

# Whispering Hills

# Church of Christ



Volume VI, Issue III June 21, 2020

## Gathering Times

Sunday Bible Class	09:30 AM
Sunday Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM

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# Welcome Christians!!

## Leadership

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## your **Rx**

### What God Says About You 20 Scriptures That Define Your Worth

1. **You are beautiful.** (Psalm 45:11)
2. **You are lovely.** (Daniel 12:3)
3. **You are loved.** (Jeremiah 31:3)
4. **You are chosen.** (John 15:16)
5. **You are special.** (Ephesians 2:10)
6. **You are created in His image.** (Genesis 1:27)
7. **You are cared for.** (Ephesians 3:17-19)
8. **You are strong.** (Psalm 68:35)
9. **You are precious.** (1 Corinthians 6:20)
10. **You are protected.** (Psalm 121:3)
11. **You are unique.** (Psalm 139:13)
12. **You are important.** (1 Peter 2:9)
13. **You are forgiven.** (Psalm 103:12)
14. **You were created for a purpose.** (Jeremiah 29:11)
15. **You are empowered.** (Philippians 4:13)
16. **You are a new creation.** (2 Corin. 5:17)
17. **You are accepted.** (Ephesians 1:6)
18. **You are the apple of His eye.** (Zech. 2:8)
19. **You are family.** (Ephesians 2:19)
20. **You are His.** (Isaiah 43:1)

## HOW TO BE SAVED

1. Hear (Rom 10:17; Jn 6:45)
2. Believe (Jn 8:24; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent (Lk 13:3,5; Ac 2:38)
4. Confess (Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9, 10)
5. Baptized (Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21)

A good man  
obtains favor from the Lord

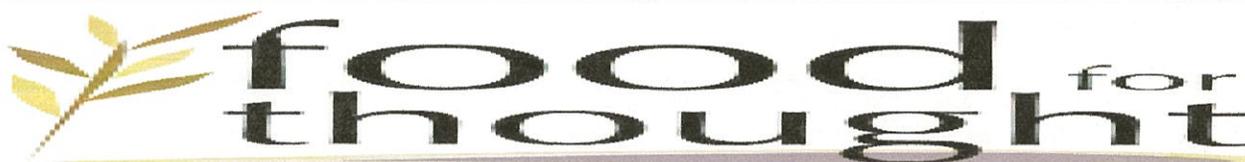
A patient man  
has great understanding

The man of integrity  
walks securely

He who fears the Lord has  
a secure fortress,  
and for his  
children it will  
be a refuge.

Proverbs 12:2, 14:29,  
10:9, 14:26

# Happy Father's Day



## OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN

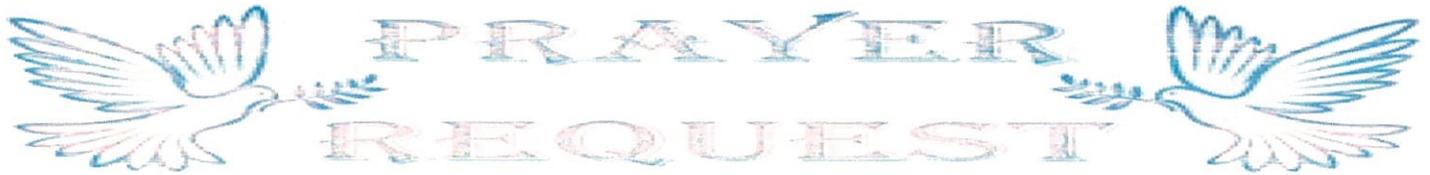
David says, "I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psa 37:25). Many approach Father's Day with mixed emotions. It is often either overlooked or misapplied. In reality, every day is "Father's Day" as can be equally shared with other similar endeavors. Some have hands-on fathers who are available and interested in their lives; others somewhat disinterested or distant fathers; and those who were abandoned by their fathers altogether. Many have fathers who have died. But one thing we all have in common, no matter what kind of earthly father we either have or had, is we have a Father in HEAVEN. Regardless of how one may have been treated by one's earthly father, one has a Heavenly Father who has (and shall remain) ALWAYS be there for us. Is David speaking for all of us? When was the last time you evaluated the relationship you share with the Father? There is much to say about God's People (Gen 17:7; 1 Sam 12:22; Isa 13:16; Psa 25:13; 37:28; 94:14; 112:2; Lk 1:53-55; 2 Cor 4:9; Heb 12:5, 6; 13:5).

He is the "father of the fatherless" (Psa 68:5; 82:3; 146:9). David ask God NOT to hide His face nor forsake him knowing if his mother or father forsakes him, the Lord will take care of him; BUT to teach and lead in a plain path (Psa 27:9-11). Isaiah shares He knows how to feed the flock and gently lead (Isa 40:18). We must put Him, first (Mt 6:33). Paul says, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work..." (Col 1:18). Also, "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts" (1 The 2:4).

We communicate with Him via PRAYER. John says, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 Jn 3:22). The Lord's Prayer is often called the greatest PRAYER ever PRAYED (Mt 6:9-13), where Jesus taught us to pray. Luke shows this was in response to their request, "Lord, teach us to pray, even as John also taught his disciples" (Lk 11:1). This prayer was NOT intended to be one to just be recited, which is opposite of what He was seeking to teach. Prayers are to be addressed to God the Father. Nearly all the prayers recorded in the Scriptures begin with a solemn address to God, which is called the invocation. The most common address of the Jews were: O Lord God of our fathers. BUT in the Christian Age, God is addressed as "our Father". This is the prayer of a disciple of Christ. For one to call God his Father, one must be a child of God. To become a child of God one must have obeyed the gospel (Mk 16:15, 16). A father is one who looks after and cares for his children. God looks after and takes care of His Children. Do NOT allow our failures to cause our children to lead astray (Eph 6:4). He is to be praised when a Christian prays. His Name means holy or treated as holy. This calls for the reverence and respect that is due the name of God. God's Name is hallowed when He is respected and His Will obeyed.

To address God as "Father" was a revolutionary thought to the Jewish mind. The Hebrews feared Him and attached such sacredness to His name, they would not even utter it. In the Old Testament, God is referred to as "Father" fewer than seven times and when He is, it is either indirectly or rather remotely. When Jesus referred to God as His Father, He was accused of blasphemy (Mt 26:65; Mk 14:64; Jn 10:33). One of the reasons he was crucified was because he spoke of this special relationship he had with his father. Now, because of His death, burial and resurrection, we can have this same relationship. After rising from the dead, He said to Mary Magdalene, "...I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God" (Jn 20:17). This says He will have a different relationship with His Father than they. After all, He is the divine, Son of God.

If you want to know what kind of Father we have in HEAVEN, just look to Jesus: "He who has seen Me has also seen the Father" (Jn 14:9). Also, "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father..." (Jn 8:19). Look at Him with the little children (Mt 19:14); with tears in His face for Lazarus' (Jn 11:35); then, washing His Disciple's feet (Jn 13:5). This is what our HEAVENLY Father is like and much, much more (Rev 1:8).



**Continuous Prayers:** Walter Simon, Mack & Carolyn Clouds, I.V. Jones (Bro Jones' dad), Ron Forge, Christina Jones Patricia Hurd, Ray & Ruby Busby (family of the Busby's), Sheila Harris, Sam Lily, Miguel Graves, Joyce Fair Joyce Guitierrez, Joel Sotelo Vazquez [Mexico City, Mexico]

**Sick:** Arthur Henry, Dan Allen, Jerry Birdow, Jose (Bro Santos' friend),

**General:** Demetria Washington, Greg Owens (Bro Owens' brother), Kelvin & Michael Porter (Sis Owens' brothers), Simon Young, Randy Murray, Darius Bell (Bro/Sis Bell's son), Sam Lily (Sis Guthrie's stepson) Chris White, Annett Rowlett, Mattie Stafford, Kaylan White, Bro Ward Carolyn Andrews, Pat Harper, Bro/Sis Williams, Brenda Moore Archie Greene (Unity and Leadership [Charlestown, WV]) Patrick Roberson (Bro/Sis Owens' nephew)

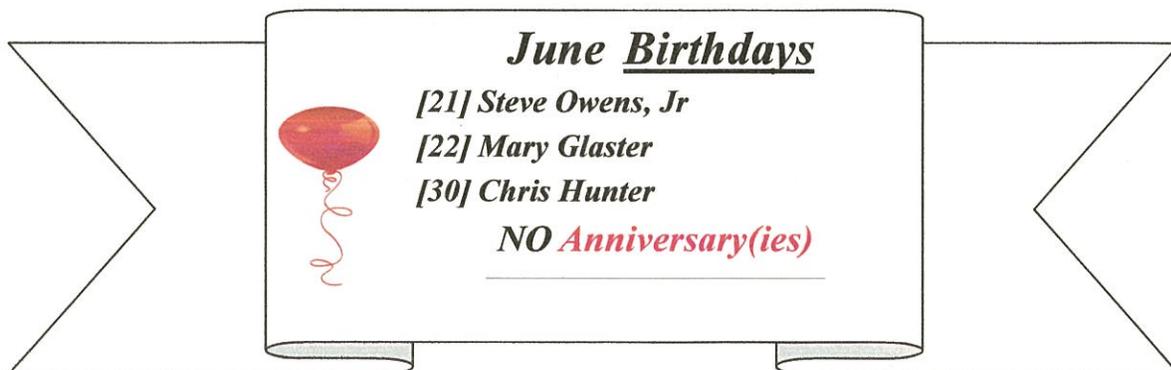
**UPDATES:**

1. Joyce Fair hospitalized for overall health concerns (19 Jun 20)
2. Ray Busby (already on our PRAYER list) hospitalized for heart problems (19 Jun 20)

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## Upcoming Activities/Announcements

1. **Door Knocking Campaign** Postponed until further notice.
2. **Duncanville Lectureship 2020:** **Cancelled** (05/09/2020)





## ABRAHAM WAS A GOOD FATHER

### Genesis 18:16 – 19

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. If one were to attempt to list the great fathers of the Bible, many names might come to mind.
  - A. Names such as Adam, Noah and Jacob just to name a few.
2. Another name to be included would be Abraham (Gen 18:16 – 19)
3. Studying his life, he was not a disappointment to God when it came to being a father.
  - A. God spoke to him and he relayed this very message to his offspring.
4. Throughout man's history, God holds fathers with the charge of teaching their children.
  - A. Those who lived under the Law of Moses received such commandments (Deu 6:6 – 9)
  - B. Likewise, fathers in the early church received commandment from God (Eph 6:4)
5. Abraham's success as a father was of his instruction of his children, but not only this.
  - A. But if what is taught is not lived in the life of the teacher, it will be unsuccessful.
    1. As fathers, [we] may give the right instructions, **BUT** fail to honor God.

#### BODY:

1. **A FRIEND OF GOD** (Jas 2:23)
  - A. Three times Abraham is spoken of in this way (2 Chr 20:7; Isa 41:8; Jas 2:23).
    1. By being a friend, this entitled him to have a very special relationship with God.
    - B. Friends delight in one another's company and like to be around those in this position.
    - C. The Bible does not say Abraham loved God, yet the basic ingredient of friendship is love.
      1. The friendship of Jonathan and David was cemented with love (1 Sam 18:1; 20:17).
      2. Jesus taught the first and greatest commandment involved loving God (Mt 22:37).
    - D. Only by placing God first in our lives will one be counted as His Friend and good fathers.
2. **HAD GREAT FAITH IN GOD** (Rom 4:20)
  - A. Abraham's faith is praised by the apostle Paul (Rom 4:3, 9, 11, 12).
    1. [We] are challenged to "walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham" (v12).
  - B. There are three excellent examples of the strength of Abraham's faith.
    1. The faith of Abraham was tested when he was called to leave his home (Gen 12:1).
    2. He was promised to be the father of "a great nation" (Gen 12:2)
      - A. Isaac birth was delayed, testing his faith; it remained steadfast (Rom 4:18+20).
    3. He was called upon to prepare his son for a sacrificial offering (Gen 22:1-5).
      - A. In many ways this proved to be the most challenging, **BUT** still **NOT** wavered.
      - B. Even as Isaac asked concerning the lamb his faith remained strong (Gen 22:7, 8).
  - C. Because of Abraham's faith, he was prepared to succeed as a father.
    1. If [we] lack faith in God, this will prevent us from being successful as fathers.
    2. The stronger our faith is in God, the better prepared [we] are to be good fathers.
3. **OBEDIENT TO GOD** (Gen 18:19)
  - A. When commanded to leave home and go with God he did so (Gen 12:4; Heb 11:8).
  - B. Abraham's faith and love for God were not expressed in empty words.
    1. Instead, they were shown by Abraham's actions of an obedient faith (Heb 11:6).
  - C. Because of Abraham's loyalty to God, he was a good man and father.
    1. The man who refuses to obey the will of God can**NOT** be successful as a father.