

Join us for
**Moms & Dads
 at the Altar**
**September 20th
 at 5pm**

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FORTRESS OF
 JOY CHURCH

Can God Bless You?

When God made covenant with Abraham He promised to bless all the families of the earth. This blessing is the very same blessing God spoke over Adam. We don't have enough information on Adam, so we don't know what the blessing entails. However, we see the effects of the blessing on Abraham and his descendants.

Galatians 3:9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

So, the families of the earth that God will bless are those who live by faith. Before we go any further, let's make sure we know what faith is.

Faith is believing God's Word despite not having any physical evidence.

In conclusion, if you live by faith God will bless you. Under the blessing God healed Sarah's womb, Abraham became very wealthy and Isaac sowed seed during a famine and reaped a hundredfold. Under the blessing one will be fruitful, they will multiply, restore the earth, subdue it and have dominion over everything that moves. There is no question God is blessing people today

because He must make good on His promise. Early on when the revelation of the blessing came, I struggled to believe God would bless me. It seemed like He was selective who He would bless and who He wouldn't. So, how does a person position themselves to be blessed?

choices: either we are justified or we have a **sin consciousness**. When a person has a sin consciousness they never believe they are worthy of God doing anything good for them. As a catholic I was always told I was unworthy because the Roman soldier told Jesus that he was not worthy of Jesus coming to his home.

Religion is very good at giving a person a sin consciousness, this can become a stronghold in one's life that only the truth can make them free. I thought I was free of my sin consciousness until one day I realized I didn't have the faith in God to heal certain defects! I just couldn't see the Lord growing out an arm or a leg when I prayed, I was lacking faith for miracles.

John 11:40 Jesus said to Martha (Jerry), did I not say that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God?

A sin consciousness is like a filter, it blocks all the things that God has promised to bless us. There is only one solution, the truth. If we don't have enough truth, we will fall short from what God wants to do for us and with us.

Romans 1:16-17 I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes. For there is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, the just shall live by faith.

This is Paul's testimony, he said the Gospel of Christ is what brought him salvation. He got the revelation that he was justified by the blood of Jesus. If the Gospel of Christ has not convinced you that you are righteous, you will struggle with the blessings. We have but two



Why Christians Struggle

No child earns their place in the family, they are born into it.

I believe that every new babe in Christ will struggle early on in their relationship with Him. In my own life I struggled religiously because I couldn't accept the fact that God would just do nice things to me. As a catholic it was engrained in me to "earn" God's attention. I had no concept of God's love nor His goodness. I always believed that my sin kept God at a distance and that He wanted nothing to do with me.

Mathew 8:2 There came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if You want to, You can make me clean.

Perhaps this leper was a catholic! He believed Jesus could heal him, he had faith in

will; be clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

I'm sure this leper got a revelation this day, not only did Jesus heal him but He laid His hand on him. This leper represents all the people who want God to touch them but they have no hope that He will. Some have been told that God gave them the disease on account of their lifestyle! Religion has erected a wrought iron fence between God and man and religion is the only gate in that barrier. If you play by the rules of religion they will give you limited access to the vicinity of God. **Why do Christians struggle?** Because they have been given a god that was manufactured in the minds of men. These



men can never help anyone because they believe what they teach others. Let me offer you some advice: take the uncompromised Word of God and wash your mind and spirit out with it.

didn't know what God required of me. It took me several years to comprehend the love He has for me. He used my own position as a father as a parable to help me understand the love a father has for his children. No child earns their place in the family, they are born into it. When a husband becomes a father it is the ultimate expression of his love. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray He told them to begin by saying:

Our Father who art in heaven...

Often times a father has to sacrifice in order to give his children good things. A father is not obligated, he is motivated by love. Christians will struggle in their faith until they yield to the love of their Father. When the Father sent His Son, Jesus restored our relationship with the Father that Adam once had. Now He will **FREELY** give us all things. When a father gives his kids good things does he charge for them? Everything God wants to freely give us is our birthright. When we accept His gifts we acknowledge Him as our Heavenly Father.

CHRISTIAN DOUBT?

His power. But he didn't know if Jesus was willing because lepers were the scourge of the east. Lepers were not allowed to enter villages, they lived among their own in colonies.

Mathew 8:3 Jesus put forth His hand and touched him, saying, I

Romans 8:32 He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

We must become as serious about our relationship with God as He is about His relationship with us. I struggled with my salvation early on because I

God's Supernatural Power

Some Christians believe God's supernatural power is few and far between. They seem to think God has a limited supply of power to spend on His people. I don't think studying His power will increase its administration. The more you know and understand God, the easier it becomes for Him to manifest. I don't fully understand the electronic ignition in my car, I just know it is there whenever I need it.

faith, how often do you use your faith? Grace is not a tub of white goodness which some have taught, the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of grace. The supernatural power of God is ministered by the Holy Spirit.

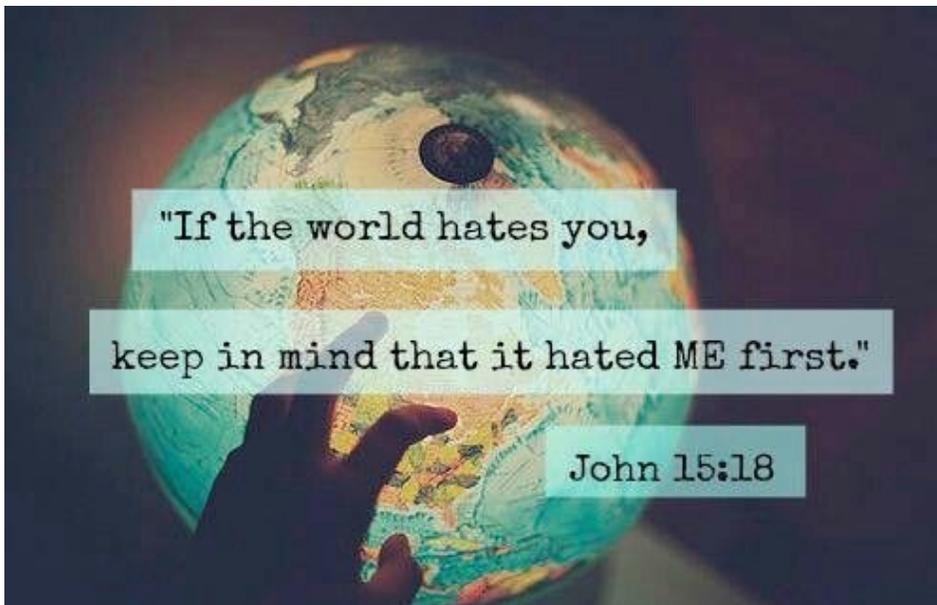
Galatians 3:5 He that ministers the Holy Spirit to you and worketh miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the flesh or by the hearing of faith?

Acts 1:8 You shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

Why should we limit ourselves to our natural ability when we have the Holy Spirit abiding in us? God did not give us this power just so we could have something to testify about! I am amazed at how many Christians have the Holy Ghost but live a life of defeat. Anyone who has the

Holy Spirit has a living hope of Him doing something we cannot do. The scribes and pharisees did not appreciate Jesus demonstrating the power of the Spirit. Their ancestors are among us today, they don't appreciate the Holy Spirit nor those who welcome Him.

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Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not anything you can do.

We are saved by grace. When you accept Jesus grace comes in, washes away all your sins and changes your very nature. Therefore, grace is the supernatural power of God and it always follows faith. As long as you have faith you will always have access to the power of God. So, in essence we have everything to do with the times of God's power manifesting. God's grace is His response to our

Brothers and sisters, our life in Christ began as a miracle on account of the Holy Spirit. Does each believer get only one miracle? Do we begin a supernatural life and then rely on our flesh? Jesus said He would be with us always, even unto the end of the world. If Jesus is with each one of us forever, isn't that a supernatural relationship? On several occasions as a young boy my dad threatened to beat the Jesus out of me. That use to really scare me but now I know that no one can beat the Jesus out of me. He came when I invited Him and I will never evict Him.

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying power thereof, from such turn away.

Paul exhorts brother Timothy to avoid those who do not accept the ministry of the Holy Ghost. Give yourself to those who are willing to believe. The Gospel of Christ is not for everyone but for whosoever will. The supernatural power of God is real, it is our portion, our gift. God has made us worthy of this supernatural power, brethren do not neglect such a beautiful gift.

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**Restoring the
supernatural power
of God back
to the local church**

What Are You Thinking?

What we think in our mind is what we are prone to do.

Proverbs 23:7 For as a man thinketh in his heart so is he.

Our thoughts are the words of our conscience. So, what have we allowed in our conscience? I can't begin to tell you how many times I've been accused of having a **guilty conscience**. Evidently

my words and face betrayed me and I got caught in a lie.

Acts 24:16 This is how I choose to behave, to always have a conscience void of offense toward God and toward man.

How does one have an offense toward God? He does not believe what God has said to him. Some men struggle to believe what God has said to

him. Some men struggle to believe God is as good as He claims to be. The Jews were always taking offense at what Jesus said. It made no difference that Jesus was speaking the words of the Father.

If you have a guilty conscience, if you don't believe God has forgiven you, you want to be able to believe He can perform His will in your life. I prefer to let God tell me what I should think

because He is never wrong. I do not want **my** thoughts to disqualify me from His blessings. What am I thinking? I am thinking God's Word is true and now His thoughts are my thoughts.

