



'More than Conqueror' focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERCOMERS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INT'L MAR 2016 – VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

Pastor's Desk

GOD PAYS ATTENTION TO OUR PRAYERS.

In the book of Joshua, we read that the ancient city of Jericho was a heavily fortified walled city. From a military standpoint, it was practically impenetrable. This great walled city stood as an obstacle that hindered the people of Israel from claiming all that God had for them. Before they could enter into Canaan which was their promised land, Jericho had to fall first. For us, Jericho could represent those things that are entrenched and rooted in our lives that prevent us from going on with God. It may be some besetting sin that prevents us from going deep in the things of God or it could be some old and bad attitude or pride that is holding us back. Before we will ever receive all God has for us, that stronghold must be torn down! And I pray that in this month of March, the stronghold in your life shall be broken so that you can walk into your victory and possess your possession in Jesus name.

Before we can move on to victory, we must first commence the journey. This journey is commenced at salvation i.e. having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the one who walks in victory even before the battle is fought. In other words, He is the one in control of all situations and He will definitely fight our battles for us if we give our lives to Him. I want you to pause, reflect and learn that we will only be victorious in our spiritual battles if we

acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Commander in Chief and follow His plans and strategy. Have you even met the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you had a personal experience with the Person of God? You need to accept Jesus Christ fully into your life to enable you march into your victory in this month of March. The uncircumcised heart and flesh cannot march into victory without the backing of the 'Field Marshal and Commander of the Heavenly Host' which is our Lord Jesus Christ. God had already promised us victory as seen in Joshua 6:1-2. Our victory has already been secured through Jesus Christ. Satan is a defeated enemy. All the seemingly unshaking 'Jerichos' in your life shall become flattened by the earthquake of God in Jesus name. All those powers gathering against your victory this month shall be exposed, disgraced and fall for your sake in Jesus name.

Kindly join us in giving glory to the Ancient of Days for the celebration of the convention of our Church between 3rd of March and 6th of March 2016. "The More than Conquerors family" is marching into greater height and victory which was won for us by our Captain as seen in Matthew 16:18.

Remember, this is your year of "fruitfulness and multiplication"!

JESUS IS LORD.

PASTOR MIKE ILELADEWA.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Service: 10:30am—1pm; Monday Bible Study: 7pm - 9pm

Tuesday Prayer Warrior : 11pm— 1am; Thursday House Fellowship : 6pm

Monthly Activities

Men's Fellowship Meeting:

First Sunday of Every month, 1pm-3pm

[Next meeting: 6th Mar, 2016]

Vigil Prayer Meeting

2nd Friday of Every month: 11pm-2am

[Next meeting: 11th Mar, 2016]

Women's Fellowship Meeting:

Third Sunday of Every month, 1pm-3pm

[Next meeting: 20th Mar, 2016]

General Evangelism:

Third Sat. of Every Month, 3pm-4pm

[Next meeting: 19th Mar, 2016]

Breakthrough Prayer Meeting:

Last Friday of Every Month: 7pm-9pm

[Next meeting: 25th Mar, 2016]

"I am an Overcomer because Jesus Christ who lives in me is greater than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)"

WHY WE MUST EARNESTLY DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

By John Piper @desiringgod.org

The clear teaching of the New Testament is that God gives spiritual gifts to the church for the common good of the saints (1 Corinthians 12:7) and to empower her mission to evangelize the world (Luke 24:48–49; Acts 4:29–31; 1 Corinthians 14:24–25). The most familiar lists of these gifts are in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. But the Corinthians list includes the most controversial gifts of the Spirit: healing, miracles, prophecy, tongues and their interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:9–10). And it's in the context of teaching on these gifts — particularly the two most controversial gifts, prophecy and tongues — that Paul *twice* tells us to “earnestly desire” them, adding, “especially that [we] may prophesy” (1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1). He leaves us no room to wiggle out of pursuing uncomfortable gifts. I know that some wonderful, sincere Christians believe that these most controversial gifts did not extend beyond the closing of the New Testament canon. I am not here going to argue for the gifts' continuation. Some of the resources listed at the end address that. I assume what the Holy Spirit-inspired New Testament authors assumed: The spiritual gifts would function in healthy, Holy Spirit-empowered churches until Jesus returns (1 Corinthians 13:9–12). The questions I want to address are why should we desire these gifts and how should we pursue them? The most fundamental reason we should desire these gifts is that the Bible commands us to: “earnestly desire the spiritual gifts.” Paul says this in the same sentence he says, “pursue love” (1 Corinthians 14:1). Both are Holy Spirit-inspired imperatives. No one disputes that we should continue to love one another. There is no command that is clearer in the New Testament (John 15:12). But neither would anyone dispute that loving one another is very hard. Love may not be controversial in the church, but its demands are very intimidating and it is often manipulated and abused. Likewise the spiritual

gifts are intimidating, some even strange, and all of them can too be manipulated and abused. All spiritual gifts are potentially dangerous, even the less controversial ones (think of the damage done by false teachers and deceptive administrators). In a sense, handling spiritual gifts is like handling dynamite — *dynamis* is the Greek word for “power” often used when referring to the Holy Spirit. When used rightly the gifts are explosively loving. When used wrongly they are explosively destructive. It's tempting not to use them at all. The early Christians also felt this way after damaging experiences. That's why Paul had to say things like, “do not forbid speaking in tongues,” “do not quench the Spirit,” and “do not despise prophecies” (1 Corinthians 14:39; 1 Thessalonians 5:19–20). It was tempting to not use these messy gifts. But in commanding us to pursue love and to earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, the Bible commands us to handle dangerous things. *And they are commands*. Neither were options in Paul's mind and they should not be in ours either. God has purposes for these gifts that make them more than worth the danger.

To be continued in next issue...

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The Overcomers Christian Fellowship Int'l, Plymouth

Testimonies

Sis K,

I want to use this opportunity to thank the Lord God for re-uniting my dad and mum after a long battle with constant disagreements and almost at the edge of a divorce, but God miraculously intervened and they are still waxing strong in the Lord. Also God healed my mum who was diagnosed of a strange ailment but God healed her miraculously and there was no sign of the disease anymore in her body. Praise the Lord.

Sis T,

Praise the Lord, I want to thank God, for helping me with a particular examination that I wrote and thought I will have to re-write it due to poor performance. But, I passed the module and it must can only be God showing me His favour. Praise the Lord.