

Big View Small Window

Monthly Newsletter



5 Things I'm Thankful For

A few of my favorite things on Thanksgiving Day:

- Traditional food (especially apple pie a la mode)
- Watch Miracle on 34th Street (original)
- Add Christmas decorations
- Visiting friends
- Online shopping

All year long!

Church Family

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My Future Husband

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Eternal Life

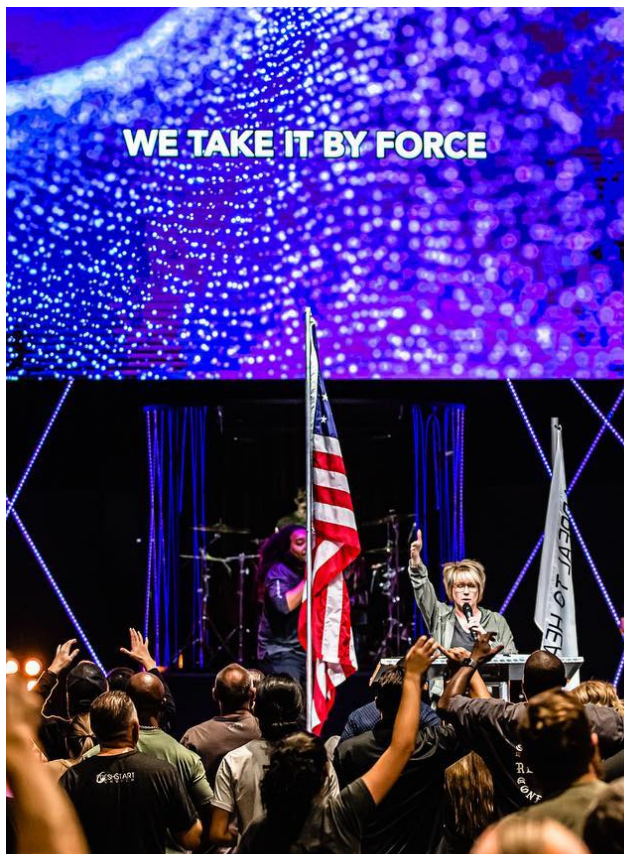
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Church Family

<https://www.freshstartaz.com/>

A couple of months after relocating to Peoria, Arizona a good friend randomly asked for my zip code and sent me a link to the Fresh Start Church homepage. I'd been praying about venturing back into a prophetic church experience and had no clue I was living less than eight miles away.

Prior to attending, I didn't watch any online services, but I did read the Assemblies of God's 16 Fundamental Truths (before visiting any church, I usually investigate their "statement of faith" and take note of how the ministry addresses cultural issues).



Photos sourced from FSC photo gallery

October 2019, I went to a Friday night revival service and I've been attending ever since. I formally joined as a member in March 2021.

FSC is everything you would expect (and then some more) from a full-blown, Pentecostal wildfire! I love to sing at the top of my lungs, dance, and shout. This atmosphere may not be for everybody, but the presence of God definitely is! Believers are meant to be free (2 Cor. 3:17).

FSC is not a perfect church (there's no such thing), but I'm confident it's where the Lord has called me to be for this season of my walk with Him.

I found New Life Community Church a couple of months before FSC. One day, as I was driving down Thunderbird Road, I saw the entrance sign and it reminded me of my church back in Kansas City with the same name. I attended a Saturday night service and the first person who spoke to me turned out to be a home ministry leader. This was the Lord's answer to my prayers for a solid, year-round, small group family.

I "dated" FSC and NLCC for a year. My final decision was to make FSC my home church and keep the former members of NLCC as my home group. I've attended Pentecostal and Nondenominational churches in the past, so I know what to anticipate in both places. I enjoy the sights and sounds of heaven at FSC and I enjoy the abundance of love and acceptance that's easily found in the small group gatherings.

I have a huge heart for the people of God, so it takes different camps to fill my cup! They both love the Lord and I discern He is with all those who are truly His. I'm blessed to know Jesus is in the midst of every fellowship (see Matt. 18:20)!

Although agape is not the Lord's only attribute, it is the most important and we should freely share Him with one another (John 13:35; 1 Cor. 13; 1 John 4:19).



FSC Pastors: Kim, Jessica & Paul

Small Group Leaders: Chris & Maria

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WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

To acquire wisdom is to love yourself; people who cherish understanding will prosper. - Proverbs 19:8

Seek wisdom over riches!

One of my favorite things about Proverbs is how King Solomon personifies wisdom. I love that wisdom is shown to be a gentle and loving nurturer as well as an encouraging and faithful helpmate (what every lady and wife should aspire to be!).

Of course, men (protectors, defenders, providers) have some measure of delicate characteristics, but it is through the female spirit God reveals Himself as tender and graceful (see 1 Pet. 3:4). I believe this is one understanding of what it means to be created in God's image (see Gen. 1:27).



Wisdom Verses

Proverbs 4

WISE MEN

Proverbs 31:10-31

WISE WOMEN

Proverbs 3

TRUSTING GOD

Proverbs 8-9

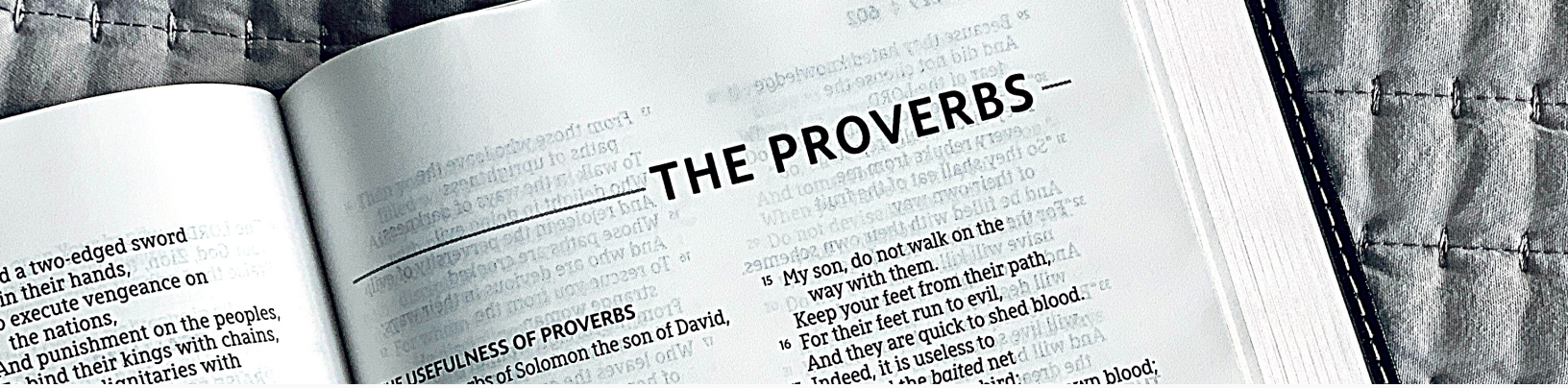
SUPREMACY
OF WISDOM

Proverbs 15

GIVING A
WISE RESPONSE

Proverbs 26

RECOGNIZING
FOOLISHNESS



My thoughts on knowledge and wisdom...

Knowledge is an awareness, realization, or consciousness about a certain thing. Knowledge is only useful when *applied* in a meaningful way. *Wisdom* is the *application* of knowledge. It is good to know things, it is better to use wisdom. When we listen and follow the advice of the Holy Spirit, we reap the benefits of a rewarding, prosperous, and stress-reduced life.

Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction (NKJV). We do well to couple this with verses like Ephesians 5:10, which says, "Carefully determine what pleases the Lord", and passages like James 1:22-25: "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror, for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. Be he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

We need both *knowledge* and *wisdom* to overcome wicked psychological schemes in this world. We should earnestly seek these things since God makes them available to everyone. We can have full confidence that He will give us good things when we ask according to His will (see James 1:5-8; 1 John 5:14-15).

God wants His creation to walk in light, knowledge, wisdom, and love. This kind of life will receive honor from mankind and a crown of glory when Jesus returns (see Proverbs 3:1-4 coupled with Colossians 3:1-4).

FREEDOM

There's no place like America!

OUR FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

- Declaration of Independence (signed in 1776)
- Constitution of the United States (signed in 1787)
- Bill of Rights (1-10 Amendments to the US Constitution)



For a brief period of time, I was employed on an air force base and it was one of my best workplace experiences. Everyday at 5pm, the national anthem blared over an outdated amplification system.

During the two-minute melody, proper etiquette is to stop walking, driving, and talking until the anthem concludes. You can stand hand-over-heart, solute, or at attention. It was a retired airmen who informed me it wasn't proper etiquette to sing along...so, I only did that in my car!

The America I know is vibrant and full of opportunities for people to have a prosperous and fulfilling life. This doesn't guarantee that everyone will be materially wealthy or always enjoy the company of good friends. It simply means everyone has access to an abundance of blessings when a nation acknowledges God as their Lord (see Ps. 33:12).

American history is under attack from many enemies. The most heinous is the Marxist psychological warfare found in critical race theory curriculums. This theory threatens to erase and rewrite our founding, and it accuses the United States of being systemically corrupt. Sadly, there are many in my generation who have fallen prey to this radical propaganda and they're willing to fight for ideas and ideals they've never known before (concepts that haven't worked anywhere they've been tried in the world).

It is maddening to watch the sins of America's past be resurrected under the guise of "social justice." While there may be unresolved societal tensions among certain groups, the narrative of racism and hatred is unacceptable and false. This "pot banging" is a distraction, a methodical takeover by a generation of violent revolutionaries and progressive socialists.



Thank you to all the men and women who have laid down their lives to defend freedom in America. Our military deserves the highest honor in every place of society. Their service makes all we do possible!

nation that forsakes the Lord. We cannot rely on a person in the Oval Office to rescue us. We also can't depend on corrupt lawmakers who willingly take bribes over siding with the Constitution and the Ten Commandments. Salvation only comes from the Lord.

We must pray for revival to hit this land! We need mass repentance where there's been gross sin and truth must prevail to dispel all lies. As we continue to wake up, speak up, and show up, patriotism will once again reside at the heart of the American way of life and we will be restored back to God.

MY FUTURE HUSBAND



The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the Lord.

-PROVERBS 18:22

Have you ever heard a woman say, "I can't wait to submit to a man's authority", or "I wish I could give up my free time and focus on someone else", or "I would love to have a man correct me when I've gone too far"? Ha! Yea, right!

In fact, I've never heard anyone express a desire for what marriage truly is: two selfish people spending their lives on learning to be self-less. Precious few couples pull it off successfully.

It may seem unthinking about to cease praying for something you want, but that's kind of what I have done. I'll explain why. I tapped into real contentment once I understood three things: 1) God already knew the person I was going marry;

My Top-10 Wants/Desires in a Husband:

1. LOVE GOD
2. LOVE ME BETTER
THAN I LOVE MYSELF
3. ENCOURAGER
4. VISIONARY
5. CONFIDENCE
6. DESIRE TO ADOPT
7. WISDOM
8. COMPASSION
9. INTEGRITY
10. *A BEST FRIEND*

2)I wasn't going to meet him any time soon; and
3)confidence in God's timing comes from learning to appreciate verses like Isaiah 55:8-9 and Proverbs 19:21.

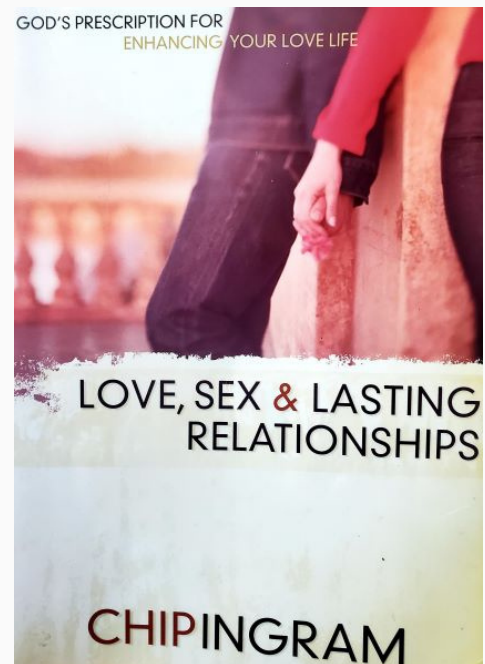
Wanting something just to want it, or because everyone else has it, is not the formula for answered prayer. Trust me in this. I've spent years pondering 1 Corinthians 7 - whether single or married, I recommend studying this passage of Scripture. These verses laid a foundation for healthy solitude and helped me overcome all the pining and whining for a mate. Singlehood is an excellent phase of life when done the right way.

About 10 years ago, I prayed, "Lord, show me the person I'm going to marry...I don't want to date while I wait." (Be careful what you pray for!!) To this day, I have not been on a legitimate - the man pays, opens doors, has good conversation, expects nothing in return - kind of date. I've gone through seasons where I admired so much of how Jesus and Paul accomplished great things as single people that I actually prayed for a supernatural gift of celibacy (I recommend all single people seek this out!).

In the English language "love" describes how we feel about coffee, our favorite song, and new shoes. The word is practically meaningless. In Greek, there are four words: *agape* (unconditional), *eros* (romance), *storge* (family), and *phileo* (brotherly/best friend). *Agape* is readily found among Christians; *eros* can wait; and if you heard my story, you would know *storge* simply wasn't meant to be.

Of all these, *phileo* is what I want most. I'm telling you, if I could be best friends with a guy and not develop *eros*, I would be 100% good with that. Think of *phileo* as intimacy (commitment, comfort, support) without sex. I'm not saying it's possible! - but if it was, I would be highly interested in making it work (I've probably been single too long, eh?).

I confess, I threw away my original top-10 list a long time ago; the list above only proves that I'm still looking for companionship (I think #3 and #10 shouldn't have to wait until marriage, but women are just...tough). Anyway, I'll be waiting...hopefully, I'm being transformed into a good wife and a better person in this process. I'm definitely content to remain single until *that day!*



I highly recommend this book whether you're single or married!

Eternal Life



He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven..."

- Matthew 13:11

Few Scriptures describe the physical attributes of heaven. Here's a snapshot of what we do know:

- God sits on a throne surrounded by angels who cry "Holy!" - Isaiah 6:1-2
- We have treasures waiting on us - Matthew 6:20
- There are many rooms (mansions) - John 14:2
- It is a life of goodness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit - Romans 14:17
- We will have new bodies - Rom. 8:23; 2 Cor. 5:1-10
- We won't marry or have children - Luke 20:34-36
- Heaven will come down to a new earth - Revelation 21:1-3
- No more tears, pains, or sorrows - Rev. 21:4 (HALLELUJAH!)
- It's a city guarded by angels and the foundational walls and gates are made of precious stones - Rev. 21:10-21
- The glory of God is our light and there is no darkness - Rev. 21:22-24, 22:5
- The gates are always open and no evil will be allowed to enter - Rev. 21:25-27
- God is there and we will forever be with Him - Rev. 22:3



"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven no the things of earth."

- Colossians 3:1-2

Entering heaven will be the best day of every born again believer's life! There is much hope and faith and great anticipation of a glorious dwelling with God! Anyone who puts their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation is welcome! I get excited when I think and talk about heaven!

I can't wait to see friends and loved ones who have passed away. I know some people believe they will see their pets again, but I'm not sure about cats (just kidding, cat lovers!). There will be feasting, but the food won't be anything like it is on earth. Ooh, and if there's a spot open in one of the many choirs, I'll take it!

I am also looking forward to my faith becoming my sight. What I mean is, I won't have to wait years to get answers to prayer. Struggles with doubt and certainty will finally cease. I will see the Lord face-to-face and never be lonely again! That's my idea of heaven! Oh, and you know there's more (1 Cor. 2:9)!!

And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: "Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever" (Rev. 5:13).

Thank You!

Thank you for reading the November newsletter!

I hope you enjoy the holiday season (don't play Christmas music too soon!). On Thanksgiving Day, I'm usually content to cook for myself and enjoy corny Hallmark movies. If I decide to break this little tradition and try something new, I'll blog about it!

"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father (Col. 3:16-17).

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So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever..

2 Corinthians 4:18

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