

## **Men And Women Working Together To Enlarge God's Kingdom**

By Herbert Ruff

For the Christian it must be clear what his or her duties are. After all being a Christian is not a sometime affair. The requirements of the Christian, goes on throughout the life span of the Christian- with no time off. For the competitor doesn't take any time off and neither can the Christian. The bible says in **1 Peter 5:8** "**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.**"

With such formidable competition, it is to the Christian's advantage to add to the ranks to meet this challenge. You see when two or more come together to do God's work, two things happen- **1** (the most important) God is in the midst ready to fight your battle,

**Matt: 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name. There am I in the midst of them.**

Now the devil doesn't like it when Christians work together. He doesn't want God around, prefers that you fight alone, that you not go to church or bible study, and if you do, he wants you to begin and end your Christian experience at the church door- more than likely he comes to church with you just to keep tabs on you. You see he knows his fate already and works hard to not be alone when judgment comes.

So when you fashion your life around Christian behavior praying, studying God's word, helping the sick, restoring a sister or brother to Christ, giving to the down hearted, and going to church in such a way that it influences others to do the same, his job gets harder. He will distract you by any means that he can.

Perhaps the biggest impact that a Christian man and woman can have is in the home. When the kids see you living the Christian life it encourages them to also accept God- the daughter most likely influenced by mother and son by daddy. So when daddy decides to stay home the son doesn't feel that it is necessary for him to go to church or any Christian activities- after all mama and sister will take care of that aspect of life and what they do will also apply for father and son. But when both parents are participating in the works of God (along with all the kids) there is a better chance that heaven will be home for those that you love. Just think what it will be like if you make it and no one else in the family did? Would you be satisfied? Or do you go to great lengths to expose others to God through His word while there is time to make a difference.

The second thing that happens (when Christians come together) is you gain a better understanding of God by knowing His word, because it is by knowing God's word that you can encourage others to accept God and you can stand-alone against the temptations of the devil. Being a part of the group helps to improve your understanding of what Christians can and must do. Each of us comes with different talents, different abilities to reason and to understand, and a different perspective on life. So having a discussion on God's word in a group is an exchange that will lead to an increase in the knowledge of God for all.

Read what the impact of God's word is in **Hebrews 4:12** **"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."**

God's word is so powerful and quick to influence that when compared to the cutting ability of a two-edge sword it will impact you in whatever direction you take in life. It will convict you when you do wrong yet inspire you to always do right. God's word is so powerful that its impact is deep within your being. As one songwriter puts it "it's like fire in my bones." God's word is so powerful that it can separate soul from spirit. Is not soul and spirit the same? Well some say that spirit is the animating force within the living being while soul is the emotional and spiritual nature of the living being that separates from the body at death. Finally, God's word is so powerful that it can separate your professing to have faith and to do what's right from your real believe or intent.

In summary this means that you cannot stay home from Sunday school, Bible Study, or Church Service. You go to all to increase your knowledge of God's word. And you cannot go to them and not be in attendance or participate- wide awake while the music is playing and bible verses are being read but sleep when the Pastor speaks and when the bible verses are being discussed.

You know a lot of people can quote the bible verbatim and know scripture text, but live a completely different life. God warns us in his word about the false teachers and those who readily practice sin. Therefore, we must study the word so that we won't be fooled or torn between what God desires and what man want.

So I say, the best way to bring others into God's Kingdom is to learn well God's word and act it out. But I must warn you God cannot be deceived. Just read the words of Jeremiah the prophet in **Jeremiah 17:9-10** **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."**

Wouldn't you know it- your own heart giving you a way? Usually, when you think of the heart you think of love and compassion, not deceit and wickedness. So it's hard to believe that your heart will expose your true feelings and intentions. And who can know it- "I the Lord search the heart"?

## **The Year In Review**

**Two Years With Pastor Jordan** - Almost two years have passed since Reverend Lars Jordan became the Pastor at New Bethel Baptist Church. And the word is out that God inspired this choice by New Bethel's congregation. For Pastor Jordan has withstood the pressures of New Bethel's membership and the duties as one of God's shepherds and presented himself as a humble man dedicated to preaching God's word with a tireless work ethic in meeting the demands of the church. God is blessing you Pastor Jordan and New Bethel Baptist Church!

**The Church Is Growing** - Since Reverend Jordan's arrival, a number of new members have been added to our church roster, although attendance dropped due to a fire in our sanctuary, it is expected to be back to normal once work is completed in restoring the sanctuary. In addition, we have a number of visitors who have come back several times but have not joined the church- another sign that the church is growing.

**Bible Study One Of The Best** - Some, who came to bible study at New Bethel, have commented on how things are done and the participation of the membership. All like the idea of studying the bible starting in Genesis and going to Revelation. One striking comment that has been made by several New Bethel members and also by periodic visitors from other churches is the participation of the attendance in the discussion and the number of questions being asked. We must take this as a genuine desire of others to know God and his word. This is also an indicator that bible study at New Bethel is effective in getting others to know God.

**Going On The Internet** - Thanks to the efforts of brother Willie DeJarnette and sister Keisha Jordan New Bethel Baptist Church is on the Internet. In fact, the newsletter is there, the capability to chat and ask questions, make comments, links to other sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc), and listen to the sermons of pastor Jordan. So take the opportunity to visit at [www.new-bethel-baptist-church.org](http://www.new-bethel-baptist-church.org).

**Youth Involvement** - The youth at New Bethel are very enthusiastic in their participation in all programs and events that take place at the church. As a church we are blessed to have youth who love to sing, dance, and be a part of devotion and bible study. Some of the younger ones are eager to read a scripture, pray, or sing in the youth choir. Congratulations New Bethel's youth!

## BIBLE TRIVIA

Time to see how well you did. If you took the time to at least research the bible for answers to the following questions than you did good. But if did the research and got all answers right than you did super good.

1. What empire's taxation led to Jesus being born in Bethlehem? **Answer: Rome**
2. What did hungry Esau give up to Jacob in exchange for food? **Answer: His Birthright**
3. Who bribed the guards at Jesus' tomb to say that the disciples had stolen the body? **Answer: The Chief Priest**
4. What king tricked the followers of Baal by gathering them in Baal's temple and then slaughtering them? **Answer: Jehu**
5. What god's priests danced around the altar while they cut themselves with knives and daggers? **Answer: Baal's**
6. Who had a vision of the Lord standing beside the altar? **Answer: Amos**
7. Who built an altar and called it "The Lord is my banner"? **Answer: Moses**
8. Who advised young Christians to stop thinking like children? **Answer: Paul**
9. Who gave a coat to her son when she offered the annual sacrifice? **Answer: Hannah**
10. What saintly king of Judah was crippled with a foot disease in his old age? **Answer: Asa**
11. What king had the apostle James executed with sword and had Peter arrested? **Answer: Herod**
12. What was the tent that was made according to God's specifications? **Answer: Tabernacle**
13. What Bible character's name means, "honored of God"? **Answer: Timothy**
14. What prophetess led the woman of Israel in a victory dance? **Answer: Miriam**
15. What prophet ran after another prophet to accept the appointment as his successor? **Answer : Elisha**

**Thought For The Month** – The Christian does not fear the challenges of life.

Luke 12:4-7 (NKJV)–And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell: yes, I say to you fear Him!