



THE GOOD NEWS



The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter September 2016

A Relevant Sanctification

At first I said, "No." He was the director for home missions for the Church of God (Holiness), and he had asked me to speak at their general convention on June 6. My refusal was due to a full day's drive scheduled to get to our annual family vacation. My wife, Nancy, immediately spoke up at the end of the phone conversation. "You need to accept."

I phoned back and changed to "Yes," and then reconfigured our travel schedule. The assigned subject was "the relevance of sanctification today." Here's some of what I said...

Sanctification is relevant because of -

***The Call of the Word of God**

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified" (I Thessalonians 4:3).

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through" (I Thessalonians 5:23).

***The Need of People**

There is still an alarming self-centeredness in the hearts of converted people, and a lack of spiritual power. This needs to be resolved by divine intervention.

***The Sanctified Heart is Attractive**

Sherwood Wirt, former editor of Decision magazine, testifies to his experience - "I don't know just how the love came in, but I know that all the bitterness I held against others...disappeared. Resentment - hostility - hurt feelings - you name it. They all dissolved. Evaporated. Went."

***People are Seeking**

In the twelve months, June 1, 2015, to May 31, 2016, in fourteen revivals from Florida to Michigan and Texas to Idaho, after sermons on sanctification, 146 people sought God publicly.

***People Testify to This Reality**

Isabel - A few days after she had seen her new friend accept Christ, she testified, "When I started this class, I was afraid to present the Gospel. Now that God has sanctified me, I'm not afraid anymore. I am confident, excited, more alert to my opportunities."

Kathy - Slowly I arrived at a place of understanding that my Heavenly Father would never harm me and I could trust His authority over me. In fact, it was something I desired! All that was left were the details. I remember at the altar asking, "Is there anything else you want me to give You?" I continued asking that question until God's silence and my deep peace assured me that there was nothing else. I experienced entire sanctification as a one-time spiritual crisis point decision and continue to experience it as an ongoing decision to live my life as God wants me to. The great thing about it all is that with the intimate, loving communion we have, it's also the way I want to live!

Keith - How could I be a believer and follower of Christ, if my natural instinct was to curse and grumble? So I started to look for what was missing. I searched for answers, but it seemed like I had all the bases covered: believe, tithe, serve..., yet nothing in my nature changed. Then during the end of July, 2008, our church needed some custodial help as a few of the regulars were out. I remember thinking that was way below my status, but begrudgingly volunteered to take one night. At Sunday worship on July 27, 2008, I ran into the retired former head custodian at Kansas City First Church. I jokingly told him that I was going to take his old job and asked him, "How do you handle this?" He told me that he considered his work as a custodian as a ministry and that

he was working for God. "If Christ can die on a cross for me, I can surely clean up a church for him," were his words that just hung in the air and surrounded me when I heard them. And then it happened. I felt hot, cold, empty, and full inside all at the same time. I knew I needed to be a custodian. I went from volunteer to a permanent custodian. Problems became situations to help, situations became opportunities to do something, and the things I was doing went from chores to service. I realized that God used a custodian to open my eyes and heart to His fullness. So, when asked "how am I fixed with the Lord?" I tell them I am filled with the Spirit and let God take charge of things.

***Others are Calling Us**

- Baptist Dallas Willard says, "The one book, other than the Bible, that has most influenced me is a little-known book by James Gilchrist Lawson called Deeper Experience of Famous Christians." This book is filled with the testimonies of those who have been sanctified and filled with the Spirit.

- Matthew Kelly, in Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, calls Catholics to revival. He asks, "How is the best way to live?" He answers, "You are here to become the-best version-of-yourself." Further he says, "It also requires that you die to your lesser self, so that in Christ your better self can emerge." The pursuit of holiness is the pursuit of the-best-version-of-yourself.

- The best selling devotional book of all time is Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest. Around the world, Methodists, Lutherans, Baptists, Christians of all backgrounds are reading it. He uses the word sanctification twenty-one times and related words many more. On Jan. 10, he writes: "Then there follows the second mighty work of grace - 'and inheritance among them which are sanctified.'" On Feb. 8, he writes: "When we pray to be sanctified, are we prepared to face the standard of these verses?...Sanctification means intense concentration on God's point of view....Sanctification means being made one with Jesus so that the disposition that ruled Him will rule us....Are we prepared to say - 'Lord, make me as holy as You can make a sinner saved by grace?'" On Oct. 20, he writes: "It is not a question of whether God is willing to sanctify me; is it *my* will? Am I willing to let God do in me all that has been made possible by the Atonement?"

If the Word of God, the need of people, the sanctified heart's attractiveness, seeking people, testifying people, and Sherwood Wirt, Dallas Willard, Matthew Kelly, and Oswald Chambers are all calling us, shouldn't we press on to experience God's sanctifying fullness personally and tell others the truth?

I shall preach on this subject in fuller measure on Sunday, September 11, 2016, at 10:45 AM at First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO, 64114.

- Chic Shaver

Holiness at the Annual Convention

The congregation of pastors and delegates of the Church of God (Holiness) Annual Convention rose to their feet in affirmation and appreciation of Dr. Chic Shaver's inspiring presentation of the truth of Scriptural Holiness. His presentation was especially appreciated because it answered questions of why the message is imperative today, how really attractive the message is, and how he preaches the glorious truth to lead people into this precious experience. Thank you, Dr. Shaver, for your clear teaching of Holiness! I pray God gives you many more opportunities to preach and teach Scriptural Holiness.

- Mark Sunbrook, Director of World Missions, Church of God (Holiness)

My Granddaughter Has Accepted the Lord

That's what Jan told me in her Colorado phone conversation. Further, she asked, "How can I get one of those discipleship packets?" Today, Jan has in her possession Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians. Now, Jan and her fifteen-year-old granddaughter, Brooke, can study the Bible together. Thank God for concerned disciples!

At the same time this was happening, Nazarene Publishing House reported that, as of March 2016, the sale of Basic Bible Studies in English has passed 724,000. These Bible studies have been translated into more than 55 other languages. In the six months ending March 2016, more than 1000 copies of Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit-filled and Sanctified Life (English) have been sold. English Bible studies may be ordered from Nazarene Publishing House, (800) 877-0700. Spanish studies may be ordered at (800) 462-8711.

Korea

The Witnessing Without Fear DVD was shown at a Methodist seminary in Korea.

78 Attended Witness in Arkansas

We recently had the opportunity to have Dr. Shaver present the "Witness Without Fear" seminar at Brockington Road Church of the Nazarene in Sherwood, Arkansas. The seminar was great for our people as well as many pastors on the district. It was exciting, fast-paced, and filled with practical pointers for building relational connections into witness opportunities. Our people took a big step and made a commitment to the Lord to be better prepared and equipped to be a witness for HIM. Thank you, Dr. Shaver.

*Rev. Bob Shippy, Associate Pastor
Brockington Road Church of the Nazarene*

Assurance

On Monday evening, Tyler and I had the privilege to meet with Dr. Shaver and Phil and Joy Parke. I've been walking with the Lord for a couple of years now but, during our meeting that night, I was asked if I was sure of eternity. I realized no one has ever asked me that before. Pastor Shaver helped me pray for assurance. I am so thankful and grateful to say on July 11, 2016, at 8:20 PM, I accepted Christ in my heart and life in a much deeper level. I NOW HAVE ASSURANCE through Jesus Christ that I will spend eternity in heaven.

Now, in the last six days, the Lord has blown me away. We have been going through some trials. BUT the Lord is faithful. He reminded me that He already knows our need. So, we continued to pray and believe. AND GOD PROVIDED! ALL of our needs (Philippians 4:19)! Even through a complete stranger.

*- Jasmine Hamme
Disciples SS class - KC First Church of the Nazarene*

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

On Sunday evening, July 10, our congregation was privileged to hear the remarkable story of Paul Shaver's most recent battle with cancer, as told by his father, Dr. Chic Shaver. Over the past several years, Paul has had cancer four different times in four different areas of his body. His most recent bout with the disease required major surgeries which proved successful in removing the cancer, but also necessitated removing Paul's larynx (voice box).

Dr. Shaver testified to the power and peace of God in the midst of this most difficult diagnosis and treatment process. He described in detail how God's Holy Spirit began to work in the lives of each of the members of the Shaver family, and how they discovered a level of peace and assurance about this situation that truly surpassed human understanding. Paul's radiant testimony throughout this trial has been, "He knows my name!" and "I've never had a bad day!" Only the grace and strength of our loving Lord can turn hardship like this into a showcase for God's own faithfulness and glory!

Paul has made a remarkable recovery. Before, during, and after this life-altering ordeal, he trusted the Lord and

has given all glory to God for His marvelous healing power. Beyond the physical recovery, God also granted numerous provisions for Paul and his family, including generous financial donations from fellow believers which helped to sustain his family during the illness and to completely eradicate his medical bills.

Dr. Shaver's story of God's faithfulness to their family during this difficult time was inspiring, challenging and hopeful. God truly does give "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow"! Great is His faithfulness! Thanks, Dr. Shaver, for sharing this edifying and encouraging message with our people.

To hear a recording of Dr. Shaver's encouraging message, "The Paul Shaver Story," go to <http://kcfc.org/life-kc-first/podcast>.

*- Roger D. Allen, Music & Worship Arts Pastor
Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene*

Because You Gave, We Gave

- Discipleship materials to pastors and leaders in Florida, Missouri, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Montana, and Colorado
- Bible studies to a church plant in Louisburg, KS
- Basic Bible Studies to Young Life ministry to the military based out of Colorado Springs, CO
- Bible studies to Ithiel Falls Camp Meeting, Vermont
- Bible studies to a hospital chaplain

In Memory Of

- Dr. Gordon Wetmore
- Bill & Donna Manning
- Gerald Oliver
- Glenn Cleland

<u>MINISTRY UPDATE</u>		
	Total Attendance	Seekers
Church of God (Holiness) Convention Overland Park, KS	108	
First Church of the Nazarene Kansas City, MO (PM)		
Paul Shaver - Before & After Cancer	94	
Brockington Road Church of the Nazarene Sherwood, AR		
Sunday	240	33
Witness Seminar	78	1
Joint Sunday School Class	118	
August revivals to be reported in Dec. newsletter		

<u>CHIC SHAVER'S UPCOMING MINISTRY SCHEDULE</u>		
Aug 6-10	Church of the Nazarene Confluence, PA	Revival
Aug 13-17	Church of the Nazarene Somerset, PA	Revival
Aug 20-24	Church of the Nazarene Oil City, PA	Revival
Sept 11	First Church of the Nazarene Kansas City, MO	Sun AM Preaching
Sept 17-21	First Church of the Nazarene Chanute, KS	Revival
Sept 24-28	Holiness Church of the Nazarene Stilwell, KS	Revival
Oct 8-9	First Church of the Nazarene Joplin, MO	Prayer Sem Sat PM & Sun AM Preaching
Oct 22-26	Church of the Nazarene Casey, IL	Holiness Revival
Oct 28-30	Church of the Nazarene Mattoon, IL	Revival
Nov 5-9	First Church of the Nazarene Slidell, LA	Revival

<u>CSCE CONTACT INFORMATION</u>	
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