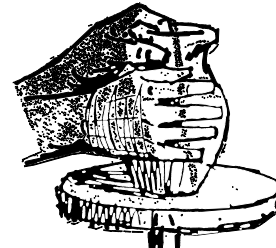


His Workmanship at Westside

*"For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



Isaiah 64:8

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Challenges for a Growing Church *by Mark Copeland*

As a church grows, it is likely to face various challenges. The devil would certainly love to hinder us in our work, 1 Thes 2:18. How he does this may not always be evident, as he is a great deceiver, 2 Cor 11:3, but he can lead us astray through simple and seemingly harmless diversions. We must therefore take up the admonition to *"Hold fast what you have,"* Rev 2:25; 3:11; hold fast and repent, Rev 3:3; hold fast to God, Deut 10:20; 11:22; 13:4; Josh 22:5; 23:8; hold fast to Christ's name, Rev 2:13; hold fast to our integrity and righteousness, Job 2:9; 27:6; hold fast the confession of our faith, Heb 4:14; 10:23; hold fast to God's law, His covenant, and His doctrine, Is 56:4; 1 Cor 15:2; 1 Thes 5:21; 2 Tim 1:13; and *"hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end,"* Heb 3:6. We hold fast to God, accepting any challenges the devil might throw our way and knowing that our efforts to be "steadfast" are not useless, 1 Cor 15:58.

I. WE MUST REMEMBER WHAT OUR WORK IS

A. To equip the saints for ministry (edification). We are to provide for

the spiritual growth of each Christian in the congregation, Eph 4:11-12.

This is how the body continues to grow, Eph 4:15-16. Thus we should provoke one another to love and good works, the very reason we are to assemble together, Heb 10:24-25. Are we doing what we can to help other Christians grow?

B. To sound forth the gospel of Christ (evangelism), 1 Thes 1:8.

Through individual and collective efforts, we must "sow the seed." As our numbers increase, it becomes tempting to slack off, but we must either expand or swarm (some leave to start another local church elsewhere). Are we doing what we can to share the gospel?

C. To provide for needy saints (benevolence). The original purpose behind the collection on Sundays was to provide for Christians in another country who faced famine, 1 Cor 16:1-2. We should first provide for the needs in our location, and then we look for needy saints in other places. Are we doing what we can to see that needs of fellow Christians are being met? The work of the local

church goes far beyond providing a place where people can worship from week to week. We should be preparing ourselves to work! Will we meet the challenge?

II. WE MUST LIVE ABOVE PETTINESS

A. Even good churches can be hindered by pettiness. Paul was concerned about two women of the church at Philippi who may have been bickering, Phil 4:2-3. When Christians lose sight of their primary purpose in the church, they are ripe for being torn apart by selfishness, gossip, and favoritism.

B. We must keep a proper sense of proportion. It is disastrous if we begin to "major in minors," to focus on small details, to blow problems all out of proportion. We must see the largeness and importance—and the glory—of our work in comparison to our own personal problems. Every church has its problems, for we are imperfect people. Remembering Paul's exhortations for unity and humility in Phil 2:1-5 will help us focus on what is our true purpose.

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“Beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory, both now and forever. Amen.” —2 Peter 3:17-18

What a sad thing to have a church hindered by pettiness! Yet so many churches allow it to keep them from growing. Will we accept the challenge never to allow pettiness to stunt our growth? It will be easy to meet that challenge, if at the same time we meet the next one:

III. WE MUST MAINTAIN GRATITUDE FOR OUR BLESSINGS

A. We have everything to be thankful for. As individuals, we have abundant physical blessings: our families, friends, homes, health; our freedoms, jobs. We have been given all spiritual blessings, Eph 1:3-14: salvation in Christ, the forgiveness of sins, the riches of His grace, surpassing peace of mind, the love of God, adoption as His children, the strength of the Holy Spirit, the hope of heaven. As a church, we are free from turmoil, free to worship, filled with love and unity,

blessed with a place to gather together, given signs of numerical and spiritual growth. God gives us great potential for both individual and church growth. *“Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”* Eph 5:20.

B. Our "attitude of gratitude" is God's will. *“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you,”* 1 Thes 5:18. Paul often exhorted the Colossians cultivate this attitude of thankfulness: giving thanks to the Father, Col 1:12; abounding with thanksgiving, 2:7; thankful as we are called to unity and peace, 3:15; giving thanks to God in whatever we do, 3:17; vigilant in prayer with thanksgiving, 4:2. As God's people, let us never become grudging or unthankful, for is a step toward depravity, Rm 1:21, and a sign of perilous times, 2 Tim 3:1-5. When

we give thanks, we don't have time to worry or be petty.

Churches face other challenges, such as persecution for the cause of Christ or natural calamities, but in most cases, even those challenges can be met and overcome if we I) Remember what our work is, II) Live above pettiness, and III) Maintain gratitude for everything.

With a will to do what the Lord desires of us and with the "attitude of gratitude" lifting us above any sense of pettiness that might drag us down, let us do our part to answer the prayer of Paul: *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him (God) be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen,”* Eph 3:20-21.

The Faith-Filled Fearless Fighter *by Steven F. Deaton*

When the Israelites faced the Philistines in 1 Samuel 13, there were many cowards. The people *“hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits,”* 1 Sam 13:6. All the people who followed King Saul were trembling, 13:7. They lacked faith in the Almighty when faced with seemingly overwhelming odds. These people were scattered from Saul. But later, courageous men were found in Israel.

Jonathan, Saul's son, maintained faith in God. He and his armor bearer went on the attack against the Philistines, 1 Sam 14:1-14. He said, *“Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the Lord will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few,”* 14:6. Twice he said, *“The Lord has delivered them into our hand,”*

14:10, 12. The two of them killed about 20 men at the outset of the fight and kept going. Jonathan's actions led Israel to a great victory, *“so the LORD saved Israel that day,”* 14:23. Here is what we need to know.

Jonathan believed God could save by many or by few. It did not and does not require numbers to win a victory. God's side is the right side no matter how many are on it. With Him on your side, you can be triumphant against your greatest enemy, Satan. Though Christians are vastly outnumbered in this world, we can and will win the war in the end, because Christ has already won it, Rev 3:21; 17:14.


Jonathan won the victory because he broke from the crowd, 1 Sam 14:1-2, 17. Staying among the fearful will not lead to faith or to an advance in

the cause of God. Jonathan was willing to go it alone and do the right thing by faith in God. If you are going to win the battle, you must get away from those who are afraid to fight.

Jonathan inspired others to fight. His actions led to Saul and the army to get into the fight, 1 Sam 14:20. The Hebrews who deserted to the Philistines changed sides back to Israel and fought; even the people who hid in the caves came out and pursued the Philistine army, 14:21-22. Your actions and attitude can influence others. You can stir up courage that leads the previously fearful to join in the battle for truth. One person who is committed to the Lord need only step out and take the fight to the enemy to bring about a radical change. You can be a faith-filled fearless fighter who brings victory to God's people. Yes, I mean you, Phil. 4:13.



Psalm 133:1



**Fill your can-
teen in 2013**
"May you be filled
with the knowledge
of His will in all
wisdom and spiritual understanding,"
Col 1:9

Discipleship Here At Home

the work falters because someone is not carrying his corner. We have the greatest incentive for cooperation! We are working with God! "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that you do not receive the grace of God in vain," 2 Cor 6:1. If everyone focused on carrying his corner, there would be less time for faultfinding and undue criticisms of others.

Jesus Saw Persistent Faith. Their feat of letting the bed down through the roof required persistence. Persistence is "to go on resolutely in spite of opposition; to continue past a usual or expected time." They couldn't get through the crowd. What were they to do? The door was blocked, but their persistence looked for another entrance. They found another entrance, down through the roof. How much do we want to see Jesus? What will we do to enter the house where He is? Faith will find a way! People generally do what they want to do. Obstacles and oppositions are merely trials of faith. Some people excuse themselves for not going on, but if these four friends had not been persistent, their friend would not have been blessed by the Lord. God appreciates persistence. Think of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8.

Jesus Saw Courageous and Expensive Faith. Do you doubt that this feat required courage? Have you ever contemplated tearing up someone's roof in order to get a person to the preaching? It costs something to tear a hole in a roof. These men were obligated to repay the expenses for what they had done. There is every sign they had courage to complete their task. They weren't embarrassed. They were aware of the cost of following Jesus, and their faith did not fail them. They had faith that would be rewarded! May we always be ready to put Christ first in our lives. It costs to be a Christian, but it costs far more not to be! *by Bobby K. Thompson*

Expecting Liz Kosik, early April—blood platelets low.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away

Jordan and Tracy Corray, Michael Bennett, and three friends were injured a week ago when a drunk driver hit them broadside on I-25; one remains in the hospital, but all are expected to recover. **Delmar Hice, Pat Campbell's** father—at home, bleeding ulcer
Mark Campbell—improving at Rocky Mtn Brain Injury Service in CO Springs

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis
Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Rod Green—thyroid trouble
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help around his house
Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;
Virginia, worsening rapid macular degeneration; high BP
Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; severe arthritis
Judy Sartin's grandson **Tristen**—autism
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung
Pat Wilkes—hyper parathyroidism; A-Fib

Job concerns **Linda Szymanski** and **Andrew Tope** are seeking jobs.

Bereaved May God comfort **Vicki, Jim, and Mark Reingrover, and Marci Bennett** on the loss of **Vicki's** mother **Janet Whitener; Andrea Arvola** lost her brother **Steve; and Caleb Howell's** boss, **Sean Frank**, who lost his wife recently.

Traveling

Directory update: **Gregg Geis** has chosen to join with the Westside church in worship and spiritual work 4228 Wyandot St Denver 80211 303-902-9997 greggwgeis@gmail.com

When Preaching was Disturbed

Usually it's annoying when preaching is disturbed or interrupted. Jesus had a service strangely interrupted, but He was not impatient. When the gathering ended, "they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, 'We never saw anything like this!'" Mk 2:1-12. Faith had been rewarded.

At this meeting, Jesus Christ was the preacher, "and He preached the word unto them," 2:1. The interruption was caused by five men. Four men were coming in late to the service and carrying a man sick of palsy. "Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying," 2:3-4. When they could not get to Jesus, they went over the crowd, uncovering the roof, breaking it up, and letting the bed down through the hole. What an interruption! But rather than being annoyed and impatient, Jesus "saw their faith." When He saw their faith, He saw what faith will do.

Jesus Saw Cooperative Faith. There was probably a man on each corner of the bed. They were cooperating to carry the bed of a paralytic friend. In the work of a local church, there is a corner for all of us to carry. Often



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Post Office Honors Child Molester on Stamp

Harvey Milk was made famous when Sean Penn starred in the fictional biographic movie of Milk's life. Before that, he was popular mostly in the gay community and in California politics, as Milk was the first openly homosexual politician elected to public office. Because of this distinction, Milk has become a pseudo-hero of the leftist gay community. The problem is that not only was Harvey Milk a homosexual, he was a chronic and serial child abuser.

Randy Shilts was a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle and a close friend of Milk. In his biography of Milk he wrote, "*Harvey always had a penchant for young waifs with substance abuse problems.*" One of those waifs was a 16-year-old runaway from Maryland whom Milk picked up on the streets of San Francisco. Shilts wrote, "*...Sixteen-year-old McKinley was looking for some kind of father figure.... At 33, Milk was launching a new life, though he could hardly have imagined the unlikely direction toward which his new lover would pull him.*"

This young boy was not the only victim of Harvey Milk's pederasty. One of the things that drove Harvey Milk was the desire to see America's traditional cultural and sexual mores completely transformed. He believed that the monogamy expressed in heterosexual lifestyles was not natural to the human experience.

Randy Thomasson, child advocate and founder of SaveCalifornia.com, is one of the nation's foremost experts on Harvey Milk. Of the Shilts biography, Thomasson notes how Milk corrupted youths with his false and ungodly ideas: "*Explaining Milk's many flings and affairs with teenagers and young men, Randy Shilts writes how Milk told one 'lover' why it was OK for him to also [sic] have multiple relationships simultaneously: 'As homosexuals, we can't depend on the heterosexual model... We grow up with the heterosexual model, but we don't have to follow it. We should be developing our own lifestyle. There's no reason why you can't love more than one person at a time.'*"

Usually a man who is a serial rapist of children would not be highly thought of, but for years Milk has been venerated by the Left. Indeed, President Obama has now made it official and even placed Milk on a commemorative stamp through the USPS. The indictment of Isaiah is proven over and over again—they call evil good, and good evil, Is 5:20. It's a travesty that Harvey Milk has been lionized in our nation, when, in reality, he was a violent and disgusting criminal who raped young boys whenever he could. —by Onan Coca



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DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Bible classes | 9:00 am |
| Morning assembly | 10:00 am |
| Afternoon assembly | 1:30 pm |

Wednesday

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Bible classes | 7:30 pm |
|---------------|---------|

This morning: "Living with Conviction in an Ungodly Culture"

This afternoon: "Daniel: the Power of a Consistent Faith"

Salida evangelism: Jeff Wilkes is teaching and preaching today in Salida.