

Joshua Generation Newsletter

Warriors On The Move

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" Listening In" 1590 AM Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

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Why God.....Why? **"Judge of Love on AMERICA?"**

1 Corinthians 13, is probably the most widely quoted book when it comes to the subject of love. Verse 13 says, "But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love. Everything about us hinges on love because everything about our Father is based on love."

We know that Jesus expressed sacrificial love to us in that He died for our sins so that we are forgiven and have restored fellowship with the Father. Yet, what we often fail to realize is that Christ's love goes even beyond the Cross. Everything we do, don't do, face, and don't face is about His continuing love and mercy. When we mourn or struggle, it is because He knows we need to rely on Him alone, and that hardship drives us to Him. It is for us, to help us carry out His command to love one another. After all, if we have not love we are compared to clanging cymbals. If we have not love, why would the Lord have allowed us to remain in the world instead of taking us straight to heaven once we accept Him. While we all know that Jesus commands us to love each other and to love our enemies, how do we do this? Jesus is our ultimate model of love in that; He loved us first—without any guarantee of reciprocity on our end. An unknown author once wrote on the subject of true love...Giving someone all your love is never an assurance that they'll love you back. Don't expect love in return, just wait for it to grow in their hearts, but if it doesn't, be content it grew in yours. If we are truly loving others, it is a decision—not an emotion (not a feeling). This is how we can carry out Christ's love to all people—not just to people we like. Whether we love our best friend or our worst enemy, it is still a choice. Jesus does not say that the choice will be easy. In fact, He implies that loving those who love us will be much easier than loving those who hate us. (Matthew 5:43-48) Nevertheless, we are called to love all mankind—just as Jesus did when He sacrificed His life for us.

Love means doing what you don't feel like doing for the good of someone else. Love means putting aside your own desires to satisfy the needs of another. Love means stretching out your hand to those who have turned their hand away from you. Love means pouring your life into someone else. Amy Carmichael said, "One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving." The most significant impact a believer can have on someone's life is to love them when they least expect or deserve it. The disease of today is not aids, or cancer; the biggest disease is people feeling unloved. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus says, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Are you letting your light so shine that the unloved feel loved by God? Why does judgement come? Lack of love. Jesus came because of love. Love for mankind, you and me. Those in this land and other lands. There is a difference in praying the Word and quoting the Word. We can quote or pray when we speak these Words, "Our Father who art in Heaven...forgive us or debts as we forgive our debtors..."I heard one of our leaders say, "God may forgive you, but we won't." He was not speaking for me, and I pray he wasn't speaking for the Christian community. Forgiveness does not equate to not reaping the harvest that one has sown. God had to send His Son to the Cross because of our lack of love. I heard someone say, "Where was God?" He was in the same place where He was when Jesus hung on the Cross. Which one of us wants to revert the Cross? Then everyday would be September 11, 2001.



I can almost hear you say, judgement comes because of disobedience. That is true, but disobedience comes because of lack of love. Lack of love for our Creator, our Lord and Savior, The Most High God. Some call Him, *Elohim* Jehovah, El Shaddai or Yahweh. The bottom line is that HE IS THAT HE IS, as He told Moses tell them, "I AM" sent you. God is Holy and His Word will never cease to be. America was born out of a desire for freedom of religious worship. America was founded on the name of God. "In God We Trust" and somewhere along the path, we stopped trusting, talking, walking or believing that He is.

What a horrible sight! As a Nation, we sat and watched as someone brought us to our knees, shut down airports, malls, local businesses and schools. The cash registers stopped ringing, the stock market closed, and the sports arenas closed down - the joy of America shut down! Yet in the distance I could hear "Oh God," "Jesus," "Lord have mercy!" and across the bottom of the television screen for the first time I could ever remember, notices of churches open for prayer in the midst of the day. If there are doors that should always be open, it should be the Church doors. "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray." (2 Chronicles 7:14-11). Our hope is not in the American soldiers, the President of the United States of America or our Pastor, our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords, King of Kings, the Most High God!!! Our Hope is in the NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES, J-E-S-U-S!!

Our children don't have the liberty to openly pray in school, yet the men and women in the highest offices in the land openly prayed and quoted the 23rd Psalm! If judgement has come upon America, then it has come to the American Church - the body of Christ - God's judgement is on His people first and foremost. If you are a follower of Christ, then you are in the midst of a war. We war not against flesh and blood, but against principalities (Ephesians 6:11-12). If you want to sit there and keep your head in the sand, then I pray God's grace on you, but as for me and my household, we will not only serve the Lord, but believe His Word and do our best to walk in it.

If our Church doors are closed and we are keeping the pews warm while a few are standing guard and doing the work of the Cross, something is very wrong. When was the last time you witnessed to someone, visited the sick, the prisons, feed the poor? When was the last time you forgave your enemy, or your neighbor, your wife, husband or child, with the love and forgiveness of our Lord and Savior? When He forgave you, did He rake you over the hot coals first?

It is time to put on the full armor of God and behave as His children with actions and not just, "I'm a Christian." Is there good news? Always, He loves us so much that He does not want to leave us in the same condition that He found us over 2000 years ago. God Loves you America, rise up and know that you are a Child of God first and then an American. We have always come together in the face of adversity, disregarding color, likes and dislikes, forming a fist. Perhaps it's time to come together as the body of Christ with an open hand of Love and Peace, knowing that an open hand can also close and crush any enemy of God.

Word of life...

God Promises

Erica Anderson

" LOVE"



2 Chr 7:14.11 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.

Lev 19:34.20 But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.th.

WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS

When the Israelite spies set out on a reconnaissance mission to assess the land of Canaan, they had no idea what they would encounter (Numbers 13 and 14). It was a great honor to be chosen by Moses for such an assignment, and Moses selected the top leader from each of the twelve tribes.

Yet, not all their training and leadership experience prepared them for such an entirely new experience. Who had ever heard of a grape cluster so huge that it had to be carried on a pole lifted by two men? And who could possibly be prepared for the sight of Canaanite men so massive they dwarfed the best of Israel's fighters? It is no wonder these spies felt a whirling mix of emotions as they headed back to their Commander-in-Chief to give a full report.

You can almost imagine the scene. Moses and Aaron (Moses brother) gathered the people to hear the news. The spies said, "We went into the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size." (13:27-32).

The people responded in an understandable way—they panicked and cried out to Moses. They had been through a lot since the dramatic days of their flight from Egypt (Exodus 1-15). The Israelites, the spies included, did see a good land occupied by fierce men. Their report was accurate, but they did not give the rest of the story—that is, until Joshua and Caleb spoke up. These two men were distraught over their peers' appraisal. They tore their robes publicly as an act of sorrow and began to speak: "The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it to us—a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they shall be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them" (Exodus 14:7-9). What do you think the people said? Do you think they listened to these devout voices of dedicated leadership? No. They were too filled with fear from the negative reports, and they wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb to death. Only Moses' intervention through *prayer* stopped them and brought a semblance of order.

Continued on page 3

SERVANT'S HEART

An elderly gentleman, dressed in simple tan pants and a button-down shirt, pushes the cart uphill. By the gentleman's facial expression, an onlooker would not guess the steep grade of the hill or the weight of the boxes carried by the silver metal cart he's pushing. Although his skin is weathered and tinted by years in the sun, the man's eyes are bright and his smile wide. By all appearances, his volunteer job – to stuff envelopes, stack boxes, load trucks – is neither glamorous nor exciting. Yet, the man's face tells a different story, the story of his heart.

It's a heart that inspires all it touches, a heart that is reflected in every cheerful grin, every boisterous laugh, every hour clocked. The casual observer sees a man who works long, hard hours and is faithful to an insignificant job that is not faithful to him.

Yet the Lord sees a servant committed to playing a role in the highest calling of all - sharing the life-changing message of Jesus. No, God does not deny the long hours, nor does He confess that the man is admired by the world, yet God takes great care in the man's heart, one that He crafts daily into that of a servant.

This servant is one who inspires me. Nameless to you, this servant has a name treasured in heaven. His willingness to be faithful in a role that seems small in the world's eyes has garnered great glory for God. No doubt this servant's faithfulness in small things on earth will give him a greater role of service in eternity.

One measure of a true servant is faithfulness.

The volunteer who pushes the cart uphill is faithful, even when the day is hot and the hours drag long. He is faithful though his work receives little appreciation from others.

Another measure of a true servant is that he is inspirational.

I invite you to look around, examine the people in your life. Sure, they are not perfect. No one is. But what characteristics of servanthood do you see in them? Has Christ given them a gift, which they are committed to use for His honor? Have they committed themselves to being personally involved in the lives of others, even at the suffering of their own life? The people with whom you work, exercise, live near, and attend church have potential to inspire you. Have you noticed the unnoticeable lately?

Not only do we, as Christians have the Spirit of God living in us to help us serve the Lord, but we also have each other. The apostle Paul exhorts us to follow the Christ-like patterns we see in others. He writes, "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us" (Philippians 3:17).

Ask God to make you sensitive to the everyday servants around you. It will help you:

- Learn how to exercise your faith practically.
- Appreciate the whole body of Christ, especially those with whom you may not have much in common.
- Encourage others in their daily walk with the Lord.
- Inspire other believers, as you too have been inspired.

When God reveals Himself through people, be careful not to compare yourself to them. Instead, praise God for using them as your inspiration to seek Him more.

Isn't it amazing how these men looked at the same set of facts and came away with such vastly different impressions? The situation is not so bizarre when you look at the root cause of the "sight" problem—a lack of faith. The eleven spies were not incorrect in the literal sense, but by placing emphasis on the wrong part of the scene, they missed the picture of hope that God had painted before them. They focused on the obstacle, not the opportunity. Before we are too hard on the Israelites and judge them hastily, we need to look at the why's behind their disbelief. They were not people who woke up one morning and said deliberately with rebellion in their hearts, "We will choose to disbelieve God today." Instead, they were people like you and me, with hurts and desires and frustrated dreams and confusion when circumstances did not go their way. Focusing on the obstacles distorted their vision of reality and caused the problems to seem threatening and insurmountable. In our own lives, the biggest obstacles to belief and enduring faith are not the giants that stand in our path, such as the loss of a job or a setback in a personal relationships or disappointments. The root obstacles are of a spiritual and emotional nature.

Fear can paralyze the stoutest of hearts. Can you recall a situation when you felt afraid or emotionally challenged? More than likely your pulse rate rose as your heart pounded in your chest. When we perceive a threat to our well-being, we often are afraid that the overall plan for our lives is jeopardized in some way. That is why remembering the promises of God is so important.

The Israelites were led astray by the negative report because they forgot God's promise to give them the land of Canaan. The Lord told them He had a good inheritance waiting for them; all they had to do was trust Him. Sadly, an entire generation of God's people missed out on the realization of this promise when they ignored the reality of God's faithfulness (14:28-35). In her book, *Faith: The Substance Of Things Unseen*, Penelope Stokes explains the necessity of stepping forward even when you cannot discern the path ahead. "If we intend to be spiritual explorers, to follow the unknown paths and journey into unmapped territory, we must learn to trust God. Like Christians in *The Pilgrim's Progress*", we must put our hands to our ears, shut out the voices that would call us back to safety and sameness . . .

"Spiritual courage is a rare and precious commodity in our world. Few people have the fearlessness to ask the difficult questions, or to live without an answer. For too many years we have put our minds on hold, avoided confrontation with our own souls. We need to confirm within our spirits the truth that bravery is a virtue, that God is big enough to handle our confusion and struggle, our anger and pain; that the One who calls out to us will be with us, even if we make some mistakes along the way. Spiritual fear often stems from an unwillingness to leave what many have labeled the "comfort zone." It is much easier to deal with the familiar than it is to take a risk, but often that is what God calls you to do.

The Israelites did not know where they were going when the journey began. They followed the presence of God in the form of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. As strange as it may sound, their "comfort zone" was the land of Egypt. They were slaves treated with indignity who endured a harsh life, but that was the life they knew. God did much work in their lives as individuals and as a nation to break them out of that self-centered mindset. Believing that God will direct our lives according to His good purposes begins with a commitment to trust Him implicitly, without worrying about the consequences. (Romans 8:28; Philippians 4:6-7) Some believers fail to fully trust God out of confusion about how He directs them. God does not shroud Himself in confusion or darkness; He longs for us to know Him and His ways. He revealed Himself in the person of Jesus Christ so that we may have intimate fellowship that grows each day. If this is and has always been His goal, then it does not make sense to say that He makes His plans inscrutable

CHANGING THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGH



PRAYER

The Church

James Lewis - Alzheimer's

Kathy Vermillion - Stroke

Mrs. Walton

Clifford Jay Family

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Where Is Your Focus

Oswald Chambers writes in *My Utmost For His Highest* "Having the reality of God's presence is not dependent on our being in a particular circumstance or place, but is only dependent on our determination to keep the Lord before us continually. Our problems arise when we refuse to place our trust in the reality of His presence."..At critical moments in our lives it is necessary to ask God for guidance, but it should be unnecessary to constantly say, 'Oh, Lord, direct me in this, and in that.' Of course, He will, and in fact, He is doing it already! If our everyday decisions are not according to His will, He will press through them, bringing restraint to our spirit. Then we must be quiet and wait for the direction of His presence." What are we waiting for? Are we letting the giants in our path sway us from the journey? Joshua and Caleb lived to see the Promised Land, truly flowing with milk and honey, the new home for God's people. The blessings God has in store for each of us are just as rich! Never allow shortsighted vision to obstruct the far-reaching plan of Our Lord. We do not need to turn back or look behind us at all the wrong turns and mistakes we have made. Jesus puts them behind us with His love, and He makes the way straight before each of us once more.

God's Grace



Judgement On

America II

Judgement on America was written last September 2001 - has anything changed? For days, weeks, and perhaps months, churches were filled. From day one we heard cries for God, then for the victims, then for their families, then our nation. Now we hear no cries - very few of those who cried out to God seem to remember His name.

Now we "must remember 911", lest we forget. Once there was a time that we had to remember Pearl Harbor, lest we forget, and there was World War II, and the concentration camps. We must remember lest we forget; and don't forget World War I and Vietnam. Oh, what about the Africa "Save the Children - We are the World"? Over three thousand died in the World Trade Center attack, certainly a horrific day in the midst of humanity -- an action that we most certainly will not soon forget. However, it seems that for the most part we have forgotten, WWI, WWII, Vietnam, the Korean War, Pearl Harbor, and every other tragedy that happens daily around the world.

The same pain and suffering that happened in New York, happens daily. Is it only horrible when it is our home, our neighborhood, or our nation? If so, what a sad statement for a nation, "under God, with liberty and justice for all."

The church also has gone right back to her old comfortable shoes. The doors are still locked until Sunday morning. Her ministers for the most part need outside employment to feed their families, stealing their time that's needed to lay before the Lord, seeking His face, praying and interceding for the body of Christ, our nation and all of humanity beyond our borders.

We have "pew warmers" satisfied with where they are. "I would come to prayer, but I have a class; you know I'm just trying to get ahead," or "God knows my heart"...sadly for most of us, He certainly does! When will we learn that if God is first, all that He had for us will come to us? Yes, God does know our hearts and judgement is coming in the second waves and the third, the fourth, the fifth, until the Church begins to wash out her spots and press out her wrinkles.

If we did not learn on September 11, 2001, that tomorrow is promised no man, and that God is still God over our person, our homes, our nation and this and every other world. This is still His creation, He is still Lord and he has no thought of abdicating His throne! If we have forgotten or refuse to acknowledge His Lordship, than we shall be humbled, and the choice is ours to choose for we have an option -- humble ourselves, pray and seek His face or face the next wave. And if not then, the next wave, and the next. For He loves us enough not to leave us to rot on the vine. He will do whatever is necessary to turn us (the church) around. We have put God on the back shelf, and He will not tolerate it, He has a throne and there, He shall sit for all eternity.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

JESUS LOVES YOU..YOU..YOU..YOU



Word For Today

A man bought a new hunting dog. Eager to see how the dog would perform, the man took him out to track a bear. No sooner had they gotten into the woods than the dog picked up the trail. Suddenly he stopped, sniffed the ground, and headed in a new direction. He had caught the scent of a deer that had crossed the bear's path. A few moments later he halted again, this time smelling a rabbit that had crossed the path of the deer. On and on it went until finally the breathless hunter caught up with his dog, only to find him barking triumphantly down the hole of a field mouse. Sometimes Christians are like that hunting dog. We start out on the right trail, following Christ. But soon our attention is diverted to things of lesser importance. One pursuit leads to another until we've strayed far from our original purpose. Apparently this is what happened to one of the apostle Paul's companions, for Paul wrote to Timothy, "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world." Every day we must renew our dedication to Christ or we will be drawn away by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. These worldly influences can divert even the most devout Christian. We easily pick up another scent and follow another trail, perhaps the pursuit of wealth, power, prestige, or pleasure. When we realize what has happened, we must admit our waywardness and ask God to get us back on the right trail. This is my prayer: "Lord, every day new temptations cross my path, and I confess that I have chased many of them. I want to stay focused, Lord. Keep me from being distracted by things that may look good but are not simply because they are not You.

Forgiveness is the economy of the heart...Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste of spirits. -- Hannah More

Judgement of Love On America II

Our only hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ. We must boldly proclaim His name before all men. It is not enough to just know Him, we must love Him, fill our hearts with His Word and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth and righteousness. We don't need to beat each other up; prayer and life style works wonders.

Don't we understand that if each of us walk the walk and not just talked the talk; we could set this world upside down? Sure we will fall down from time to time, but with the help of the Lord, and each other, we can get up, repent, and continue to walk in the light of His goodness.

The United States is headed in the same direction as Russia. We are headed to the front line of as a third world nation, we are on the verge of being spiritually bankrupt, and the only thing missing is being financially bankrupt. How do we stop that train? God has given up the formula, 1 Corinthians 13. It is now up to the Church. ...God has called you to Arise...Arise...Arise

God's Grace