

WHERE TO FIND STABILITY



Administrative Bishop Daniel Hampton

The uncertainty of everything going on in our world today has everybody asking; where can I find a stable place to stand? Opinions on just about everything in our society have many different ideas on what we need to do. You listen to one person and they have an opinion, then another has a totally different idea of what needs to happen. Let's face it, the more talk that goes on, the more diverse the opinions become. We are struggling to find the answers to all the confusion that is going on and I am concerned most people are looking in all the wrong places for the answers.

If anything is going to stand through the storms of life it must have a firm foundation. There must be solid principles which have stood the test of time long before any of us were around. That leads to the question then; where do we find those principles? I know of only one place to turn and that is to the eternal word of God. This word has stood in the face of injustice and spoke truth with love. It has laid down a foundation which is unmovable and established in the very throne of God. It is the word that spoke this world into existence, gave light in the darkness, separated the firmament, put the solar system in place, created everything that lives on it and made man from dust to have dominion over it. Since we have established this is the foundation we are to build upon, we must follow these instructions with the same intensity or even greater as we do when we read the blueprints of a building we are erecting. Without the sure foundation it will fall and we do not have the right to alter the plans that have stood the test of time.

What does this eternal word say about the situations we are now facing? There are so many answers through this word but time will only permit me to give just a few guidelines that stand out in my mind. I would recommend you read the book of Proverbs as a starting point. While I was doing that, chapter 10 spoke volumes to me in light of our present situation. Read these verses and meditate upon them. Proverbs 10:1 A wise child brings joy to a father; a foolish child brings grief to a mother. ² Tainted wealth has no lasting value, but right living can save your life. ³ The Lord will not let the godly go hungry, but he refuses to satisfy the craving of the wicked. ⁴ Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich. ⁵ A wise youth harvests in the summer, but one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace. ⁶ The godly are showered with blessings; the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions. ⁷ We have happy memories of the godly, but the name of a wicked person rots away. ⁸ The wise are glad to be instructed, but babbling fools fall flat on their faces. ⁹ People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed. ¹⁰ People who wink at wrong cause trouble, but a bold reproof promotes peace. ¹¹ The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain; the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions. ¹² Hatred stirs up quarrels, but love makes up for all offenses. ¹³ Wise words come from the lips of people with understanding, but those lacking sense will be beaten with a rod. ¹⁴ Wise people treasure knowledge, but the babbling of a fool invites disaster. ¹⁵ The wealth of the rich is their fortress; the poverty of the poor is their destruction.

¹⁶ The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin. ¹⁷ People who accept discipline are on the pathway to life, but those who ignore correction will go astray. ¹⁸ Hiding hatred makes you a liar; slandering others makes you a fool. ¹⁹ Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut. ²⁰ The words of the godly are like sterling silver; the heart of a fool is worthless. ²¹ The words of the godly encourage many, but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense. ²² The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. ²³ Doing wrong is fun for a fool, but living wisely brings pleasure to the sensible. ²⁴ The fears of the wicked will be fulfilled; the hopes of the godly will be granted. ²⁵ When the storms of life come, the wicked are whirled away, but the godly have a lasting foundation. ²⁶ Lazy people irritate their employers, like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes. ²⁷ Fear of the Lord lengthens one's life, but the years of the wicked are cut short. ²⁸ The hopes of the godly result in happiness, but the expectations of the wicked come to nothing. ²⁹ The way of the Lord is a stronghold to those with integrity, but it destroys the wicked. ³⁰ The godly will never be disturbed, but the wicked will be removed from the land. ³¹ The mouth of the godly person gives wise advice, but the tongue that deceives will be cut off. ³² The lips of the godly speak helpful words, but the mouth of the wicked speaks perverse words.

Congratulations on Licensure

Marshella Curry - Exhorters
Frank Spears II - Ordained Bishop
Stephan Webb - Ordained Bishop

Congratulations on Pastoral Appointment

Paul Kammer
St. Albans Foundations

Congratulations

Dave Snyder as Employee of the Month at the Pruntytown Correctional Center. Your ministry as a Chaplin is changing the lives of so many people.

Pruntytown Correctional Center and Jail



Employee of the Month

The Superintendent takes pleasure in commending

Dave Snyder

For exceptional performance of duty from 01 May to 31 May 2020. During this period, you were recognized as the Pruntytown Correctional Center and Jail Employee of the Month for your dedication to the institution.

As the Chaplain of our facility, you are always approachable and friendly. You are eager to give a quick smile and an encouraging word to anyone who listens. You respond to requests from inmates swiftly and provide them with appropriate religious materials even if it does not coincide with your personal beliefs. While attending the Academy, you studied and worked hard and did not complain thus continuing to be a shining example for others to follow.

You are sending out weekly email messages and scriptures that all of us find empowering and uplifting. You are a bright spot and a strong guide during these trying times. Thank you for your dedication and positive attitude each and every day.

Your knowledge and commitment demonstrates leadership and high performance standards, which bestows great credit upon you, Pruntytown Correctional Center and Jail, and ultimately, the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

June 1 2020
Date

George Trent
George Trent
Superintendent

**“If we ever
forget that we
are One Nation
Under God, then
we will be a
nation gone
under”
- Ronald Reagan**



Covid-19 has changed nothing

Bill Woodruff
Youth and USA Missions Director
West Virginia Church of God

In my home growing up there was a recurring response to trouble and hardship. Whenever fear, anxiety or danger reared its ugly head, the response was the same. Anytime one of my parents (or one of us children) was overwhelmed with concern, the other would simply ask: "Did you hear a thump?" The answer was a chuckle and a resigned, "no." "Then I guess God hasn't fallen off of His throne." We would proceed with the knowledge that no matter how insurmountable the challenge seemed, our Heavenly Father sits on the throne of heaven and the earth is His footstool. He is more than capable of holding our hands through storms.

Last month in this publication Bishop detailing the many changes that our world. Since then most of our opened" (what an unfortunate way building built by human hands!) significant changes to the way we right. Wisdom must prevail and cautious. We are wise as serpents With the Bishop's permission, I article. This pandemic may have methods, but it has not changed our hearts and the position of our much more important.

Howbeit the most High dwelleth hands; as saith the prophet, earth is my footstool: what saith the Lord: or what is the 7:48-49).

We have been trying for years to their bodies are the temples of the need to "get out of these four upon us. Our gathering together is President Trump), but our hope is living stones and are part of a spiritual house, not a physical one. (I Peter 2:5)

**Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice. (Philippians 4:8)
Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)**

Before the pandemic: Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks! During: Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks! After: Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks! We have a lot to be joyful about. Let's let the world see that His joy is our strength and that we can stand firm in the midst of a storm. Paul counted tests and challenges as joy. Martyrs of ancient times and martyrs in far off places today rejoice in the privilege of dying for Christ. Surely we can rejoice and give thanks for the privilege of living for Him. Pray without ceasing. Some stop praying when it gets bad. Some stop praying when it gets better. Keep praying for God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

Things seem to be getting worse instead of better. Anxiety would overwhelm us. The enemy would send us into a spiral of despair. Uncertainty is uncomfortable. Did you hear a thump?

Nothing has changed. God is still in control and worthy of our praise and adoration. When things get rough, lean on Him. When things go well, lean on Him. In the midst of uncertainty and political upheaval, stand in the knowledge that judgement and justice belong to our God. Did you hear a thump?

BEFORE COVID19	DURING COVID19	AFTER COVID 19	BEFORE COVID19	DURING COVID 19	AFTER COVID 19
#NOTHINGHASCHANGED 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18			"REJOICE ALWAYS" 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16		
BEFORE COVID 19	DURING COVID 19	AFTER COVID19	BEFORE COVID19	DURING COVID 19	AFTER COVID 19
"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING" 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17			"IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS" 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18		

Hampton wrote an article Covid-19 has brought to churches have "re- of wording a return to a and have experienced gather. The Bishop was every step forward is and harmless as doves. have chosen the title of this changed logistics and message, the activity of our Lord, things which are

not in temples made with Heaven is my throne, and house will ye build me? place of my rest? (Acts

teach God's people that Holy Spirit and that we walls." It has been thrust essential (declared so by not in a building. We are

Please continue to check out our Facebook pages and Website for updated information on upcoming events.

Mountaineer Ministries Prayer Requests:

We as the Church of God State office are praying for each Pastor, Minister and Lay member, or attender of our churches, that God will provide and keep you and your families safe during this time. Our country; Our President and State Leaders; Military; Health Care Professionals; Health and Wellness; Finances; Job; Marriage; Family; The Church; God's hand of protection; Our children; Lost souls to be saved; A miracle healing for Joshua; Church to resume; Death of family members; God to lead and guide me.

Mountaineer Ministries Praise Reports:

My Pastor; Life starting to return to normal; My Job; Souls saved; God protecting my children; God always providing; Our Church ; God healing my body; God's comforting presence that I feel; My Pastor; A Church on fire for Jesus; God's presence in my life everyday; My family; My Health; My Husband; My Church Youth Group; God saving my husband; God saving my children.

Mark your Calendar

Be on the lookout for more information on a Statewide Fall Gathering on October 4-8, a Kids Adventure Day October 10, and a Youth Retreat October 16-18. Please Save these dates and plan to attend. We are still in the planning stages of these events, This is scheduled on a tentative basis, with the current Covid-19 Virus cases up and down it is a fluid situation, and we will know more the closer to the date we are.

July 2-6	State office Closed for 4th of July
October 4-8	Fall Gathering
October 10	Kid Adventure Day @ New River Ministry Center
October 16-18	Fall Youth Retreat for Teen and Middle School Students