1Thess #12

We serve the only living and true God.

Please keep Branda in prayer, she had some medical news that was troubling recently.

Branda has been a loyal follower on PRB Ministry Face Book & my You tube channel as well.

Let us get back to 1Thessalonians chapter one.

We left off on verse 6;

1Thes 1:6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word during great affliction with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

[1Th 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/1/7/s_1112007) so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

All Bels should want to become an example. The example is representing the WORD – the mind of Christ.

[1Th 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/1/8/s_1112008) For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place *the news of* your faith toward God has gone out, so that we have no need to say anything.

The word of GOD was like a loud trumpet proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ across the landscape.

The Apostle Paul was happy that these new students…these new Christians were evangelizing on such a large scale.

He was saying, I don’t even have to exhaust myself evangelizing because you guys are helping me in this endeavor.

Every pastor who sees and feels the support of his congregation is lifted up. They are reassured that their calling in the plan of God is really make a difference.

 I can tell you that there are a handful of supporters of my ministry that keep my spirits high.

In fact, the South Dakota Bible Conference was very uplifting for not only me but those who attended and then those who followed the teaching online afterward.

/[1Th 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/1/9/s_1112009) For they themselves report about us as to the kind of reception we had with you, and how **you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God**,\

[1Th 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/1/10/s_1112010) and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is,* Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1Thess 1:9 *-“turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God*.” The key here is to serve.

A lot of people do not serve the Lord because they have not received the accurate Word of God. They believe showing up at a church building or putting their faith and effort into a big denomination equals accurate bible study.

/No Bel can serve the Lord without BD within the soul structure.

1Thes 1:9- *“to serve”* is a present, active infinitive and it means to keep on serving God. You can never serve anyone or anything with a lack of knowledge on what and how to serve. Real service takes purpose and effort coupled with accuracy of a certain skill or knowledge of a skill.\

The Bel must have strong concepts and understanding of Biblical truth and they cannot ignore prophecy. Even worse, have the wrong information on Biblical truth and prophecy.

Confusing evangelism can lead to a person never really come to truly believe upon TLJC.

/Effective evangelism comes from a knowledge of soteriology & eschatology. Truly knowing the person and work of Jesus Christ is paramount in evangelism. Basic, yet strong knowledge of the final judgement and the end time events is also needed for correct witnessing. Explaining the gospel is simple when the information is correct.\

Believers to effectively witness for Christ must anticipate the Rapture of the Church and correctly discern the Tribulation period.

Knowing the basic differences between the Great White Throne Judgement for all Unbels and fallen angels. And the Bema Seat Judgement of Christ for Bels after the Rapture should be clear.

Jump over to Philippians chapter two RF.

/1Thes 1:9 - *to serve a living and true God,*

The humanity of Christ died on the cross, the humanity of Christ rose three days later, He came out from the dead, He ascended into the presence of the Father and HIS humanity sat down at the right hand of the throne, and He comes out from heaven (humanity) in future.\

We must know that Jesus Christ was born into humanity, HE is our living GOD and the unique one of the universe.

/Luk 1:30 And **the angel said to her**, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 “And behold, **you will conceive in your womb** and give birth to a son, and **you shall name Him Jesus**.\

When Jesus Christ was born into humanity at that point the humanity of Christ remains forever.

/Isa 7:14 “Therefore the **Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son**, and she will **name Him Immanuel**.

The two root words together in the original Hebrew clearly state – God is with us, God among us.\

*ʿim (EMMA)-* meaning, among or alongside or with us.

*'ēl (ALE)-* means deity, GOD. The almighty one.

In Mat 1:23 it tells us- “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”

The living and true GOD is Jesus Christ.

/Phl 2:5 Have **this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,** 6 who, as He *already* **existed** (*hyparchō*)**in the form of God**, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

Christ always has been in the form of God with the implication that He still is.\

HOOP-ACK-O, is where we get the term HYPOSTATIC UNION from. This is a Greek present tense meaning was always and will always be GOD.

Jesus Christ was born into a human body and will remain God in human form forever.

/[Phl 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/2/7/s_1105007) but **emptied Himself** *(kenoo’) by* taking the form of a bond-servant and being **born in the likeness of men**.

KEEY-NO-OH, the doctrine of Kenosis points to the theology behind the Hypostatic Union. Jesus Christ laid aside HIS deity on purpose – HE did not give up or lose HIS deity, that is a false doctrine.\

[Phl 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/2/8/s_1105008) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.

HE humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the whole plan of God the Father. This means HE purposely allowed the humanity of HIS life to be put on full display.

[Phl 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/2/9/s_1105009) For this reason also Godhighly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

Because TLJC submitted completely to the plan of God the Father and the mission was a success, Jesus was able to sit on the heavenly throne in HIS humanity.

Phl 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

[Phl 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/2/11/s_1105011) and *that* every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is called the great Genuflex – where every knee will bow and tongue confess, probably points to two events.

The first is at the Rapture of the church where all Bels bow down to the Bema Seat Judgement of Christ. I believe another will happen at the end of the Tribulation when TLJC comes back in the 2nd Advent to wipe out the battle of Armageddon.

The fact is we serve a living GOD in Jesus Christ. He is the unique one of the universe.

*/“The fundamental truth that the eternal God cannot cease to be what He is … and any theory which supposes that God the Son should cease to be what He ever has been and ever will be, is error of the first magnitude”*

(Chafer Systematic Theology, vol. 1)\

Your faith is not a blind faith upon an unknown God up in the sky!

Blind faith is not real faith… not related to Christianity. We have a solid, flesh and blood target that is also the 2nd divine being, of the Triune God-head. Our faith was fulfilled by the person and work of TLJC.

Jesus Christ is the only member of the Trinity we physically can touch, because HE is 100% man as much as HE is 100% God.

Jesus never went rogue in HIS earthly ministry everything HE did was pre-ordained by God the Father in eternity past.

Jesus had to even use HIS perfect humanity to call forth the power of HIS deity.

/Jesus Christ (humanity) remained filled with the power of the HS, HIS whole life. He relied upon the WORD (deity) and the Holy Spirit to perform miracles and healings. He gave that power to the Apostles and certain disciples to establish the early church. All Bels have access to this divine power. Yet the supernatural depth, of this power is rarely tapped into because most Bels do not have spiritual capacity for this level of power.\

Think about this – how many Bels do you know, who would be able to heal the sick, walk on water or turn water into wine and not become arrogant.

Or even collapse in shock after they performed these miracles.

The fact is GOD wants us to gain the highest levels of spiritual maturity so that our temporal walk gets closer and closer to that of Jesus Christ.

 REPEAT

/Men like Moses, Aaron, and many of the prophets performed miracles because they were completely reliant upon GOD and HIS word, HIS power and they had reached a high level of SM. Therefore, miraculous power is not beyond human capacity it is solely reliant upon the correct spiritual capacity.\

Jesus had to perform many miracles that are even beyond what men like Moses or the prophets could perform.

Because HIS earthly ministry needed to establish that HE was the one and only Messiah. That HE was GOD in the flesh. Yet miracles are not out of the reach of a mature Bel.

Ultimately it has to be ordained within the plan of God. And unless or until - GOD sees fit to have you walk on water or turn water into wine to glorify HIM, do not assume you are going to become a miracle worker anytime soon.

 REPEAT

Never put God in a box - but also do not let your emotions get ahead of your intellect.

/Jhn 4:48 Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you *people* see **signs and  wonders, you *simply* will not believe**.”

Jesus knew that allowing HIS deity to shine in HIS ministry would have to happen occasionally. Yet HE always brought forth divine power through the HS and the WORD.\

Jesus in HIS humanity was laying down the blue print for the CA Bel.

I will make a firm statement - that almost anything Jesus and the Apostles did during their ministry, we as mature Bels, can do the same…if it is in God’s plan and God’s will.

/Act 14:3 Therefore they spent a long time *there* **speaking boldly *with reliance* upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders** be performed by their hands.\

The reliance is upon the LORD. Its HIS word, HIS grace, that allowed the miracles to happen.

Look what the Apostle Paul says to the church at Rome;

/Rome 15:19 in the **power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit**; so that from Jerusalem and all around as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Miracles, healings and signs laid groundwork so the early church could be formed.\

God may not allow the extreme miracles now because the work of the cross is complete and the completed canon of scripture is available.

/Heb 2:4 **God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders,** and by various **miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit** according to **His own will.**

Miracles happen for a very specific reason that are aligned in the plan of God for that given moment. It is GOD manifesting HIS power through a human vessel.\

It is a unique and a rare way for GOD to show Himself.

Understand something about miracles, Satan and his fallen army can also produce miracles, healings and signs;

/Mat 24:24 “For **false christs and false prophets** will arise and will **provide great signs and wonders**, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Exo 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called for ***the* wise men and *the* sorcerers**, and they too, *the* **soothsayer priests of Egypt**, did the same with their **secret** **arts**. 12 For each one threw down his staff, and **they turned into serpents**. But Aaron’s staff swallowed their staffs.\

Be careful of the teachers of signs and wonders and the miracle churches!

You may be entering into a demonic playground or an emotional rollercoaster void of truth.

/1Cor 1:22 For **indeed Jews ask for signs** and Greeks search for wisdom;

Mat 12:39 But He answered and said to them, “An **evil and adulterous generation craves a sign**; and so no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet;\

God performed miracles in the past for one reason: accreditation. God would wake people up to HIS presence. Or point humanity to HIS people or HIS calling.

/God performed miracles so that people would recognize the true leaders and prophets that He approved of. Elijah performed seven miracles; Elisha performed fourteen because he asked for a double portion. Why did God permit Elijah to perform miracles? So that people would listen to his message. It isn’t the miracle; it is the message.\

Miracles do not form an inventory of solid knowledge or ideas in your soul. It is doctrine, it is the message that performs the inventory or library of knowledge and ideas seated deep in your soul.

TLJC, even delegated the seventy disciples (Luk 10), gave them the power of miracles and said to them that if the people would not hear the gospel, if they refused the message of the WORD they will not see the miracles.

That they were to pick up their sandals, shake off the dust and leave that town.

Because they wouldn’t hear the message. They simply wanted to see the miracles or have a healing. It is the message that is important.

Miracles and healing or signs do not save anyone. They sometimes wake people up about God, but most still won’t come to believe upon the GOD-man - TLJC.

/Satan performs miracles to distract people, to draw people away from the truth of Christ; our Lord performed miracles to attract people to the WORD. Jesus was attempting to save a lost and dying world. Satan is trying to lull us into a false sense of truth and hope in the cosmic system. Satan performs miracles to distract people from doctrine and to hinder the Bel from executing the plan of God.\

In other words, Satan performs miracles to evangelize for the cosmic system. He is the great deceiver the original counterfeiter. Satan doesn’t perform them directly, he performs them through cosmic teachers & evangelists, Believers and Unbelievers entrenched in the cosmic system.

If the message is Bible doctrine the miracle is genuine but if the message promotes false doctrine or evangelization for the cosmic system the miracle is a distraction from Satan.

Jesus Christ always promoted the power and plan of God the Father which is always Christ centered.

Jesus Christ in HIS humanity was reliant upon the plan of God the Father, the power of God the HS and the WORD which is the mind of GOD.

In the beginning was the WORD (TLJC) and the WORD (TLJC) became flesh and dwelt among us.