

# Living Word Church of God

## Keeping The Peace – Sunday, August 28, 2011

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In our pre-service prayer time, a strong prophetic word was given: “When someone asks how you are doing, you are to answer, ‘I am surrounded by miracles; God is doing miracles all around me.’ It is true, and if you say it, you will see the manifestation of it.” This theme surfaced again and again throughout the morning.

At the end of praise and worship we had another word of exhortation about encouraging one another and ourselves with God’s word, building one another up, saying what God says. We should be calling each other with encouragement, and throughout the course of the day we need to be saying what the Word says about our life.

### **We need to realize that these things will not be easy.**

Luke 9:57-62 Jesus has three encounters with would-be disciples.

The first comes to Jesus say, “Lord, I will follow you wherever you go!”

Jesus’ answer is, basically, “Have no illusions; it will be hard. Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”

Jesus invites the second to follow Him; the response is, “First, Lord, let me bury my father.”

Jesus’ answer is, “Let the dead bury the dead; you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God.” The essence of Jesus’ answer is that you can’t put this off. You need to start now.

The third says he’ll follow Jesus, but says, “First, let me go say goodbye to my family.”

Jesus’ answer is “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” In other words, it won’t be on your terms.

So as we consider how we are going to encourage ourselves and others in the faith, and if we are committing to speak words of faith (like, “I am surrounded by miracles”) we need to know up front:

1. It won’t be easy;
2. We can’t put it off – we need to start now;
3. It won’t be on our terms, it must be on Jesus’ terms.

It won’t be easy, because as soon as the confident feeling we have in church passes, we have to deal with the realities of our daily life. When the boss is in your face saying you are the most hopeless case he has ever seen, you’ve got to find a way to master your emotions and say what

God says – both about yourself and your boss. It won't be easy. You can't afford to take time to respond the way you always have (and want to now) – you need to start NOW. And it can't be on your terms – “God, let me just throw a little pity party and then go back to speaking blessing.” It's on HIS terms – “Bless those who curse you, do good to those who spitefully use you.” It may be Sunday, but Monday's coming.

### **It is time we shut hell up!**

When faced with adversity, trouble, or discomfort, it becomes all too easy for us to speak hellish things. By hellish, I mean devilishly-inspired words of cursing. God says He meets all of our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians: 4:19) He says He gives seed to the sower (2 Corinthians 9:10) But when our bills seem to be coming faster than our pay checks, we might find ourselves saying, “If only my stingy employer would pay a decent wage; nobody can live on what he pays me!”

When we talk like that, we have given hell a voice. We have cursed our seed. Lord have mercy upon us and help us!

You can be too blessed to be stressed, or you can be too stressed to be blessed. The choice is yours, but you can only have one or the other. Blessing flows in the place of peace. Hold on to your peace. Speak peace.

Have no illusions; it will be hard! You can't put it off – you can't afford to put it off, so start NOW! It can't be on your terms, it must be on His terms.

### Psalm 138

Verse 1 “I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You.”

With my WHOLE heart, leaving nothing out, I will sing praises to God. I will do this before the gods. This world is full of “little ‘g’ gods”. There is only one God, but many gods. Some are actually demonic spirits; others are inanimate objects or ideas people devote themselves to. Anything we serve to the exclusion of the one true God has become a god in our life. Anything that exerts undue influence over you is trying to become a god in your life. An example is the boss who tells you that you'll have to work every Sunday so you can't go to church. Before all these influences and objects of our affection we are to sing praise to God! Even in the midst of challenges that lie to us about what God is doing in our lives, we are to declare God's good works! This is hard; we can't put it off; it's not on our terms.

Verse 2 “I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”

God has exalted His word above all His name. This is quite a phrase! His name is above every name that is named; and His name is big! His name is magnificent! His name is Jesus, which means “God Saves.” Salvation is His name, which incorporates all the wonderful promises of the New Covenant, and all the covenant names of God revealed in the Old Testament – Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness), Jehovah M'Kaddesh (The Lord Who Sanctifieth), Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Our Peace),

Jehovah Rapha (The Lord that Healeth Thee), and so on. But He has exalted (or magnified) His word above all His name! This means that God has staked His reputation on His ability to accomplish what He says. If He says it in His word, He means it, and His reputation is on the line to accomplish it. This is good reason for us to take courage, to grow in faith and confidence, and to worship and praise Him.

Verse 3 "In the day when I cried out, You answered me,  
*And made me bold with strength in my soul.*

Many cry out to God for help, but they don't receive it because they won't give God an opportunity to respond. They go from asking God to help them to telling God how to help them to complaining that God isn't helping them to trying to figure out how to do it on their own without so much as a breath in between. God may be trying to answer, but we are in broadcast mode and just won't receive an answer. What I mean is, we are so busy doing what we call praying that we miss out on what prayer really is about!

Shut up and listen! God will give you direction, but you must listen for it. Prayer is not getting into broadcast mode and talking at God non-stop. Prayer is to be a conversation with God in which we give Him opportunity to impart His truth into our hearts. When we get an answer from God, it produces peace that makes us bold and strengthens our souls!

Verses 4 – 5 All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD, When they hear the words of Your mouth. Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, For great *is* the glory of the LORD.

They won't praise God when they hear the words of OUR mouths; they will praise God when they hear the words of His mouth. The way they will hear His words is when we speak them. He wants us to give Him a voice in the earth. He wants us to speak what we hear Him speaking. He wants us to glorify the name of Jesus among the people around us. According to scripture, He confirmed the words spoken by the apostles with signs and wonders. They spoke His word and He confirmed it.

We should be singing His song every day. It's not easy. We can't put it off. It is HIS song.

We forget to sing our own song, the song we were created to sing. A friend is someone who sings your song back to you when you have forgotten how it goes.