

Anchor of Love Ministries II Church

200 E. River Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 Phone: 517-699-2289



"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become the high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." ---Hebrews 6:19 & 20 (NIV)

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Adult Sunday School
9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study
6:30 pm

Inside this issue

Pastor's Corner	1
Calendar of events	1
Anniversaries	1
Birthdays	1
Faith	2
A Message to Men	3
The Lord's Name	3
Are You a Living Sacrifice?	4



Let your voice be heard:
Fall Newsletter 2011
deadline for submission
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Pastor's Corner



To Anchor of Love Members, our families and our friends:

What is it that causes some people to keep going with God, no matter what their circumstances might be? Let's face it, some people are down-right amazing in what they seem to be able to not only tolerate, but actually overcome! Still, there are those of us that always seem to struggle, even when our circumstances may not be in dire straits. If we don't have a problem, we are sure to create one with our negative attitude. What's curious about these two types of people is that Christians usually fall into one of these two categories. Why is this? What is it that causes one person to continue to go forward, despite what seems to be set back after set back versus another person who has so much potential, only refuses to use it?

Well, the answer is simple and should be obvious to us. It is **DETERMINATION!** A definition of determination is simply this: *the act of deciding definitely and firmly; and the result of such an act of decision.* Have you ever heard someone say "What he lacked in talent he made up for in *determination.*"? You may not have as much talent or as many resources available to you as another person, but it is still possible for you to be extremely effective in the Kingdom of God simply by way of determination. Are we really determined to achieve what God wants us to achieve. Are you one of those rare Christians who will trust God in whatever you are going through? Is your salvation something you are determined to hold on to, even when the odds are stacked against you?

The amount of determination that we have often determines our actions. Determination will cause us to follow through on difficult tasks that we have made our minds up to do. Determination will cause us to receive what God has told us and reject everything else; this includes the negative opinions of others. When we are determined, it doesn't matter who tries to discourage us! Is your mind made up today or are you still trying to decide if you are determined for Christ? It's something to think about!

Pastor & Co-Pastor Jones

Calendar of Events

Ninth Church Anniversary - Sunday, 7/24
Women's Day - Sunday, 8/14
Annual Church Picnic - Saturday, TBD

Wedding Anniversaries:

Moises Garcia Sr. & Maria Garcia - 8/23
Pastor & Co-Pastor Jones - 9/14

Birthdays:

Moises Garcia Sr. - 7/9
Co-Pastor Jones - 7/9
Micah Ballard - 7/20
Moises Garcia Jr. - 8/5
Pastor Jones - 8/5

Faith by Stacy Austin

We have to be persistent with our faith. You have to aggressively know, or make yourself come to know that thing is there. It's like when you've really got your mind made up to do something, and you're going to do it, you have your mind made up. Nobody can tell you different, sometimes not even GOD. Well, put all that stubbornness to good use. Be stubborn with Satan. Don't worry or care about what he is talking about. Just know that what God told you will happen when it's supposed to and that's all you need to know. We are subjects in God's world, not the other way around. He is running this. He doesn't have to tell you that anything's going to happen, I see it as Him just being courteous; but He surely isn't telling you so you will doubt Him.

Pastor has talked about anticipating things. Sometimes when you know you're going to get something, it gets hard to wait for it, and then even harder when you actually start to see it coming. It's like seeing the presents build up under the tree at Christmas time. To anticipate that you will get something for Christmas is all fine and good, but it's when you actually start to SEE some of the wrapped presents sitting there under the tree, it's even harder to wait to open them.

Once you smell the chicken cooking, it's more irresistible than when you THOUGHT about cooking it. Just when you want it so bad you can taste it, is when a lot of us start to doubt. That's when you need to be aggressive with your faith. But then, there are times that we can't see something happening or see any clues that the thing is beginning to come to pass. We don't see anything under the tree at all, and no wrapping paper in sight, and it's 3am Christmas morning. If this was the case, somebody probably got you something. They are just keeping it from you to make the presentation all the better. Sometime, this is how it is with God.

Unless your spiritual eyes are fine-tuned, you probably won't see the blessing is on its way to be manifested. Our spiritual eyes and our natural eyes are two very different things. They see into different things. Just because your natural eyes can't see something, doesn't mean that your spiritual eyes can't see it. The flesh doesn't understand the spiritual things.

It starts out in the spirit, so you won't see it in the natural at first. But you seeing it in the spirit will allow you to praise God for it, which shows God that you believed Him for it. As soon as you see it in the spirit, you're agreeing with God- and then He will present it to you.

I believe God will wait until you see it in the spirit sometimes before He will allow it to manifest in the natural, just so he can know that you believe in HIM doing it, and not chance or yourself.

When I was searching for a new job, I went on interview after interview. Each one, I wondered if this would be it, and it wasn't. I was hoping, but hoping *passively*. Wondering what would happen, how, and when it would happen.

After about the 40th or 50th interview, somewhere around there, I got aggressive with my faith. I decided that I was *going* to get out of my previous job, whatever it took; I was going to believe in God that He would do what I believed Him to do. No more wondering how or when, it was just *going* to happen, bottom line, and I was ready. One day I packed all of my uniforms in plastic bags and put them in the back of my truck, I also cleaned out my locker at work. I talked to my co-workers as though I was leaving. I lived my life as though, I was leaving that place any minute. I had seen it with my spiritual eyes. I mentally organized my car, as though all of that stuff was gone. I planned my mornings for when I got the job, what I would do, when I would get up, how long I would read the bible, how my morning would go. When it was time to set up my dentist appointment in advance, I thought about what time I would need to make it to correlate with my new job schedule. I made mine and Jaden's for after 4pm. I just knew that I was out of that place.

I didn't hear anything that week, or the next week. Then months went by, "dear john" letters kept coming. I wondered for a second if I was just playing myself, and setting myself up for heartache. It was months after that, before I finally got a call, but, I wanted out of there so bad, by then there was just no option of not coming out. Eventually, I got to a point where I did not care who told me no, and who didn't. I was coming out of that place one way or the other. It had gone beyond simple determination. God said it and I believed it. That was just the way it was going to be. I just had to go on the right interview. I got serious - I searched high and low.

When the jobs finally manifested, all I had to do was grab my bags and drop them off on my last day, and say sayonara. It was a smooth transition. God and my faith let me know what time it was; because by then, I had learned how to see in the spirit. I saw what time it really was; time to get out of there. God wasn't going to give me that job until I learned to believe Him for it, and not the people or the interview, or even myself. There were many things that would come after the job that I needed to really believe him for. Just like the Israelites, I had to go through this to learn how to do things and conduct myself after coming out of the wilderness and into the promised land. There is no way that with the amount

of work required of me now, if I hadn't learned to believe and trust in God before the job, that I could do this job now. Those things that I learned stuck with me and continue to help me as I make my cleaning out the promised land and making room for myself and my family. Without faith it is impossible to please God. I thought for a long time, "I messed this up, I messed that up I will never get this job"..... but unbelieving is sin. God was more concerned with my unbelief, than my imperfect behavior. My unbelief was what was holding me up.

All we are asked to do is to believe God. Not be perfect Christians, or judge our circumstances, but to BELIEVE GOD. To believe Satan is a sin and it also is very disrespectful, considering all that God does for us, and we can't just simply believe Him- that's all He is asking. Technically doubting, worrying and fearing is the worst we could do, because that means that we are taking sides with the devil and bringing his will for our lives to pass. But for a long time, I passively believed God for this job. It wasn't until I was sick and tired of being tormented from believing Satan. When I aggressively believed God, that's when He honored what it was that I believed Him for. He won't be made to be a liar. So when you aggressively believe Him, then that thing shall come to pass.

Now Faith is the Substance of Things Hoped for and the Evidence of Things Not Seen!

(Hebrews 11:1 NIV)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

(Hebrews 11:6 NIV)



A Message for Men....by William and Michelle Nason

To My Dearest Sons of God;

You are My image that I created in My likeness to build strength together in whatever you do in life as men - in work, as fathers, family heads, providers, husbands or single men and most of all spiritually for Me. Keep seeking to please Me in the Word, with fasting and prayer. Also know that I am with you in whatever you put your hands to do. I will bless it. Every time you take a dose of everything that is written in the Word and in prayer the devil can't reach you in the realm of the Spirit of God. It is time to smash; crash the devil's kingdom down!

P.S. Give God a great big praise and a shout to Him!



The Lord's Name by Stacy Austin

We're all guilty of it. You hear something shocking and you say "Oh, my God". Someone does something funny, and you say "Oh Lord, what am I going to do with you?"

We don't mean any harm. But it is actually a sin for us to say the Lord's name in this manner. Most of us really love God and would never want to do anything to offend him. But.....

Exodus 20:8 states that we "shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord our God in vain [that is, lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely]". This does not only pertain to people saying the Lord's name as a cuss word, but to all of the different ways that people say the name of the Lord, that suggest something other than what it really stands for.

The Lord's name is full of power, and we need to treat it as such. It is not by any means just an ordinary word. Repent if you need to; from now on, honor the name of the Lord. When you say His name, let it bring forth the power and awe that it really represents.

Are You a Living Sacrifice? by Cristal Ballard

Living Sacrifice - A Biblical Truth

As Christians, we're called to give ourselves to God as a "living sacrifice." The Apostle Paul helps us understand this truth in his letter to the believers in Rome:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

Living Sacrifice - Dying to Self

So how do we truly present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice? In a nutshell, we must die to our prior selves. This concept is wonderfully presented in this anonymous poem...

When you are forgotten, neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting or hurt with the oversight, but your heart is happy being counted worthy to suffer for Christ;

That is dying to self.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinion ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient, loving silence;

That is dying to self.

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any annoyance; when you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility, and endure it as Jesus did;

That is dying to self.

When you are content with any food, and offering, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God;

That is dying to self.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation or record your own good works or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown;

That is dying to self.

When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met, and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy, nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and you are in desperate circumstances;

That is dying to self.

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself and can humbly submit, inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart;

That is dying to self.

