

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
*Speaker, Robert Emerson*  
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

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“...If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me,”



— Luke 9:23

**Servants during March:**

**Songleader:** Larry (6), David (13), Peter (20), Stanley (27)

**Reading:** Stanley

**Announcements:** Robert

**Table:** Mike M, Larry, Mike B, David

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (2), Stanley (9), Kris (16), Larry (23), Stanley (30)

**Area Meetings:**

**Hwy 157 Cullman,** Jonathan Caldwell, 3/6-9

**Singing River,** Tommy Peeler, 3/6-11  
**South Cullman,** singing, 3/11

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 4

March 6, 2022

Number 44

## What God Has NOT Given Us

By David Diestelkamp

We talk a lot about what God has given us in Christ, but we don't think as much about what God has not given us.

We might wonder what the point would be since God hasn't given it. So we don't have it; so what? However, the point is that we are to accept, embrace, and live what God has given—so the converse is also true; we are not to accept, embrace, and live what God has not given! In the context of 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul is reminding Timothy to “stir up the gift of God which is in you,” 2 Tim 1:6. “Be all you can be” and “Serve God with your all” is what he's writing. What could stifle that? Fear!

**God Has NOT Given Us a Spirit of Fear**

Yassar Arafat was a leader of several Islamic nationalist groups which influenced Arab countries from the 1960s to about 2000. He was accused of masterminding Middle East violence and terrorism. A man tells of meeting Arafat and talking about Jesus. He was surrounded by heavily armed men at an undisclosed location. He said he didn't know if he would live or die. Some

present tried to stop him, yet he continued. Arafat silenced those who interrupted. Arafat was kind and appreciative and continued contact afterward. When asked about being scared, the man said he wasn't afraid. He said, “If I died, what better way to go to the Lord?”

What would fear have done to the above story? Sometimes what we call “political correctness,” “tact,” and “taking it slowly” is really just fear on our part. In order to “stir up the gift of God which is in you,” we are going to have to stop being afraid. Fear causes reluctance. It causes us to hide our lights. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven,” Mt 5:16.

Our spirit is the thinking, reasoning, choosing part of us. It's that part of us that makes us what we are: “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he,” Prov 23:7. That inner part of us is not afraid because God has re-created our spirit to not contain fear—fear is contrary to its nature. God has not simply emptied our

spirit of fear, He has replaced it with a spirit that doesn't contain fear. He has crowded fear out by giving us a spirit "of power and of love and of a sound mind," 2 Tim 1:7.


### God HAS Given Us...

**Power:** We aren't afraid like other people because God has given us not a spirit of fear but a spirit "of power." Thayer's Lexicon tells us that this word has the idea of "strength, ability, power"; and then he says, "power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature." When we plug this into 2 Timothy 1:7, we see that the power to overcome fear doesn't reside in our own abilities. We don't fear because God changes our inner person and the inner person He creates in us is not by nature fearful. It is by nature strong, able, and powerful!

Do we open ourselves up enough in faith for God to change us at this level? What, that God asks of us, can we not do if our spirit is 100% of God and for God? "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," Phil 4:13.

**Love:** It's easy to welcome the spirit of love God gives us, but we may fail to recognize how it removes fear and motivates action. Having a spirit of love

means more than not hating. It moves us to do positive acts of love. We love God and others because who we are has changed and there is now no place for hatred in us. When our spirit is given us of God and is "of love," our thoughts and actions will follow! "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another," Jn 13:35.

**A Sound Mind:** Disciples of Christ aren't crazy. We haven't abandoned reason. We are clear thinking and self-controlled. We don't live in fear, not because we avoid all fearful situations, but because we remain clearheaded even in intense situations; and we know something that fearful-spirited people don't know. We know that we don't live for this life. We know our hope is based on infallible truth and the guaranteed promises of God. Nothing can shake our spirit to divert attention from the Author of our faith or separate us from His love. What fear could intimidate a spirit like this? "...[L]ooking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God," Heb 12:2. 

basis of a few gross mistakes (assuming they have been repented of). Life consists of everyday actions and decisions, and it is these that bring ultimate success or failure, eternal happiness or eternal damnation. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me," Lk 9:23.

It is one thing to express concern for our children as we talk of their future spirituality and faithfulness. It is quite another to provide on a daily basis a spiritual atmosphere in the home, a good example of godliness and faithfulness, consistent and loving discipline and a love for God and respect for our fellowman that are so essential to the training of our children. It's the little impressions that are made day by day that prove to be so decisive.


It is one thing to dream of someday being appointed an elder in the church. It is quite another thing to put forth the effort on a daily basis to learn the Scriptures, to develop leadership ability, to grow spiritually, and to live as to gain the confidence of a discerning

congregation. One does not qualify for the eldership in one big leap. It comes through daily development.

It is one thing to talk a "good line" on priorities. It is quite another thing to put God first on a daily basis. The devil knows so many ways to test our resolve in these realms. Our intentions are good, but, through his subtlety, he has us selling our souls for a mess of pottage or thirty pieces of silver.

It is one thing to think that we would die for the Lord if our faith were so tested. It is quite another thing truly to live for Him on a daily basis. Egos may be fed on the "big moments," but true spirituality develops through daily prayer, study and meditation.

Our lesson is this. Set your goals for the future, and set them high. But recognize that it's the little, day-by-day moments, the often forgotten moments, accumulated through the years that truly shape our destiny. Tomorrow's success depends upon the choices and decisions that are made today.

Make them with care. 

# On A Daily Basis

By Bill Hall

A man, asked recently to describe memories of his college days twenty-five years ago, replied, "A few big moments; many goofs, but, overall, pleasant memories."

Would these words not describe our memories of life generally? As we recall our years, there are always the "big" moments, the emotional "highs," that we love to relish. Then there are the "goofs,"

the embarrassing occasions that just keep coming back to haunt us. But, through it all, the pleasant memories sufficiently prevail to enable us to feel generally good about life.

But, in reality, success or failure in life is not determined by the "big moments" or "the goofs." We will not be eternally saved on the basis of a few great spiritual achievements or eternally lost on the

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## Come hear the gospel of Christ!

**We will be having a meeting April 24 through 29**

Speakers: Sun, Tim Sutton; Mon, Stephen Russell; Tues, Glenn Hamilton; Wed, Kevin Chancellor; Thurs, David Wheeler; Fri, Marshall McDaniel

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## *Remember in Prayer*

Please continue to pray for the **Emersons** and the **Beddingfields**, as well as **Dwight Mitchell**—age is creeping up on us all. Also remember **Madelene Britnell**, **Carolyn Dennis**, **Dot Hice**, and **Joyce Smith**. Please pray for the people of Ukraine; as well as for our, and world

leaders, 1 Tim 2:1,2. Pray for wickedness to be utterly defeated, and righteousness to be exalted, Psa 7:9; 10:17,18. Pray for the spread of the gospel, and for Christians the world over—particularly those undergoing persecution for the sake of Christ, 2 Thess 3:1,2. 