

Sheryl Milliken

From: on behalf of Sheryl Milliken
To: The Branch
Subject: 05.06.2009

From the Pastor.....

Church Family,

Great Wednesday to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I am reminded today of the freedom and power that we have when we allow the Holy Spirit to lead in our lives. In Luke 6:35-36, Jesus teaches us to love and bless our enemies. He grounds this teaching in the nature and actions of God Himself, "For He (God) Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men." First, I am very thankful that God is kind in this way. How many times have I been ungrateful? Second, I am struggling to grasp how I can be kind to ungrateful and evil men. Who can do that? And who can do that, not as a matter of the will – I am going to make myself be kind, but rather as a matter of nature – this is who I am? Every one of us exerts incredible effort every day throughout the many interactions we have each day to act in a way that we think best presents who we want to be. We want to be people who are good. But, almost daily, we are presented with situations that are beyond our ability to respond "good" in. For example, someone is ungrateful to you for something you have done. We are taught from Jesus that we are to be kind to them. Do you reflexively, instinctively respond with kindness?

The passage can, when properly understood, bring immediate freedom and power to us today. For the teaching to "be kind to ungrateful and evil men," is intended to expose our inability and bring us humbly before Jesus. The passage exposes the ugliness of our pride and selfishness. We come convicted and broken before Jesus. He then joyfully abides in us through the Holy Spirit and He gives us the ability to be kind to ungrateful and evil men. This is the fruit of abiding in the vine. This is the fruit of the Spirit. Now, knowing my daily, relational need for Jesus, I am filled with the Holy Spirit. I am free from exerting energy to meet other's expectations or to be prepared to handle any situation I am confronted with. I am free because the Spirit provides for me. And I have power because my strength comes from the inexhaustible, undefeatable, omniscient, God directed Holy Spirit. I am powerful because I live in the presence of God.

All of us are equally unable. No one has life figured out. No one. No one. Quit trying. Come to Jesus today and lay down your energy, your effort, and your will. Rest in Him and allow Him to fill you today with the Holy Spirit. Rest in Him throughout the day. While you are walking to a meeting remind yourself, "I am in the Spirit today." You will know you are there when freedom, power, and kindness replace anxiety, fear, and anger.

Then go and be kind to ungrateful and evil men!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Jim

Women's Ministry..... Titus II Special Event

You are invited to attend a special event, **Running Toward Goliath**, sponsored by Titus II women's ministry on Saturday, May 9th from 10-12 in the worship center of the CLC. Fleceia Comeaux, head basketball coach for Alvin ISD and chaplain for the Houston Comets for 9 years, will be speaking about the challenges women face. Special music will be provided by *Blues 2 Joy*. Catering provided by Affairs with Flair. The entire event is free of charge.

This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors. Plan to attend and bring a friend!!

Worship Ministry.....

Wednesday nights are a busy night at PGBC. Our youth are meeting in the chapel, prayer time is in the prayer room upstairs in the CLC and the Praise team/First Sunday Choir is practicing in the music room – upstairs in the CLC. We need more people to get plugged in and be a part of each of these groups. The middle of the week is a great time to take some time and spend a few minutes in fellowship, in prayer and in worship. Look at Wednesday night as your opportunity to “Take a little breather” during middle of a long hard week. This is kind of like a runner taking a break during a marathon. Don’t go it alone! Come get your spiritual batteries charge tonight and every Wednesday night. Everything begins at 6:30pm.

Youth Ministry.....

All presale money for the youth fundraiser is due this Sunday. I will order a plate for every ticket that is not turned back in so please make sure you bring tickets and/or money Sunday. If you know you won’t be there just email me or call the church and let me know if you still have tickets, etc...

Please bring any forms (Camp and/or Mission trip) and any fundraiser money to Checkpoint tonight. **Mission trip applications and money are due Next Wednesday!** Camp is two weeks after that. Don’t miss any of these deadlines.

For More information about Pecan Grove Baptist Church

Please visit our website: <http://www.pecangrovebaptist.org/>

To unsubscribe please call the church office at 281-342-7979 or reply to this e-mail requesting to be removed.