

## ~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

### *A charge we have to keep...*

At times it's tempting to read stories of tremendous faith being exhibited by our early brothers and sisters and think, "they must have possessed faith I could never possess!" We also might think that because Jesus walked among them that they had a leg up on us. Both of these theories, according to scripture, are in error. Jesus reminded his disciples that it was *to their advantage* that he go away. As a matter of fact he reminded them that the Holy Spirit couldn't come unless he departed. We must be reminded that the same Spirit that empowered them to remain faithful is the very same Spirit who lives in us. In the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts, there's a nugget of truth tucked away in v. 21. Whenever we find ourselves discouraged, disenchanted or disheartened we MUST lift our voice and praise the Lord.

The key to combatting discouragement is only found in praise! After the people saw the boldness of the early Christians, they realized they had been with Jesus. V. 14 tells us that they had nothing to say against that truth. They decided to severely threaten them so that they would no longer speak the name of Jesus freely. In v. 19 the disciples reminded them that they would listen to God instead of the people. The result? They kept on speaking, kept on proclaiming Christ and kept on receiving persecution. But, I want you to notice something else that happened...THEY WERE UNITED IN PURPOSE. V. 33 says they had "great power" and "great grace". V.34 says they took care of each other which led to other Christians being spurred on to action (37).

I don't seek persecution for the church, but I do seek purpose, unity and boldness. How is that accomplished? By #1 making a determination to listen to God instead of men. #2: by continually speaking the name of Jesus Christ to those around us, and #3: by glorifying and praising God even if ours in an unpopular message.

*Have a blessed day and remember the One who gave it to you!*

*Kevin*

# Thank you for worshiping with us! *Prayer Requests*

- ♥Terri Puccio family. (Terri passed Wednesday, services yesterday)
- ♥Mary Titchenell (Biopsy taken, awaiting results)
- ♥Keith Kisner (now home, still really sick)
- ♥Margret Brand (Cancer)
- ♥Jerry Kerns (back in hospital. Had another heart attack and is dealing with bladder cancer)
- ♥Arlene Summers (still having tests. Doctors have not been able to determine what's going on)
- ♥David Ford (recovering at home after recent accident while working on house)
- ♥Continue to pray for the Goody family and Bill Collett.
- ♥Debbie Pyle (Rick Pyle's wife in need of a liver transplant)
- ♥Sharon Little (awaiting tests results)
- ♥Sue Born's mother-in-law (doing really well! No reaction to current clinical trial)
- ♥Dianne Tonkery has requested prayers for her cousin, Dylan. He is 9 years old and has been diagnosed for the second time with brain cancer. Please pray for him and his parents as they have some major decisions to make.
- ♥David McDougal is now at home and is wearing the Life Vest. He will go August 20<sup>th</sup> to Pittsburgh for an appointment with the cardiologist to determine when they will put the defibrillator in his heart. Please continue prayers.
- ♥Mark Nuzum requested prayers for his Father-In-Law, Pat Morris. He is suffering with Stage 2 Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

## *News and Notes*

**Nursery School Giving Tree** – There are many items on the "Giving Tree" located in the front foyer next to the Library. These are items that are needed to get our Nursery School started again soon. We are extending this another week. If you would rather give a monetary donation, you can give it to Edwina Summers or Dianne Tonkery. Thank you so much for your generosity!!

**Wedding Shower Brunch** – There will be a Wedding Shower in honor of Erika Trickett and Caleb Lough on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in the Lower Fellowship Hall. They are registered at Target and Amazon. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please see Mary Lough.

**Friday Night Sing** – We will be hosting the Area Wide Friday Night Sing on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. There is a sign up sheet on the back table for finger foods. Please try to plan on attending as we are the host. If you have questions, see Darrell Conaway.

**Baby Shower** - Mary Ann Lipscomb would like to invite all ladies to a baby shower for her granddaughter on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the Lower Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by calling 304-534-5588 or see Mary Ann.

**Bible Incomplete:** Answer to last week's puzzle

**Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**