy Spirit led us to the best present ever. “... ‘If a man loves me, he will keep My words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.’ ... But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father (God) will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (John 14:23-26).

My hope in this article is to illuminate the work of the Holy Spirit. The Amplified Bible describes the Holy Spirit in John 14:26 ... “But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthened, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send ...” ... ”If a man loves (Jesus) me ... we (God, Jesus and Holy Spirit) will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” “If” is a condition that requires a commitment to love God before we can receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of its fruits. For the sake of “all may be saved,” that none of God’s creation is excluded, even more so for church people, we need to examine love. Today, “love” is overly used and is even used in acts of sin against God, as in making “love.” Imagine the parent of an obstinate child who is being defiant and rebellious. The child sees no harm in enjoying life like everyone else. As the parent, you resent the child’s actions but continue to love the child who is pushing you away. God is being treated by His creation the same way. Take a timeout to reflect on

similar childlike behavior. Have a quality time with God to “own” the heartache caused by our disregard to the Almighty. Turn from our sins. Open up the Word more often – daily, at a set time. Make a revolving date or appointment. God will meet us half way with his arms open to lead us into the Kingdom of God. Repent – it’s not once and done. There is no other way to receive your best present ever.

In Genesis, we see God created the world, man and woman and said it was good. The first man and woman turn from God’s word, and the separation grows through the generations. God found favor in Noah and his family because only they worshiped God. Because only Noah and his family believed God, they would be saved from the flood which ended that generation of mankind along with all the other living creatures. From Noah’s lineage, that continued to worship God, came Abram who was blameless. God found favor in him, made His presence known unto him and named him Abraham – Father of all nations. God revealed His own name as El Shaddai – The Almighty. In His presence, there will be joy and satisfaction. God’s grace is upon Abraham and he is made righteous (become right with, and by, God) by his belief in God’s words. God gives His word to not be afraid and He will be our security. Hope is established in everyone who believes the word of God.

Recently, some news stories saddened me because it seemed like they only needed more hope. The doctor on TV looked vibrant and beautiful. She projected a very positive outlook and was described as well loved, dedicated, uplifting and providing health care to scores of Covid-19 patients. No one would ever think she couldn't go on living. Then there was the nurse who was distraught over becoming numb. Something disconnected internally and she was left emotionless. She could no longer function at her passion to help. Health providers face many life support decisions, including their own, and even harder are keeping their loved ones safe. Lately they are seeing too many people not practicing prevention methods, defeating all the unselfish care provision they accomplished. It puts them at their breaking point. I wonder if they had more power of God’s Word, would that have given them the council of the Holy Spirit to give hope and strength to endure.

When I was at my work, production demands and schedules from the top would force everyone to sacrifice personal priorities, in order to get the job done. I learned from experience it’s better to do good work without mistakes than to try to meet demands to ship. By holding a standard, it was easy to prevent reaching a breaking point. Whatever didn’t get done would have to wait until the next day. Managers could not fault a person for giving it their best shot. But it was human nature to always remember the one mistake made, over all the effort or sacrifice to keep up with demands. Does our success or defeat depend on figuring how to have hope? Jesus never said, “Go figure it out.” Jesus said, “Follow me.” Or, is it the council of the Holy Spirit that provides the path.

I know many loved ones suffering from clinical depression. When a diagnosis of depression is made, why did God let the loved one go beyond the breaking point? After all, God loves all of His creation. Was it the lack of faith that caused the absence of the presence of God? Was it not following Jesus faithfully, thereby only an economical Holy Spirit was indwelled within? We live with a constant barrage of “gay rights” movements. Does the person living an alternative sexual lifestyle have a choice to be heterosexual or was he/she born with a condition that dictates their sexual orientation. If the person reads in the Bible that God does not approve of men lying down together would the Holy Spirit or Counselor within empower a correction to God’s standards?

I often feel and give thanks for blessed reassurance. I give thanks for the hope that has sustained me. I know my faith is weak and has not been tested. Is there a breaking point within me or will there be a saving grace? Yet, by God's mercy, I have endured trials only because God held onto the straw that would break the camel's back. What would have happened if I was pushed beyond my breaking point? I feel, so far, that the Holy Spirit – Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby allowed me an escape from breaking. The trials, thus far, have built a heartfelt inner confidence that God is who He says He is and does what He says He will do. Right actions will follow naturally as byproducts. God's grace was upon Abraham and he is made righteous. Abraham's belief in God's words granted him the gift of righteousness. "... but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness — for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead ..." (Romans 4:24 NIV). God is right all the time, righteous people are made right in God's eyes. When people believe in God and accept the written words of the Holy Bible as the spoken word of God they are blessed. The same is true of the red letter words in the Holy Bible that represent the words Jesus spoke, as God the man. But how far will the blessing go? It depends partly if you have found the Kingdom of God that Jesus brought to earth.

To glean some firsthand experience on hope, I reached out to Cindy, who is going through a difficult time with cancer. She granted permission to relay her words and thoughts. First, at the time I talked with her, she had completed her chemo and radiation routines and was rebounding well. It was great to hear the joy and hope in her voice. She was very thankful for all the prayers and support. She misses the fellowship, especially her writing the Vestry Voices articles. "We will be back to writing once concentration returns." The Holy Spirit gave her peace and took all her anxiety away. She had confirmed my hope to find someone that was going through a difficult time in life to rely on the Holy Spirit – Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby to prevent from falling apart and giving up hope. Instead of reaching the breaking point, she gave it to Jesus.

Why can't more people find the hope Jesus has to offer? It's not that they haven't heard of the newborn King or the reason for Christmas. It's not because they haven't heard a Christmas Carol chiming peace on earth and goodwill to man. Maybe it's the fear of appearing different with our family, friends or peers. After all, accepting God's mercy, we will be "... be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will" (Rom 12:1-2). So, why do so many self-destruct for loss of hope? Cindy had a profound answer that I could not believe was so basic yet so true. "Human beings need control; we can't give it up." Never mind surrendering to Jesus; that sounds even worse.

If you're still reading, there is hope for you. Unless being humble is worse than needing control in your life. Being humble is thinking about others before yourself. It is as easy as offering to help carry groceries, or any of the good deeds one can do for your neighbor. Have "... humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble ... that He may lift you up ... Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you ... Be alert ... the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith ... know that the family of believers ... is undergoing the same kind of sufferings." 1 Peter 5:5-9.

My summary is, yes, I believe the Holy Spirit can give us hope beyond human understanding. I believe that it is a lifestyle change, but if I don't lose my mind and I feel good about helping others,

especially like writing this article, then I have lost nothing, but all the more to gain. I have hope to be more disciplined seeking the Kingdom of God, but I will need to be more faithful to the Word God has shown me, of which I shared. I believe I'm a seasonal resident in the Kingdom of God and things of this earth slide off me like Teflon, to which I get some kickback. Someday I hope to, but I wrote this article to give hope to the lost. And in conclusion, I can't help you find hope. As my BSF leader, David Lee, helped me understand, I can pray for God to extend his mercy. But any more would put me at risk of being a know-it-all. The last thing I want is to turn off the reader. I have shared my experiences, which continue to grow now that I have passed first grade. Cindy shared her experience on how the Holy Spirit carries her in her time of need.

Next month, I hope to expand on Abraham and the hope he was given and the significance of being in the presence of God-Almighty. Also, I have a task that, upon completion, will show how God personally touched every single person's life since Abraham became your father of fathers, back to when God promised Abraham he would be the Father of all nations.

Assignment for next month: Imagine if you were born 25 years before the date you were actually born. How do you think that would have changed your life?

My answer: The year would be 1928. My mother lived in a village called White Sands, near Canton, China. Her birth year would have been 1900. Most likely, I would have been born in China right at the start of The Chinese famine of 1928–1930, which occurred as widespread drought hit, with mortality rates ranging from about 3 million to 10 million people.

Submitted by Peter Wong (NY)

Who But An Almighty God

How was your night? Do you realize we once again successfully spun around the earth's axis some 20,000 miles since yesterday? From day to night and back to day again. And we have rocketed to over 1,000,000 miles in our orbit around the sun since this time a day ago?

7 million miles since last year in our daily rotations and in our orbiting we have sailed 568 million miles through space. We have come back to where we started to begin anew. We are coming to a new year and God alone knows what it will bring.

Changes come but the word of God never changes. Bad times will come as was foretold but we believers win in the end. Whether on this earth or in the afterlife.

Who but an almighty God would devise such a workable situation for his creations. From the beginning to the end only the awesome works of the Alpha and Omega could accomplish such a feat. Thank you for your awesome works Jehovah. Always looking up,

Submitted by George Tamburino (NY)

Forgive to Be Forgiven!

This is a sermon "PK" gave on 01-05-2003 at his home church. He thought it would be a well addressed Word of God for today.....

Last week we talked about love. How can we love if we cannot forgive? To love means to forgive. If we cannot forgive our loved ones, how on earth are we going to forgive a stranger who has wronged us?

Scripture clearly tells us we must forgive to be forgiven.

If you love them, you must forgive them. Just as God loves you and has forgiven you, you must also forgive them. If you will not forgive them, God will not forgive you! Simple as that. People who claim to be Christians but who will not forgive are merely deceiving themselves. Remember you CANNOT deceive God!

Matthew 6:14-15 "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Jesus made this very clear in The Parable Of The Unforgiving Servant.

Matthew 18:21-35 "Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Mark 11:25-26 "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your sins."

Luke 6:37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

Luke 17:3,4 So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

Ephesians 4:32 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

Colossians 3: 12,13 "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

God requires us to forgive others from our hearts or He will turn us over to the tormentors (Matthew 18:34, 35). Why is forgiveness so critical to our freedom? Because of the cross. God didn't give us what we deserve; He gave us what we needed according to His mercy. We are to be merciful just as our heavenly Father is merciful (Luke 6:36). We are to forgive as we have been forgiven (Ephesians 4:31, 32).

Forgiveness is not forgetting. People who try to forget find that they cannot.

In Hebrews 10:17 God says He will "remember no more" our sins, but God, being omniscient, cannot forget" Remember no more" means that God will never use the past against us. Forgetting may be a result of forgiveness, but it is never the means of forgiveness. When we bring up the past and use it against others, we have not forgiven them.

Forgiveness is a choice, a crisis of the will. We choose to face and acknowledge the hurt and the hate in order to forgive from the heart. Since God requires us to forgive, it is something we can do. (He would never require us to do something we cannot do.) But forgiveness is difficult for us because it pulls against our concept of justice. We want revenge for offenses suffered. But we are told never to take our own revenge in Romans 12:19 we will read: Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

"Why should I let them off the hook?" we protest. You let them off your hook, but they are never off God's hook. He will deal with them fairly--something we cannot do. We have to let God deal with our problems, who else can do it fairly and finally.

If you don't let offenders off your hook, you are hooked to them and the past, and that just means continued pain for you. Stop the pain; let it go. You don't forgive someone merely for their sake; you do it for your sake so you can be free. Your need to forgive isn't an issue between you and the offender; it's between you and God.

We have to walk in love and forgiveness to walk the true walk of Christendom. God knows what is in our hearts. Remember this, if you remember nothing else about today's Word, you can only deceive yourself. You CAN NOT deceive your God.

Submitted by
Ken "PK" Hedden (NY)
Ephesians 6:13-18

2023 SPRING KICKOFF

Mark your calendars. The 2023 spring kick off will be held June 9, 10, and 11 in Central PA. More details to follow.

FROM THE EDITOR: NEW YEARS – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV

Happy New Year's everyone. It is a new year filled with new opportunities!

It has been said that in January more people start attending church and join gyms than at any other time in the year. The reason for that is "old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new". We have a new spirit where anything is possible. Our faith is renewed with hope for a bright new year.

Tom and I always have a theme for the new year. This year our theme is "Rebuild the Temple". This consists of diet and exercise and a closer walk with our Heavenly Father. At the beginning of the year we have so many plans to make changes but then daily life takes over and we go back to the same old ways. I am so guilty of that. Every year I am going to pray and read the Bible more, exercise, and become the ultimate me. Then I go to work and do my normal daily activities and then it is the holidays again and nothing has changed. The problem is I keep doing the same things over and over and expect different results. That is what is referred to as the definition of insanity. Not only do we have to change but also be consistent to maintain the changes. My daughter in law is very good at this. She became a vegan years ago. No matter where we are or what we are doing she maintains her veganism. I admire her commitment. When I decided to finish college I was working a full time job, raising my son, and starting my relationship with Tom. It took me 8 years to finish college. I made a commitment. There were many bumps along the way but God sent me earth angels to encourage me. My son said he went to art college because I showed him the way. Tom was one of my biggest supporters. I would have quit so many times if he hadn't kept encouraging me. There are some new work opportunities coming my way this year and I am going to take a look. **MAKE A COMMITMENT TO YOURSELF!!!!!!!!!!**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phillipians 4:13 NIV

The Rolling Saints had an amazing opportunity to set up their booth at the Hanover markets. They were allowed to bring their bikes in the last 2 Saturdays they were there. They had the best opportunity to spread the word and pray for people. One of the best things they did was assist families with pictures since they had the bikes there it was just the perfect area. God really has such a way of allowing us to reach many people. Sometimes we just need to listen to him a little better. Submitted by Donna Krebs (PA)



















January 2022 Voice Newsletter Report December 20, 2022

Years of Service for December

| | | |
|--------|----------|---|
| Robert | Wolf Sr. | 1 |
| Robert | Wolf Jr. | 1 |

January Birthdays

| | | |
|---------|------------|------|
| Harlen | Beckman | 1/4 |
| Jeanne | McClincy | 1/8 |
| Robert | Wolf Sr. | 1/9 |
| Rena | King | 1/15 |
| Deb | Bier | 1/19 |
| Bradley | Cole | 1/19 |
| Ralph | Bainbridge | 1/23 |
| Fiona | Wehmeyer | 1/23 |
| Joan | Philpott | 1/26 |
| Robert | Wolf Jr. | 1/26 |

January Anniversaries

| | | |
|---------|---------|------|
| Raymond | Stanzak | 1/10 |
| Ernest | Collins | 1/25 |
| Brenda | Collins | 1/25 |

New members for December 2022

None to Report

God Bless

Respectfully Submitted By:

Michael Fields

National Membership Secretary

MJM OPERATING ACCOUNT – OCTOBER ENDING BALANCE **\$ 9,270.12**

NO NOVEMBER DEPOSITS

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| DUES | 185.00 | |
| DONATIONS | 100.00 | |
| BANK TR FEE | (.50) | 284.60 |

NO NOVEMBER EXPENSES

**NOVEMBER ENDING
BALANCE *****

\$9,554.52

***** 2,094.68 GOODIES ***
7,459.94 MJM OPERATING**

MJM LIFETIME SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OCTOBER ENDING BALANCE \$8,309.70

NOVEMBER INTEREST **\$.07**

**NOVEMBER ENDING
BALANCE**

\$8,309.77

**Please let me know if you would like me to send you copies of the excel
check journals**

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