

### Note from Pastor Steve

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I am looking forward to this Sunday. We will be gathering again for the first time in a long time. I wonder how we will look different. My son is now two and runs and talks all the time. I am a year older, don't think I look much different. However, what is going to be different... We have a tendency to miss the little changes that happen to us each week. It is only when those changes build up that we notice them. I wonder what we will notice. What have you noticed over these last two months? Where have you found God at work in your life? Has it been hard to connect to the Spirit? What have you missed?

These last months of isolation are starting to come to an end around us. Restaurants are starting to open. We will be gathering this Sunday. Restrictions are being loosened. What are you going to take away from this time apart? I know it is easy to talk about what we have missed or the problems that we have faced. But what have you learned about yourself? I have realized how much I need time alone with God. What truth has the spirit revealed to you through these days? It would be wise of us to not just be excited that things are opening again, but to look at the lessons from the last two months.

### Sunday Services at 10am

This Sunday we will be meeting together to worship. Here is a few things to remember as we gather again.

- We will be sitting outside at tables.  
(Social Distance for those we normally do not interact with out side of church)
- We encourage you to wear masks when inside of buildings to protect each other
- If you are sick or have a fever stay at home
- Please do not hug or touch other people. Even if you are not concerned with your health being impacted the other person might be.
- Children need to stay with their parents. We will not be opening the Nursery or Children Service until we are a little more accustom to meeting together again.

### Prayer List

- Carolyn Norwood
- Barry's Brothers
- Karen Richardson (Jamie)
- David Myers (Cancer)
- Judy Pollard (Health)
- The Clarks (Health)
- Judy Pollard (Family's Health)
- Jackie Burke's Father
- John Fletcher (Health)
- Coronavirus Crisis
- Cindy Koontz's Son (Andy)
- Margaret Dale's Family
- Janice's Co-Workers Daughter
- Linda Egnor Mother's Health
- Judy Pollard (Loss of Son)
- Cindy Koontz's Granddaughter
- Sonja Keyes Pregnancy
- Wilma Stephens (Hospital)
- Marlene Law's Health
- Clayton Southside School Community—Loss of Teacher

## **Put God First** By Oswald Chambers

*Jesus did not commit Himself to them...for He knew what was in man. —John 2:24-25*

**Put Trust in God First.** Our Lord never put His trust in any person. Yet He was never suspicious, never bitter, and never lost hope for anyone, because He put His trust in God first. He trusted absolutely in what God's grace could do for others. If I put my trust in human beings first, the end result will be my despair and hopelessness toward everyone. I will become bitter because I have insisted that people be what no person can ever be— absolutely perfect and right. Never trust anything in yourself or in anyone else, except the grace of God.

**Put God's Will First.** "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God" (Hebrews 10:9).

A person's obedience is to what he sees to be a need— our Lord's obedience was to the will of His Father. The rallying cry today is, "We must get to work! The heathen are dying without God. We must go and tell them about Him." But we must first make sure that God's "needs" and His will in us personally are being met. Jesus said, "...tarry...until you are endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). The purpose of our Christian training is to get us into the right relationship to the "needs" of God and His will. Once God's "needs" in us have been met, He will open the way for us to accomplish His will, meeting His "needs" elsewhere.

**Put God's Son First.** "Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me" (Matthew 18:5).

God came as a baby, giving and entrusting Himself to me. He expects my personal life to be a "Bethlehem." Am I allowing my natural life to be slowly transformed by the indwelling life of the Son of God? God's ultimate purpose is that His Son might be exhibited in me.

## **The Spirit**

Power can be used in at least two ways: it can be unleashed, or it can be harnessed. The energy in ten gallons of gasoline, for instance, can be released explosively by dropping a lighted match into the can. Or it can be channeled through the engine of a car in a controlled burn and used to transport a person many miles. Explosions are spectacular, but controlled burns have lasting effect, staying power.

The Holy Spirit works both ways. At Pentecost, The Spirit exploded on the scene; with presence was like "tongues of fire" (Acts 2:3). Thousands were affected by one burst of God's power. However, The Spirit did not stop working after that. It also works through the body of church over the long haul. The Spirit is what can give us strength to run the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:2) The Spirit lets us continue when we can not on our own strength. Just as we need to refill our cars with gasoline we need to stay connected to the Spirit to experience its power in our lives.