



SOWING SEEDS for the *Kingdom*



Dave Leinenbach, Sr. Pastor . 4660 Portland Rd. NE . Salem, OR 97305 . 503-949-0342 . www.jesusourjubileechurch.com

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IS OUR PRIDE HINDERING THE GRACE OF GOD?

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, by His death, burial and Resurrection. He redeemed us and made us righteous (in right-standing with God). From that point on, we need to be growing in grace. **2 Timothy 1:8-9 (AMP)**

⁸ Do not blush or be ashamed then, to testify to and for our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for His sake, but [with me] take your share of the suffering [to which the preaching] of the Gospel [may expose you, and do it] in the power of God.

⁹ [For it is He] Who delivered and saved us and called us with a calling in itself holy and leading to holiness [to a life of consecration, a vocation of holiness]; [He did it] not because of anything of merit that we have done, but because of and to further His own purpose and grace (unmerited favor) which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began [eternal ages ago].

We should not be ashamed of our testimony. We need to not be ashamed of who we are. I am convinced that a lot of the time, if people see us stand up for Jesus, they'll be excited. People are looking just like God is looking, for one person who will stand up in faith and say, "Yes, I'm a Christian. Yes, I believe in God. Yes, I do what He says."

The Spirit of Grace, the Holy Spirit, is able and willing to empower us with boldness if we will step forward in faith. This acquired boldness is part of growing in grace.

When we go before the throne of grace, we cannot go in a prideful, stiff-necked way. Why? Look at what James the half-brother of Jesus says: **James 4:5-6 (KJV)**

⁵ Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Notice that God RESISTS the person who knows God has a way He wants things done, but they refuse God's way and prefer their own way of doing things, and then ask God to bless it. Maybe you know someone who has done that. They get a plan all worked out that they believe will meet their need. Then they go before the Father and ask Him, in the name of Jesus to bless their plan.

It is pride when we come before God in this way. In essence we are saying we don't trust Him to give us a plan, so we help Him out by presenting our plan. Do you know what that is? T.L. Osborn calls it "the errand boy philosophy." The "errand boy philosophy" is thinking we can order God around in the name of Jesus, expecting Him to be our errand boy. It's telling God, "Okay, go over there and do that in the name of Jesus. Do it now." That is seriously disrespectful; but that is exactly what a lot of Christians try to do.

Some people confuse the teaching of faith with the "errand boy philosophy." These people say that faith teachers preach a "name it and claim it gospel: and this ordering God around in Jesus name. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Naming God's Word and naming God's plan and claiming it for our own life is what God wants us to do. God stands willing and able to move on His own Word, by grace, when the Christian stands on it. The errors come in when a person names and claims their own fleshly desires and asks God to move on their desires in the name of Jesus. There is a big difference. Expecting God to move on our own desires just because we use the name of Jesus is wrong thinking and false doctrine.

1 Peter 5:5-6 (KJV)

⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

PRIDE HINDERS THE GRACE OF GOD. HUMILITY WELCOMES HIS GRACE!

Kathy and I are so grateful for your faithfulness in giving of prayers and offerings to help us spread the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth. SHALOM!

KATHY AND I DECREE YOU BLESSED IN JESUS NAME!

Pastor Dave and Kathy

Matthew 6:33

You are loved. You are welcome. You belong.



AMERICAN MINUTE WITH BILL FEDERER

FEBRUARY IS BLACK AMERICAN MONTH

Booker T. Washington was a towering figure in American history. His story from slave hut to university president is one of the most inspiring in American history. During the Post Civil War and Reconstruction era, he founded Tuskegee Institute in 1881, and tirelessly labored to help his people in the South. He addressed thousands across the nation and met with renowned leaders, such as John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and the Queen of England. He was the first African American to have dinner with a President in the White House. He overcame critics to advocate practical solutions to the pressing issues of his day. He was a man of faith. Historians refer to the years of 1880-1915 as the "Age of Booker T. Washington." You too can be inspired by the strength and genius of Booker T. Washington!

"Character, not circumstances, makes the man."

"Success is not measured by the position one has reached in life, rather by the obstacles overcome while trying to succeed."

"I would permit no man, no matter what his color might be, to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."

"The surest way to lift up ourselves is to lift up someone else."

"The happiest people are those who do the most for others."

"Great men cultivate love...only little men cherish a spirit of hatred."

"The only way to show ourselves superior to others is to excel them in kindler impulses and more generous deeds."

"I learned to love to read the Bible? No matter how busy I am, I always make it a rule to read a chapter or a portion of a chapter in the morning."

"In my contact with people, I find that, as a rule, it is only the little, narrow

people who live for themselves, who never read good books, who do not travel, who never open up their souls in a way to permit them to come into contact with other souls—with the great outside world.”

“Associate yourself with people of good quality, for it is better to be alone than to be in bad company.”

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SOJOURNER TRUTH was born a slave in New York in 1797; she spoke only Dutch until sold around the age of 9, together with a flock of sheep, for \$100. Suffering hardships, her third master made her marry an older slave with whom she had five children.

In 1827 **Sojourner Truth** escaped to Canada. After New York abolished slavery, she returned as a domestic servant and helped with Elijah Pierson’s street-corner preaching.

In 1843, **Sojourner Truth** heard “a voice from Heaven” and began spreading “God’s truth and plan for salvation.”

In Massachusetts, **Sojourner** worked with abolitionists **William Lloyd Garrison**. She also worked with **Fredrick Douglass** and his wife **Anna Murry-Douglass**.

In 1838, **Anna Murray-Douglass** had helped **Frederick** escape slavery by providing sailors clothing and identification papers.

Anna used their home in Rochester, New York, as a stop for the **Underground Railroad**, giving food, clean clothes, and a safe place to stay for fugitive slaves headed to Canada.

After the **Emancipation Proclamation**, **Sojourner Truth** moved to Washington D.C., met Lincoln and helped former slaves. She dictated her biography, ***The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave*** (1850) stating: “When I left the house of bondage I left everything behind. I wanted to keep nothing of Egypt on me, and so I went to the Lord and asked him to give me a new name.”

Sojourner Truth continued: “I set up my banner, and then I sing, and then folks always comes up ‘round me, and then...I tells them about Jesus. “ Her last full day on earth was November 25, 1883.

Sojourner Truth would begin her messages: “Children, I talk to God and God talks to me.” She is the **first African American woman** to have her statue in the U.S. Capitol, located in the Visitor Center’s Emancipation Hall.

HARRIET TUBMAN (c. 1820 March 10, 1913) was a former slave who repeatedly risked her life to free over 300 slaves from Southern Democrat slave plantations. The trails she took became known as the **Underground Railroad**. After the Civil War, she helped set up schools for freed slaves.

Harriet stated: “I always told God: I’m gwine to hole stiddy on to you, and you got to see me trou...Jes so long as He wants to use me, He’ll take ker of me, and when He don’t want me any longer, I’m ready to go.”

To her biographer, Sarah H. Bradford, **Harriet Tubman** related in 1868: “Twant me, ‘twas the Lord. I always told him, “I trust to you. I don’t know where to go or what to do, but I expect you to lead me,” and he always did.”

Clara Brown (1800-1885) was an **ex-slave** who moved to Colorado in the late 1850s during the Gold Rush. She is considered Colorado’s first black settler, living in the mining town of Central City. There, she established a successful laundry business, in addition to serving as a mid-wife, cook, and nurse maid.

Clara Brown was a founding member of a Sunday school, and let her home be used for prayer services. She hosted the first Methodist church services at her house. Affectionately called “**Aunt Clara**,” her home was, “a hospital, a home, a general refuge for those who were sick or in poverty.” She was quoted as saying, “**I always go where Jesus calls me.**”

A Catholic Church and the first Protestant church in the Rocky Mountains were both built in part through **Clara Brown’s donations**. She invested in real estate and eventually owned seven houses in Central City, sixteen lots in Denver, along with interests in other properties and mines.

Clara Brown was voted into the Society of Colorado Pioneers in 1885, for her role in Colorado’s early history.

BRIDGET “BIDDY” MASON (1818-1901) was a slave who had three daughters by her slave master Robert Smith. Smith converted to Mormonism and moved to Utah, forcing Bridget to follow the wagon on foot.

In 1851, Smith moved again, this time to California. Though it was a free state, Smith refused to abide by the laws and **he kept Biddy a slave.**

When Smith decided to move to Texas, a slave state, a white man, Charles Owens, helped bring legal action to gain **Biddy’s freedom.** After a fierce court battle, **Biddy Mason** won in 1856. Charles Owens soon married Biddy’s daughter Ellen.

Biddy worked as a mid-wife, delivering hundreds of babies. When a smallpox epidemic hit, she risked her life to care for multitudes who were infected. Saving her money, she purchased two estates, making her one of the first black women to own property in Los Angeles.

She bought more properties and leased them out commercially. As the city grew, her properties appreciated in value, resulting in her amassing a relatively large fortune of \$300,000.

In 1872, along with her son-in-law Charles Owens, she organized the **city’s first black church, the First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles,** which met in her home on Spring Street.

Being the wealthiest black woman in the city, **Biddy Mason** donated the land and helped finance the building of the church. She also established the **first elementary school for black children in Los Angeles.**

2nd Chronicles 7:14,

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

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