



North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene Messenger

November, 2019, Volume 10, Issue 7

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NASB)

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

Our church has been so blessed with faithful, obedient and generous people, who have recognized the church as a God-given means for reaching out into the world with their finances. Besides being instructed by GOD to give our tithe in obedience to His command, He also expects that we will give from our abundance – and our congregation takes that direction from Him seriously. We have been able to bless many lives, ministries and needs through the faithfulness of our church folk.

We are privileged to live in a nation that has been blessed with great abundance. But notice in the apostle Paul's words above, he did not tell the rich not to enjoy their wealth – just not to place their confidence and hope in it. In fact, he points out that GOD gives us what He does so that we might enjoy it. Clearly, though, the message Paul offers for the wealthy to “do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,” is one we all must take seriously.

Although we seem to be constantly confronted by needs in this world, we are entering into that time of the year when it seems we are particularly bombarded on every front with opportunities to give financially. From the bell ringers in front of every major store, to pleas received in the mail daily, to commercials, ads, billboards, phone calls, and every avenue possible – we are constantly reminded that we live in a world where not everyone is as blessed as we may be.

We know GOD expects everyone to be a giver – no matter their level of wealth or poverty. Of course, when a person is especially blessed financially more than others,

GOD expects that person to do more than others because they have more. Paul tells Timothy in this scripture to be “rich in good works,” and most of us desire to do just that. But how do we decide where to give and when? It isn't always easy to determine the answer to that question. A few principles might go a long way to helping answer it, though.

First and foremost, GOD's people are commanded to tithe. So, giving to any need or cause, person or ministry should never be done as a replacement or instead of that portion of our income which is already dedicated to the Lord. The Word of GOD tells us our tithe is the first 10% of our income, and that portion belongs to Him. We are commanded to bring all of it into the “storehouse” or church. So, principle number one would be to never give as a substitute for GOD's portion.

Next, ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, but also ask Him to help you to be a generous giver. It is His desire that we be givers. But He would not want us to be foolish in our generosity.

Next, let your giving be filled with joy. Remember,

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NASB)

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

If you have ever received a gift from someone with a scowl on their face or in a way that appeared to have “strings attached,” you know how important it is to be joyful in your giving.

GOD knows what we have and doesn't expect us to give what we have not been given. Giving is also a very personal matter between GOD and the giver. We sow every day from our hearts, by our actions into the world, and what we sow will reap a harvest and what Paul refers to as a “good foundation for the future.” Therefore, sow generously, with gratitude and joy. We are blessed to be a blessing. May your Thanksgiving season be filled with blessings.

Pastor Becky

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2 – Ida Chaplow
Tom Moore | 18 – Carl Logan |
| 4 – Phyllis Obney | 21 – Pastor Van |
| 5 – Charlie & June Franklin | 25 – Carolyn Method
Jamie Lorenson |
| 9 – Janet Clifton | 26 – Butch & Janet Heath
Keith Wills |
| 12 – Teresa Boye
Linda Fregeau | 27 – Mitchell Irvin |
| 15 – Janice O'Lynn
Nick Kiser | 28 – Dave & Linda Fregeau |
| 16 – Sherry Chapman
Harry Friedman
Michael Romano | 30 – Doretta Parker |



Calendar

- 2 – District Prayer Summit at LPC3
- 3 – Harvest Home Begins
- 8-10 – District TNT
- 13 – Food Distribution
- 14 – Church Board Meeting
- 17 – Samaritan's Purse Boxes Deadline
- 18 – 22 – District Ministers & Mates
Retreat
- 25 – Harvest Home Food Distribution
- 27 – No Wednesday Night Fellowship
or Discipleship Study
- 28 – THANKSGIVING DAY
- 30 – Hanging of the Greens
- Dec. 1 – The Kramers in Concert

Prayer Needs:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Phoebe Barr | Tom Blakeman | Laurel Chapman | Ben Bergman |
| Ida Chaplow | Ida Chaplow | Janice O'Lynn | Susie & Jamie Lorenson |
| Peggy & Steve Cecil | Judi Predko's family | Ray Holman | Mark & Lisa Koch |
| Ryan Woodby | Ernie Rybold | Paul Jones | Betty Predko |
| Sheryl Colie & Family | Matthew Morgan | Orion Predko | Paul & Grace Boling |
| Ardyth Eldridge | Eileen Massett | Joseph Groves | Lorraine Jungles |
| Mark & Kim Barr | Louis Perez | Cody Church | Dave Peck |
| Kenny & Gail Goodman | Phyllis Obney | Regina Williams | Allice Daugherty |
| Children & Teen Depts. | Eileen Jennings | Kitty Baxter | Dorothy Chapaman |
| Patrick Lindsey | Marlene Ryan | A Youth Pastor | Unsaved Loved Ones |
| Our missionaries | The Nation of Israel | Our Church Leaders | |



Harvest Home

Beginning Sunday, November 3, we will once again be gathering food to present as an offering of thanksgiving for the way GOD has blessed and provided for us throughout the year. We will be gathering names for families in order to distribute the bounty we will gather to those who find themselves in need.

If you know of a family in need, please give their contact information to Pastor Van or Pastor Becky. And begin gathering your donations and bringing them to the altar with a prayer of thankfulness and a spirit of gratitude and praise.

We need volunteers to help with the distribution of food on Wednesday, November 13, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, to help with a variety of tasks. Please spread the word to anyone you think could benefit from this special outreach and join us as we partner to help those in need. And once again, thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in North Fort Myers.

Don't forget to assemble your Samaritan's Purse boxes and bring them in by Sunday, November 17.





**SOUTHERN FLORIDA
DISTRICT
PRAYER SUMMIT 2019**

**Saturday, November 2
9:30 – Noon
Lake Placid Camp & Conference
Center**

We have much for which to pray these days. Our nation, our government leaders, the global mission of the church, those who have experienced devastation by natural disasters, those who need a healing touch, our churches, pastors and families, and the list goes on. If you are able to attend, we are delighted to invite you to join with others of the district family in this very special time together on November 2. We believe God hears and answers our prayers and, as we pray, we too are changed through His Spirit. Let's unite in prayer and believe that God will answer!

WITH *God*
all things are
POSSIBLE

MATTHEW 19:26

Hanging of the Greens 2019

Saturday, November 30

9 – Noon

We need every able-bodied person possible to help “deck the halls” for the coming Advent Season.

Please sign up and get ready for a morning full of fun, work, creativity, and laughter –

then join us for lunch, after we decorate the church together.



**The Kramers
in Concert**

Sunday, December 1 – 10:45 A.M.

in our morning worship service

A great opportunity to invite all your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers to join us for a wonderful morning filled with music and worship.



FAITH

*I care not today what the morrow may bring,
If shadow or sunshine or rain,
The Lord I know ruleth o'er everything,
And all of my worries are vain.
Living by faith in Jesus above,
Trusting, confiding in His great love;
Safe from all harm in His sheltering arm,
I'm living by faith and feel no alarm. Though tempests
may blow and the storm clouds arise,
Obscuring the brightness of life,
I'm never alarmed at the overcast skies—
The Master looks on at the strife.*

I grew up on the hymns of the church. This is one that I remember to this day. I don't need a hymnal; I've sung it so many times, I know the words by heart.

In my work through the years as a minister, I run across a whole lot of people who call themselves Christian who seem to still have very little faith. Oh, they love the Lord and come to church, and tithe, and enjoy being around the people of God. But I hear words like "I can't because I have always been scared of doing that." Or, "What if..." **Oswald Chambers wrote:** Faith in active opposition to common sense is mistaken for enthusiasm and narrow-mindedness, and common sense in opposition to faith demonstrates a mistaken reliance on reason as the basis for truth. The life of faith brings the two of these into the proper relationship. Common sense and faith are as different from each other as the natural life is from the spiritual, and as impulsiveness is from inspiration. Nothing that Jesus Christ ever said is common sense, but is revelation sense, and is complete, whereas common sense falls short. Yet faith must be tested and tried before it becomes real in your life. "*We know that all things work together for good...*" (Romans 8:28) so that no matter what happens, the transforming power of God's providence transforms perfect faith into reality. Faith always works in a personal way, because the purpose of God is to see that perfect faith is made real in His children. For every detail of common sense in life, there is a truth God has revealed by which we can prove in our practical experience what we believe God to be. Faith is a

tremendously active principle that always puts Jesus Christ first. The life of faith says, "Lord, You have said it, it appears to be irrational, but I'm going to step out boldly, trusting in Your Word" (for example, see Matthew 6:33). Turning intellectual faith into our personal possession is *always* a fight, not just sometimes. God brings us into particular circumstances to educate our faith, because the nature of faith is to make the object of our faith very real to us. Until we know Jesus, God is merely a concept, and we can't have faith in Him. But once we hear Jesus say, "*He who has seen Me has seen the Father*" (John 14:9) we immediately have something that is real, and our faith is limitless. Faith is the entire person in the right relationship with God through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Faith never wells up in us because it makes sense. It wells up in us because God makes sense. I personally have proven Him over and over so many times in my life that I can not count the times He has brought me through. I am sure this is true for you as well. If it is true, why do we worry, fear, or hesitate when we serve the one who is in charge of our lives? Read what verse three says:

*I know that He safely will carry me through,
No matter what evils betide;
Why should I then care though the tempest may blow,
If Jesus walks close to my side.*

If Jesus is walking close by our side what do we have to fear?

Luke 12:6-7(NASB) *Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.*

Stop letting the enemy of your soul cause you to be fearful. You are His most precious creation. Trust in Him and He will see you through.

Verse four:

*Our Lord will return for His loved ones someday,
Our troubles will then all be o'er;
The Master so gently will lead us away,
Beyond that blest heavenly shore.*

I'm living by faith and feel no alarm. Blessings,
Pastor Van

North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene

6781 Bayshore Road

North Fort Myers, Florida 33917

239-567-0150

Website: nfmnazarene.com

Facebook: N Fort Myers Naz

Senior Pastor: Van Garner