



Christ to live in them (Galatians 2:20). This is what caused these churches to be multiplied in peace, edification, and numbers.

ness and devotion to Him. Further, because these people were operating according to God's plan, they loved each other (John 15:14) and their neighbors (Matthew 22:37-40) and their enemies (Matthew 5:33-38) the way in which they were instructed. They truly were allowing

I am confident that if we truly fear God and find that wonderful comfort that can only be found in the Holy Spirit, then there will be peace among God's followers and that they will be edified and their numbers will be multiplied. May we strive to this goal. May we continually put forth the effort to respect and fear the Creator and Lord of all Heaven and Earth and listen to and obey His comforting words for as long as we all shall live. Praise be to God and glory to the Highest forever and ever. Amen.



Faithful Sayings Issue 11.22 May 31, 2009

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

11.22

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

May 31
2009

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile

4700 Andrews Ave.
Amarillo TX 79106
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"Your Father
knows that you
need these
things"
Luke 12:30

Peace, Edification & Multiplication

by Curtis Carwile

Acts 9:31 says "Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied." I recently came across this passage during one of my studies. I am sure that I have read it before. However, for some reason, it just seemed to pop off the page this last time. There was something happening in these churches; it was something that was so totally different than anything in the entire world: these churches had peace. And, this peace they possessed was despite the ongoing persecution of the church. To the casual observer, this doesn't seem to be very "peaceful." Yet, these churches *had* peace. As a result of this peace, these churches were edified and encouraged. They were built up. It is amazing to think that when

all of those external forces were trying to discourage them and pull them down, they still were edified and continued to be encouraged. They enjoyed being around one another and they thrived on that. There was life in these churches.

One must ask: from where did all of this peace and edification come? The Bible answers and says that it



Olsen Park church of Christ

came from two places: walking in the fear of the Lord and walking in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Walking in the Fear of the Lord

What does “walking in the fear of the Lord” mean? The phrase “fear of the Lord” is used a number of times in the Bible. It’s used to depict a respect, much like how you respect an authority figure like a judge or a policeman. However, it holds a much deeper meaning than that. This “fear” actually does mean being afraid and the reason why you are afraid is because of who God is. God is the Creator (Genesis 1-2). The power He possesses is mind-boggling. To simply speak our reality into existence is beyond any concept of power that mortal man can imagine. God is the Deliverer of His people (Exodus 4-14). He possesses the power to deliver His people from the “power” that holds us in slavery of sin. God is the Judge of all mankind for all the ages (Revelation 20:11-15). The power He possesses is unimaginable. He is so ridiculously, mind-blowingly, incomprehensibly powerful! Even His mere presence shakes the foundations of the earth (Exodus 19:16-19). He is THE “Authority Figure” because He created everything and has the power to deliver and is going to be the Judge that we all face in that Last Day. The fear of the Lord is a respect that takes all of that into account and tries to comprehend it. When mankind obtains even a small amount of respect for God, they are compelled to listen to Him and Him

alone. They are compelled to do this because God is unique in His power. No one else that is, has been, or ever will be, can even IMAGINE rivaling God’s power! They will listen to Him and they will do what He says the way He says to do it. This is what is described as “walking in the fear of the Lord.” This is part of what led to the peace and edification of the churches in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, but there was more...

Walking in the Comfort of the Holy Spirit

What does the phrase “walking in the comfort of the Holy Spirit” mean? To understand what this means, one must understand the role of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said to His disciples that He was going to leave and send the Holy Spirit, the COMFORTER, to guide them in all Truth (John 14:26, KJV). Earlier in John 14:6, Jesus identified Himself as the truth. Later in John 17:17, Jesus identifies God’s word as the truth. Since Jesus was the ultimate and final spokesperson for God (Hebrews 1:1-2), He spoke the very mind of God. The Holy Spirit, likewise, spoke the very mind of God (1 Corinthians 2:10). All Three spoke what mankind needed to know so that it can do the things necessary to be pleasing to Him. The comfort that the Holy Spirit offers is the comfort of knowing exactly what God wants mankind to know and what He desires of His creation. We also learn that if mankind walks con-

tinuously in those things that the Holy Spirit has revealed, then he can have the comfort that Paul was instructing the Thessalonians to have for the Day of Judgment (1 Thessalonians 4:18). Man will have comfort in knowing that God will welcome him into Heaven for an eternity with Him.

They Were Multiplied

So, as a result of these churches fearing God and finding comfort in the words of the Holy Spirit, they had peace and they were edified. As a result of that, their peace, edification, and numbers were multiplied. The reason why they multiplied was because they were doing things according to God’s plan. God blessed them because of their faithful-