

# From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

## The Power of Faith and Prayer

Kevin W. Rhodes

David was on the run. Absalom's political conspiracy against his father had reached the level of a full-fledged coup de tat, winning the hearts of much of Israel through promises made and carefully planned demonstrations of authority (2 Sam. 15:1-12). The outlook for the much-revered king was bleak indeed, for "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom" (2 Sam. 15:13). What must have been going through David's mind as he gave the order to leave the capital and flee into the wilderness? He had the loyalty of a close group made up of advisors, servants, and priests (2 Sam. 15:14-29), but he had lost control of the nation at the hands of his own son. As the troop climbed the Mount of Olives, weeping, they received even more bad news. But how did David respond? He worshipped. He was in the midst of a hasty retreat, ultimately ending up in Mahanaim, emotionally drained and physically exhausted. Yet, in this very circumstance, he paused to reflect and pray to God, a prayer recorded as Psalm 3.

This psalm, likely the first in a series during this troubled time in David's life, begins with David's expressing his dismay at the number of people who have turned against him (Ps. 3:1-2). However, despite feeling the pang of treason from those so close to him, contrary to the expectations of many today, he did not turn against God or complain to God. Instead, he glorified God, praising Him for His protection and care and thanking Him for listening to his prayer (Ps. 3:3-4). But the next section is the most striking of all. David writes, "I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around" (Ps. 3:5-6). David had just endured one of the toughest nights in his life--of which there were many. That he could sleep at all would speak to his exhaustion, but it also is a tribute to his faith. He did not know if he would even survive the night, but when he did, He thanked God for it, and His faith grew stronger to note that God can deliver and protect regardless of the opposition. Thus he could end this psalm—still away from Jerusalem and his reign in question—with confidence that the LORD could save him and provide victory because of how He blesses His people (Ps. 3:7-8).

Few, if any, of us will face the kind of treachery and treason, danger and derision, that David faced on that night of retreat. But in whatever problems we face, whatever challenges lie before us, and whatever our enemy may do to attack, we can have confidence that God is with His people. Therefore, be at peace, sleep, and rest. Let the LORD handle those things you cannot control, and go forward with faith rather than fear. This is not idea advice. Many know what it means to have all of life disrupted through a family problem, a health challenge, or an economic hardship. These are worthy of your attention to be sure. But they are also worthy of God's attention, if we will give them over to Him. He has not promised delivery from every problem that we face, but He has promised that He cares (1 Pet. 5:7) and that He will deliver the faithful in the end (Heb. 2:14-15; Rev. 2:10). It is important to have this kind of faith, and it is just as important to express this kind of faith in prayer (Jas. 5:16).

### Shepherds

Sid Carruth  
Jeff Day  
Kenneth Helm  
Clark Lehtinen  
Tim Norman

### Deacons

Gary Barger  
Ryan Cowan  
Vince Grinnell  
Justin Hewlett  
Bill Hughes  
Russ Jones

### Preacher

Kevin Rhodes

### Sunday

Bible Study  
9:00 am

AM Worship  
10:00 am

PM Worship  
5:00 pm

### Wednesday

Ladies Class  
10:00 am

Bible Study  
7:00 pm

Cleburne,  
Texas

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# “Remember Me, My God”

Kevin W. Rhodes

Unity, whether in the brotherhood or the local congregation, remains an ever elusive goal. Whether in times of hardship and heartache or times of prosperity and promise, a variety of problems seem to rise to the surface to declare our deficiencies. In any given congregation, natural differences related to ethnic background, socio-economic status, or even tenure can create barriers to unity. However, even more often, small failures to consider one another, love one another, and give one another the benefit of the doubt regularly lead to major strife. This presents a challenge to the leadership regardless of the origin of the problem. Many good men have stepped forward to take on such unthankful tasks. The question one might ask is simple: why?

When Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to lead the effort to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, he came to govern a people in great disarray. They had returned from captivity, but they had failed to overcome chaos. As a result, despite the presence they maintained as a people as opposed to the world, they lacked the true cohesiveness that marks a unified nation. A famine had reduced many to poverty so much so that they had sold their children as slaves to their well-to-do brethren (Neh. 5:1-5). When Nehemiah learned this, he scolded the nobles and rulers for profiting from their brethren's distress rather than offering them assistance (Neh. 5:6-11). To their credit, the people repented and promised to restore the property taken from the impoverished (Neh. 5:12-13). However, Nehemiah did more than correct this problem; he also helped protectively, refusing to take a salary and goods from the people (Neh. 5:14-15) despite the provisions necessary for the upkeep of the government (Neh. 5:17-18), and instead of concen-

trating on improving his own situation, he gave all his attention to working on the wall (Neh. 5:16). He sacrificed opportunities for both wealth and power in order to help his brethren without any expectation of compensation. He did it for God (Neh. 5:19).

From the very beginning, the Lord's church has committed to unity and responding to help with one another's needs (Acts 2:42-47). When division first reared its head in a matter of taking care of widows, the leadership responded with an admission of the problem, swift correction, and a plan for prevention (Acts 6:1-7). When need arose in the brotherhood, leaders in unaffected areas stood up from a feeling of unity to help the brethren in Judea (Acts 11:28-29). Paul expressed the same sentiment spiritually to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 4:17). Unfortunately, we tend to think of these as grand programs instituted—corporate style—by unattached men signing checks. To the contrary, whether a matter that required care for physical needs or care for spiritual needs, whether it affected five hundred thousand Christians or fifty, whether the leaders were wealthy rulers or serving as slaves, they all shared the same outlook. They loved the Lord, the church, and individual Christians. They served not for power and control but to serve and to help.

Pulling people together from different backgrounds, varying abilities, and disparate interests remains a challenge for godly leadership. But one thing lies at its center. Godly leaders make sacrifices and serve because they love God, depend on God, and want to please God. Therefore, they share the motivation of Nehemiah when he said, “Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people” (Neh. 5:19).

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# News and Notes

## **Among our sick**

- Dorothy Baze is having a lot of problems with her back.
- Juanita Baxter's niece, Tammy, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Wayne Birchfield had back surgery Wednesday at Harris downtown.
- Emma Hackler will have tests on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Her surgery will be Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Nan Homan has not been feeling well.
- Charles Melton had a sonogram on his kidneys at Walls Hospital last Tuesday.
- Charlotte Moulder is having a Cochlear Implant on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Worth Surgical Center.
- Selena Simonton was released from the hospital on Monday.
- Tommy Thompson has been diagnosed with shingles.
- Jermie Bray, Vince Grinnell's nephew, is in Dallas Hospital in ICU with a head injury.

## *Sympathy*

Our sympathy is extended to Paul and Gayle Murphy in the passing of Gayle's uncle, Raymond Thormann. The funeral was Friday in Mineral Wells.

## **Please Note...**

- Learning to Lead for ladies and young girls will be at 10:00 AM Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Our next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be January 31<sup>st</sup>. We will have our morning worship services, lunch in the annex, and 1:00 PM afternoon service lead by the young men of the congregation.
- Sowing Seeds for Christ will begin for all children and women of all ages beginning Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. New for this year, we will have a baby class available for young moms. Registration deadline will be January 31<sup>st</sup>, so please register before then so we can provide enough materials for each child and woman who will be attending. More information and flyers are located in the foyer.

## **CENTURION OF SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE 2016 (NKJV)**

Matthew 26:39 And He went a little farther, fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Philippians 4:6 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

## Those who Serve

### Lords' Supper: 1/24

#### Front South

Russ Jones  
Gavin McGilvray  
Luke Norman

#### Front North

Doug Jones  
Clark Lehtinen  
Joseph McPherson

#### Back South

Dennis Lane  
Jackie Mayden  
Tim Norman

#### Back North

Doug Kilcrease  
Michael Mora  
Larry McWilliams

### Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Vince Grinnell

Doug Jones

Sunday PM

Gary Barger

Bill Cashion

Wednesday PM

Wesley Hackler

### Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Jeff Day

Wednesday

Jeff Day

### Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Dale Ash

Sunday PM

Dale Ash

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

### Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

James Hunt

### Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Wayne Gentry

### Wed. PM Devotional (1/27)

Vince Grinnell



### Sermons for Sunday

AM

Wisdom Speaks Volumes  
Proverbs 1:20-33

PM

Faith Means Something  
Gen. 21:1-21

#### Calendar of Events



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- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1/31 | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday - Lunch in the Annex |
| 2/6  | Sowing the Seed (9:30 am)                   |
| 2/6  | Windmill Bible Lessons & Singing            |
| 2/19 | 28 <sup>th</sup> Annual Shenandoah Lectures |
| 2/28 | Gospel Meeting with B. J. Clarke            |



### Our Records

Bible Class .....	129
AM Worship.....	194
PM Worship .....	148
Wednesday Bible Class .....	131
Contribution .....	\$7,626

### Granbury Street Church of Christ

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