

Gems

Knoxville, TN Convention, 2009

September 24-27, 2009

- We could have fellowship with God's people, but miss all by not having fellowship with God.
- We need to be right in the sight of God and fruitful in the sight of others. And be FULL of joy.
- We may not understand everything, but we should do what we do understand.
- Be like a good pocket watch: an open face, busy hands, full of good works, reliable, dependable, etc.
- Don't ever lose sight of the fact that God is in control in this earth. God keeps His word no matter if people believe it or not.
- Remember earth is your temporary home; don't become taken up with the things of earth.
- Now is a good time to consider your ways. Is your earthly temple a fit dwelling for God.
- Where does manna come from? Where does bread to feed your soul come from? Both come from Heaven. To get bread/manna requires patience, humility, endurance and ambition. First gather, then partake, then rest.
- Anything that has life has a struggle. If we have spiritual struggles it is a sign of life within.
- God is powerful. He created the universe out of nothing! If we become "nothing" he can make something out of us. Be humble as a little child.
- We can be adopted into God's family. God thinks not of what we could do for Him but what He can do for us. God adopts us with love, and to help us.
- As adopted children we have the right to call God "Our Father" because he has given us a portion of His Spirit. Strive to be dear children and an honor to Him.
- God is a specialist in performing impossibilities.
- We need to stay in the hand of the potter where he can make us again another vessel. The main thing is to stay in the potters hands!
- God asked Ezekiel (Ezekiel 37) can these bones live? His answer was Lord, Thou knowest. Our natural tendency would be to say, no, that dry bones can't live. Nothing is impossible to God. May we have hope in what may look like dry bones, and remember that with God all things are possible.
- God loves us and doesn't want anyone to have a hopeless fate.
- Partial submission will not bring joy and satisfaction. If you are not yielding to God you are yielding to sin.
- A couple had a baby that died. The doctor said they could hold it as long as they wanted. After a while they gave it back, for it was of no use to them dead. If there is no spiritual life in us we are not useful to God. He will let us go.
- There's a big difference between being childlike and being childish.

- God called David a man after His own heart. Maybe because he was a shepherd. A good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. Jesus was the good shepherd.
- God gives us our duty depending on our abilities... and that's a great comfort to us.
- Bear one another's infirmities in prayer, not across the gossip fence.
- Our duty is to have the right spirit within. That is, that Jesus' spirit could live within us guiding our thoughts, words, actions,...
- I cannot earn salvation, but I can be thankful for it.
- Be yoked with Jesus. It's a privilege to be side by side with Jesus, bound in the same love, same steps, same struggles.
- Good advice: Go without complaining and do the very best we can do. Be thankful to others that help you die to your own will.
- We could hear all the words spoken in convention, but don't miss the silent voice of God... that's the still small voice.
- God uses people to help other people. That's God's way. He wanted to use Jonah to help the people at Nineveh. Jonah's unwillingness took him further away. His unwillingness caused a storm for others.
- Jonah in the belly of the fish realized it was a miracle to be alive. His prayer was a cry. God heard him and answered his prayer. Jonah became willing.
- Often we pray, but we miss God's answer. Help us to see the answer.
- Doing God's will... that always brings a blessing.
- Do you know God? We can know God through Jesus. Some people think they know God by doing good works, but don't really know God. They know of Him. To know someone you have to have fellowship with them. The purpose of life is to get to know God, not just knowledge of Him.
- Where do you look? Jesus looked to heaven. Stephen looked to heaven and saw Jesus standing on God's right hand. When we look to God things will go better for us.
- A weed is something that grows where it should not be growing. It takes up space and ruins the beauty. We all have weeds in our life that need to be removed.
- Battles in the Bible were won because of obedience, not because of natural strength over the enemy. Same is true in our lives.
- We need to have a desperate need to pray every day. Not just when we are having struggles.
- Jesus came to the earth to do two things: Reveal and Redeem.
- Increase our faith. Why do we expect God to achieve things when we do not have faith in it ourselves.
- Be thankful we have a Savior who wants to help us and that there is no limit to God's forgiveness. God knows when we need help, but He wants us to ask.
- The strength of our own will is one of the hardest things to be broken.
- The lost and found in Luke 15. Something lost is not where it should be. When something is found it can be put in the right place.
- If we refuse to be offended we will receive the blessing. If we put away offense we keep someone from being an offender.
- Good intentions do not weigh anything on God's scale. Doing provides inward joy and satisfaction.

- Teach us to grow in the things that make us more like Jesus. (as tender plant, in favor with God and man, faith, temperance, patience, charity & love, in grace)..
- It takes grace to take the blame when you are not to blame.
- Heaven is in walking distance.
- We must sign an agreement with God. We give him a blank page, but at the bottom it says, "I agree to all of the above." With our signature.
- Sincerity does not make us right. Sincerity and truth go together. God did a mighty work in Paul who was once very sincere but in the wrong way.
- Jer. 18. The potter. We must stay in the potter's hands and in the center of the wheel. One hand on the inside and the other on the outside to make us a useful vessel.
- Ye are the temple of the living God. But how can He dwell within us if we are filled up with clutter. No room to walk. It may be good things but it is still clutter and it keeps God out.
- God sees the possibilities no matter how cluttered, how dirty, how filthy,... the house is.
- Don't let little things live in the house that don't belong there (one mouse will become hundreds of mice). Don't leave a door open so something big could come in and destroy it (wonder what would happen if a bull got in your house?).
- We are thankful that God has put in us a desire to run in this race. We may get weary, but we are never as weary as we may think. We can get a second wind. Don't get weighted down with the wrong things. There's nothing wrong with many things but they will not help us finish in God's way.
- Abraham and Lot: Lot made a good choice naturally but it was a poor choice spiritually. Natural choices can put us close to things that are not good for use spiritually.
- If we're in the center of God's will, then everywhere we look will be a blessing.
- God doesn't stop us from doing our own will, but it results in harder experiences.
- God's ministry can be studied by looking at chapter 10 of the first 7 books of the New Testament. Matthew 10-Sending the 12, Mark 10-Childlike Ministry, Luke 10-Sending the 70, etc.
- We have a dying ministry that is producing a living people. God's ministry is a ministry by example, dying to self, respectful, contented, joyful, feeding, watching.
- Where are you on the journey of life? Let us continue and don't spend too much time in the wilderness.
- A servant without the spirit of a servant is like a person who carries a musical instrument and cannot play.
- If we end up in a lost eternity it will not be because of a lack of love on God's part.
- God's plumb line is held from above, and enables us to build a life that is upright.
- God's always in the same place with the same message.
- We love people we can trust and God loves people he can trust (reliable in the Kingdom).
- Esau was a hunter who depended on chance, luck and his own skill. Jacob provided daily food for the table that was dependable. We need daily bread.
- Esau wanted the blessing but did not have any interest in keeping the flocks. Jacob desired the blessing and was willing to provide daily bread.

- As we learn more about Jesus we learn more about God, the Father.
- God wants a living sacrifice (Romans 12). But God does not demand it if we're not willing to give it. God wants a love service.
- Others may see what we give, but God sees what we hold back.
- We need to show the lamb. A pity if others saw more of our human nature than they did of the lamb nature.
- There's no better advertisement than that of a satisfied customer. May others see our satisfaction in God's way.
- Always remember to pray in Jesus' Name, in meeting and in our private prayers.
- Be like Jesus. It's not enough to love Jesus, we have to hate the wrong in us.
- Only you and God know what God tells you to do. And only you and God know if you are doing it.
- Don't despise your human nature, but keep it under control by the Spirit of Jesus living in you.
- God loves and cares for His people. He appreciates any effort we make toward Him.
- If we cry to God it will lead to a quiet inner peace.
- Righteousness brings peace and quietness, and leads to outward joy.
(Righteousness->peace->quietness->joy)
- Don't let unbelief hinder God's work.
- Acts 28: The viper on Peter that he shook off into the fire. We need to shake off bad experiences & situations (vipers) into the fire so they don't poison and kill us.

~ September 29, 2009