

“Make It Plain” Newsletter



"Character is the springboard from which all we do and say in life comes."

Welcome!

Welcome to our Living Word Church Newsletter entitled "Make It Plain". The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge and insight for God's people. It also promotes spiritual growth by addressing a wide variety of Christian topics. We hope and pray that this newsletter will bless you spiritually.

Character

Character is the springboard from which all we do and say in life comes. There is a direct relationship between Character and action. What we do will determine our character and our character will determine our actions. Developing biblical character in the face of our daily lives and even in adversity is essential and the proof that we have a growing relationship with Christ. Character is not just having integrity or honesty or doing the right thing. It is a living growing relationship in Christ which produces the fruit of the Spirit. Real, authentic Christian Character is formed when we surrender to Christ. When we surrender our selfish will to God's divine will so that His perfect will can be done in our lives. Building and developing character is not something that we just learn from a book or hear from a sermon. It does not come upon us in the night or sneak upon us in the day. It does not come

automatically or suddenly. It is a process that comes from a deepening relationship with Christ.

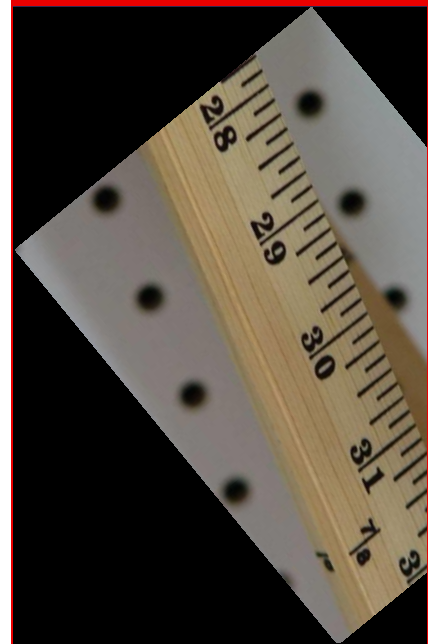


Character is fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit empowering us so that we can model the character of Christ. Character is God's love in us and through us. Character is the yardstick that is used to measure one's maturity in Christ. Biblical Character will touch a person with the life of Christ. God the Father is interested in conforming all Believers into the character of Christ. Romans 8:29.

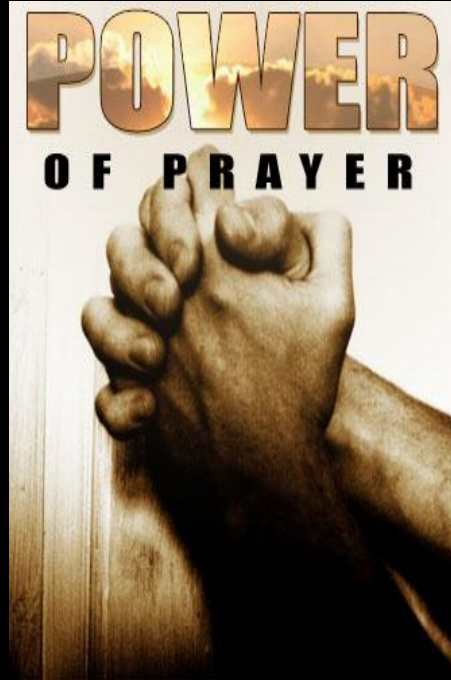
Upcoming special events for Living Word

- In February, we will be moving into our new location!
- Deacon Riley's trial sermon is on February 21, 2010.
- Deacon Jackson's trial sermon is on the February 28, 2010.
- March 10th -12th & 28th Living Word will be celebrating its' 3rd Pastoral Anniversary

"Character is the yardstick that is used to measure one's maturity in Christ."



Pray Until You Get It Right



"The only way to get the power of God operating in our lives is through prayer." -- "The solution to every human weakness is the power of prayer."

If one looks at the Body of Christ it is clear that prayer is the number one need for the people of God. Now this statement is simplistic in nature but profound in importance. I make this statement based on observation not speculation. Now if we are honest we will have to admit that most Christians know the basic truths of proper Christian behavior. Most Christians have heard, seen, or read that we should love God, love one another, forgive one another, pray, study the Bible, pay our tithes etc. We have read or heard these things over and over again, yet we do not do them. Why? Because we do not have the power to do them. Now if one rightly defines power-power is nothing more but the ability to achieve purpose. It is the ability to make happen what needs to happen. So we do not do the things that we ought to do because we do not have the power to do them. Also, we do not have the power to do them because we do not pray as we should. The only way to get the power of God operating in our lives is through prayer. There is no other way to obtain this power. Let me give you some basic illustrations that will provide us with some insight into this subject. Why do people who have a real problem using profanity vow to stop cursing but yet find themselves unable to stop? Because they are lacking power. Why do people who desire to be on time for basic appointments find themselves constantly being late? Because they are lacking in power. Why do

people who desire to stop smoking find themselves unable to stop? Because they are lacking in power. And we are lacking in power because we are lacking in the area of prayer. In order for us to get delivered from habits and addictions and get healed and to truly have discipline, stability and power in our lives, we must pray. Prayer will empower us to do what we could never do with our own ability. Prayer will give us the ability to say NO to sin and YES to God's will. Prayer will bring the power, anointing, wisdom and peace of the LORD in our lives. The only way to obtain power is to get it from the power source and that source is the JESUS. Reading about power will not give you power. Hearing about power will not give you power. Wishing about power will not give you power. The only way to obtain this power is to stay in the presence of GOD through prayer. We know in what areas of life we struggle. We know where we are weak. The solution to every human weakness is the power of prayer. So if you are a liar, pray until you get it right. If you are caught up in fornication, pray until you get it right. If you have a bad temper or a sarcastic tongue or a lazy disposition or a lazy spirit or any other issue, the solution is PRAY UNTIL YOU GET IT RIGHT.

Must Christians Attend Church?

Must Christians Attend Church? First the Christian life is to be lived within the context of the family of faith. Ephesians 3:4-15 and Acts 2. The Bible does not teach that we should be "Lone Ranger" Christians. Hebrews 10:25 says in substance, "Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing..." Furthermore, true biblical spiritual growth is impossible apart from membership in a healthy well-balanced Church. It is in the Church that we are taught the Word of God and receive communion in remembering what Christ has done for us. It is very interesting that we expect God to visit our house and provide for us, protect our children and us, and to establish peace and unity in our house, yet we do not want to go to HIS house. Why should God operate and bless our home when we do not want to go to HIS? Most Churches require that its members attend Church 3 times a week. Most Christians will complain that this is too much. Yet those very same Christians want God to be in their house everyday healing them, protecting them, providing for them etc.

WHAT ARROGANCE AND FOOLISHNESS. Why do we struggle to come to Church on a consistent basis when God is so good to us? Finally, it is in the Church that we enter into worship, experience fellowship, and are equipped with information on how to witness. Now Church membership does not save us. Walking into a Church does not make you a Christian any more than walking into a garage make you a car. We go to Church out of obedience and to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We also go to church to encourage others as we ourselves are encouraged. We also come to Church in ordered to be trained and to do the work of the ministry. When a Christian stays out of Church this individual will often become weak, fleshly and unstable. A Christian out of fellowship is in isolation and this is not a good state to be in because this individual is vulnerable. **SO CHRISTIAN MUST ATTEND CHURCH.**



"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...."
~Hebrews 10:25

Don't All Religions Lead To God?

Don't All Religions Lead To God? My answer to that question is NO. Now I recognize that many who see my response to this question will accuse me of being narrow-minded and intolerant. That being said, my answer is still NO. Not all religions lead to God and it would be incorrect and illogical to maintain that they do. First, when you begin to examine world religions such as Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism, you will immediately recognize that they contradict one another. For example, Moses taught that there was only one God. Krishna believed in many gods and Buddha was agnostic. Logically they can all be wrong, but they can't all be right. Furthermore, the road of religion leads steeply uphill while the road of Christianity descends downward. To put it another way, religion is sinful fallen man trying to reach a perfect sinless holy God by his own efforts. Christianity on the other hand is a holy God reaching down to sinful man through the person and works of Jesus Christ. Religion is about trusting in one's efforts of works or goodness. Christianity is about recognizing that we can never be good or worthy enough to reach God so we trust in what Christ has done for us on the cross. Jesus taught that there was only one way to the Father. John 14:6 says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Jesus validated his claims by his own resurrection. The bottom line is simply this: You will either put your trust in what you can do or in what CHRIST HAS ALREADY DONE. The wise person will trust in Christ.



"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
~ John 14:6

Living Word Church of
Open Heart

4815-17 N Front St
Philadelphia, PA 19120

Phone:
(215) 474-2656

E-Mail:
info@lwcoh.org

Web Site:
www.lwcoh.org

**"We Do What Is
Right Because It Is
Right."**

How Can I Grow Spiritually?

Jesus said that those who repent and receive HIM as Savior and Lord are born again, not physically, but spiritually (John 3). With spiritual birth must come spiritual growth. Therefore, it is crucial to be intimately familiar with the principles of spiritual growth. First, no relationship can be strong without constant communication. This is true not only in human relationships but also in our relationship with God. If we are to nurture a strong relationship with the LORD - WE MUST BE IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH HIM. The way we do this is through prayer. We must also spend a great deal of time in the WORD OF GOD. The Bible forms the foundation of an effective prayer life and other aspects of Christian living. While prayer is our primary way of communicating with God, the Bible is God's primary way of communicating with us. Getting into the Word of God and getting that Word in us must be a major priority in our lives. Having fellowship with other Christians also plays an important role in our growth. Therefore, it is important to understand that God uses other people to help us in the growth process.



**Living Word Church of Open
Heart's Foundational Scripture:**

***"But be ye doers of the word,
and not hearers only, deceiving
your own selves."***

~ James 1:22



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