

Light and Life

Without Application

“If the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites” (Jdg. 6:13). Gideon was perplexed about how Israel could go through such difficulty if they had such a faithful God. But then, he failed to consider Israel’s idolatry (Jdg. 6:1, 10).

The fact that Gideon knew about God’s deliverance of Israel provides a contrast to the generation that “did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done” (Jdg. 2:10). Gideon knew the stories, but not in a way that affected his manner of life. He knew the part that said God was supposed to be faithful, but did not realize that Israel must be faithful in return (Jdg. 6:8-10)!

We should be careful that we don’t repeat the same mistakes today. It isn’t enough just to know the stories. We must know how these stories apply to us! Without making a personal application, knowing that God saved Israel from Egypt does us no good! But if we understand that when God delivers us from the slavery of the world, then we die to sin and become His slaves – and “we have our fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life” (Rm. 6:22).

The stories of how God has interacted with our forefathers are essential to understanding our relationship to Him. But we must draw principles from those stories to teach us how that relationship works. For example, from Gideon we learn that you cannot have an altar to God next to an altar of Baal (Jdg. 6:25-26). We cannot have split loyalties if we are to be God’s slaves.

Knowing the stories is important – but without application, where would we be (Jdg. 6:30)?

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Praying for the Men in Your Life

1. Pray that he will have an eternal perspective and glorify God in all that he does (Mt 6:33, De 6:5).
2. Pray that he seeks God's plan for his life and for his family. And pray that he walks in that purpose as well as he can (Ep 4:1-2).
3. Pray that he chooses healthy, God-honoring hobbies and activities to pursue. Pray for his physical, spiritual, and emotional health (1 Co 6:12).
4. Pray that he is slow to anger and does not easily become frustrated with his job, his wife, his kids, or his circumstances (Ja 1:19-20, Ro 14:19).
5. Pray that he will work hard in providing for his family, and have discernment in financial matters (Lu 16:13, Pr 23:4-5).
6. Pray that his sexual desires be focused solely on his wife and that marriage intimacy be both satisfying and an expression of selfless love. Pray that his heart is guarded against sexual temptation (Ro 13:14, SofS 7:10, 1 Co 10:13).
7. Pray that he is surrounded by Godly men who will keep him accountable and encourage him to grow in his walk with the Lord (Pr 13:20, 27:17).
8. Pray that he will be a light to those around him and boldly share the Gospel (Mt 5:14, Ac 28:31).
9. Pray that he is a Godly example to his children. And if he is not a father, pray that he will find a younger man to help instruct in the way of the Lord (Ep 6:4, 2 Ti 2:1-2).
10. Pray that he will more fully grasp his identity in Christ & serve God and others with a pure heart (Jn 7:17-18, Col 3:23-24).

- from graceincolor.com (edited for space)

ASSEMBLY TIMES

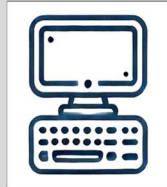
Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

Find Us Online!



www.downtowncoc.net
& on Facebook

DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 447
201 W. Chestnut Street
Rogers, AR 72757
479-636-3575

AREA-WIDE SINGING!!

THIS FRIDAY

6:30-8:30p

LED BY

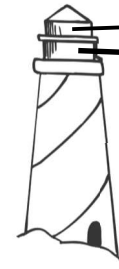
Dane Shepard (OK)
& Tim Stevens (TX)

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

April 13, 2025

Why We Sing Acapella

We sing acapella at the Downtown church (i.e. without accompaniment of instruments) – and some people wonder why. It's a fair question.

It's not because we have "always done it that way". That would be an appeal to tradition, and Jesus warns against that (Mk 7:9). And it's not because we just prefer the sound of acapella music over instrumental music. While it is true (at least in my opinion) that no music is more beautiful than acapella music (when it is done right), that is not why we 'do music' the way we do. That would be an appeal to personal preference, and Jesus warns against that, too (Mt 7:21-23).

No, the simple reason we simply sing is because that is what the King told us to do (Eph 5:19, Col 3:16). It's not complicated.

In the Old Testament, God commanded David to appoint Levites who would lead the tabernacle worship with instruments of music (2 Chr 29:25). Along with the burnt offerings and other accoutrements of worship, they used instruments.

But He commands us to sing. And so, we do.

It's not about us – our traditions or likings. It's about Him. As it should be.

- *WKing (reprinted from 11/3/24)*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, JTerrell, ACorder

Shut-ins: SCole, SWiese, VCarter, KHeilighenthal, TrDeen

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

MONTHLY SINGING – Our monthly singing which was postponed from last Sunday will be held tonight.

ANNUAL SINGING – Our annual singing, led by Dane Shepard and Tim Stevens, is set for **this Friday**, 6:30-8:30! Invite your friends and neighbors!