

# "Make It Plain" Newsletter

*"One of the most essential elements of being a Christian is developing a relationship with God."*

*"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"  
Amos 3:3*

Upcoming special events for Living Word

- Aug 20<sup>th</sup> – Living Word Family Picnic
- Oct 16<sup>th</sup> – Living Word Church's Annual Unity Day Service!

## 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.

## Do We Love God?

Today I would like to challenge you to do a self-inventory, to evaluate your relationship with God, to see if you truly love Him. There are many reasons why people choose to accept and follow Christ. Some people follow Christ because they read of God's judgment in the Old Testament, some people heard of how God blessed someone financially, some people tried every other religion and finally gave Christianity a try and etc... Whatever the reason, I would like to challenge you to examine your relationship with God to see if you truly love Him. One of the most essential elements of being a Christian is developing a relationship with God. We must move from creation to relationship. God created us but it is not until we accept Jesus Christ that we have a relationship with God. Furthermore, it is impossible to have a relationship with God without prayer. Prayer is simply a means of communicating with God. Naturally, you cannot have a relationship with someone without communicating with them; this applies also in the spiritual, we need to pray so that we can talk to Him and He then responds.

As the relationship strengthens with God, so does the love that we have for God strengthen. Society describes love as an emotion that is usually sensual in nature, but love is so much more. The Bible shows us different types of love, eros/sensual, philia/brotherly, storge /family love and agape/unconditional love. Agape is the type that we will focus on in this article. As Christians, we are to have the love of God working with and through us. God has agape love; agape love is a non-partial, sacrificial love probably best exemplified by God's provision for our rebellion. John 3:16 says, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* This scripture shows an example of God's agape love for us, the gift of God's son as a provision for sin was given to all humans, regardless of who we are. Therefore, we should have the same agape love towards Him that He has towards us. Does your relationship show unconditional love unto God? Do we love God enough to obey what He is saying and has said? God is challenging us to draw closer to Him, to love Him because He first loved us.



***"Do we love God enough to obey what He is saying and has said?"***

***God is challenging us to draw closer to Him, to love Him because He first loved us."***

**Scriptural References: John 3:16**

## Eliminating the Loop Holes in Our Christian Walk

**"A loop hole is defined as a small gap or hole in a wall, especially one in a fortified wall."**



**"The nature of the loophole is to present itself harmless, to allow only a small amount in at a time, just enough to quench your desire while subtly causing you to fall. "**

The goal of a Christian is to be like Christ, to live life as Jesus did when He dwelt among the people on earth. That's why it is essential that we allow God to make us a new creature, with old things passed away and all things becoming new. (II Cor. 5:17) Once we become a new creature, we must eliminate all things that would cause us to return to our former man; we MUST eliminate ALL loop holes.

A loop hole is defined as a small gap or hole in a wall, especially one in a fortified wall. When we accepted and received our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we then became indwelt by the Holy Spirit. I John 4:4 says, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." The Holy Spirit's presence makes it impossible for a born again believer to be possessed by the devil, but we can still be influenced. So then, how are we subject to the enemy's influence? By allowing loopholes to remain in our lives.

The nature of the loophole is to present itself harmless, to allow only a small amount in at a time, just enough to quench your desire while subtly causing you to fall. For example, Johnny is a born again believer that battled with fornication in the past. Johnny has made a conscious decision to no longer fornicate, but Johnny listens to worldly music that talks about fornicating, Johnny watch movies and TV shows that show fornication, Johnny fellowships with

people that talk about fornicating, etc... All of the cited actions seemed harmless until one day Johnny finds himself fornicating and wonders; how did he get there? Johnny did not eliminate the loopholes. Although we're new creatures in Christ, we're still human and MUST monitor our influences. (Matt 6:22-23)

The bible tells us to watch our influences, to set our affections on things above. (Col 3:2) When we have our affections set on things above, we no longer look for the old things that our affections were set upon in the past, therefore we eliminate the loophole. Roman 6:13 says, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." We should not participate in any ungodly activities. Most importantly, we should always be alert and guard our hearts and minds, I Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

We must make calculated changes in our lives to minimize the opportunities for the enemy to show up in our lives. Ephesians 4:27 says, "Neither give place to the devil." Or neither give place to loop holes. Continue to fight the good fight, be encouraged to stay with God until the end.

**Scripture references: II Corinthians 5:17, I John 4:4, Matthew 6:22-23, Colossians 3:2, Romans 6:13, I Peter 5:8, Ephesians 4:27**

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

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

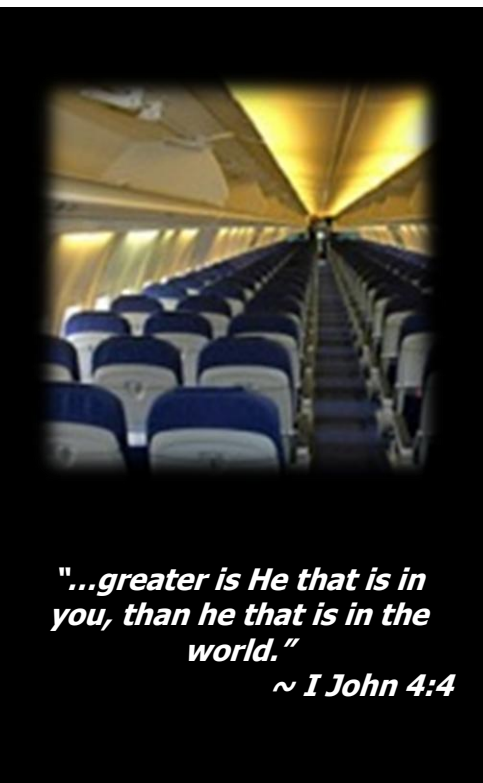
**~ James 1:22**

## Make It Plain Practical Tips: How to Get Off the Fence?

The fence is a divider between two places, which separates one place from another. It is a regulator to keep certain things in and to keep other things out. The saying "straddling the fence" means to appear to favor both sides of (an issue)...being indecisive or unsure of which decision to make. Desiring to have both what is on the inside of the fence and what is on the outside. In a spiritual sense, the fence acts as a divider between the things of the world and the things of God. We as believers, Christ-like ones, have to stop desiring what is on the other side of the fence. James 1:8 says, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." The Amplified Bible says, "...a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about **everything** [he thinks, feels, decides]." God's will for our lives cannot be accomplished until we GET OFF THE FENCE.

To get off the fence and stay off, we must:

1. Choose a side
  - ❖ We must "choose you this day whom ye will serve ..." We have to decide that we want to be on the inside of the fence, inside of the will of God. (Joshua 24:15)
2. Be committed to the side that you chose. "...with the mind I myself serve the law of God..." (Romans 7:25)
  - ❖ When we make a commitment to God, He will help us fulfill the commitment through the power of the Holy Spirit. "...am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." (II Timothy 1:12)
3. Don't think the grass is greener on the other side
  - ❖ We have to stop holding on to or desiring those habits, hobbies, addictions, activities and relationships that do not agree with the expressed will of God.
  - ❖ We cannot allow the past to interfere with our relationship with God. We have to keep in our minds that NOTHING (no person, place or thing) is greater than our relationship with God
4. Set Godly guidelines to keep you on the inside of the fence
  - ❖ We have to identify what we will do and what we will not do
  - ❖ Our standard has to be based on God's Word
  - ❖ Once the standard is set, we cannot compromise our set standard because compromise leads to sin



5. Don't give into pressure to get you back on the fence
  - ❖ Greater is the pressure that lives on the inside of us than the pressure that is in the world. I John 4:4 says, "...greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." It's like an airplane, the pressure on the inside of the cabin is greater than the pressure that is in the sky to ensure that we are not crushed. God lives in us to make sure that we are not crushed by the pressures in the world.
6. Learn why you are on the inside of the fence
  - ❖ Strengthening our prayer lives will enhance communication between us and God. It is through prayer that God can speak to us about why He wants us on the inside of the fence, God will give us HIS purpose for our lives.
  - ❖ Reading the word of God will help us to understand the will of God for our lives.
7. Fellowship with those who are on the inside of the fence
  - ❖ Now that we have stopped holding on to our old habits, hobbies addictions activities and relationships, we need to identify those things that we can do.
  - ❖ It is important that we fellowship with like-minded people to help us strengthen the commitment that we made to remain on the inside of the fence. Acts 2:42 says, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:44 says, "And all that believed were together, and had all things common."

## A Tribute to Dr. Walter L. Swinson: "Pray Until You Get It Right!"

Living Word Church of  
Open Heart

4815-17 N Front St  
Philadelphia, PA 19120

Phone:  
(215) 474-2656

E-Mail:  
[info@lwcoh.org](mailto:info@lwcoh.org)

Web Site:  
[www.lwcoh.org](http://www.lwcoh.org)

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

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.

*Scripture References: Daniel 3, 1 Corinthians 2:9*



Living Word Church of Open Heart  
4815-17 N Front St  
Philadelphia, PA 19120

