

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

May 2025

Letchworth State Park, NY

Challenges of The Kingdom

Love Without Hypocrisy

If love is to desire and work towards the well-being of all people, then to not do so is to fail to love. If we as believers and as those who claim to be Christ's followers, fail to love while preaching love, then we are hypocrites. I have heard more than once that people who can't stand Christians cite hypocrisy as a major reason. Hypocrisy because Christians are expected to act a particular way and do not. It's funny how a non-believer knows exactly how a Christian is expected to carry themselves according to the bible. A Christian cannot hide. We are known to the world! No human being is perfect of course, but that is the world's expectation. Therefore we should strive to love without hypocrisy. But such love is a challenge for us.

What does it mean to desire the well-being of all people? What a loaded question to answer! I will begin with Romans 13:8-10 which tells us that love is the absolute key to being. According to Paul there is nothing else. All other facets of life take an extreme backseat, including yourself, so head to the back of the longest bus in the universe and place everyone else ahead of you. Paul says that */If* you are loving, then you can never do anything wrong to anyone. It would be impossible. This includes, but is not limited to, deeds, actions, thoughts, and every emotion under the sun. No wrong. However, we obviously do wrong to many people throughout our lives whether we are believers or not and the wrongs come in various sizes and schemes. So, does this mean that there is no love in us? In Romans 5, Paul says that God pours His love into our hearts, a non-stop, massive gushing of love. Think of standing, mouth open, head tilted up, under the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, the Horseshoe Falls. It fills you up and immediately begins to pour out of you! And so, there is love in us! There is so much love that it is immeasurable! This is the love we are to emulate. Paul continues in Romans 12:10-11, that we must not be lazy with this love. Laziness with love breeds hypocrisy. We cannot lag behind. We must always be diligent because this love is in our hearts just waiting to burst free.

In customer service, people who work in stores are taught to keep their heads up. It is too easy to get bogged down in tasks and projects. Many customers need assistance to find items they are looking for, or not looking for, so they can spend money and help service employees make their company money whereby they will earn a paycheck. Keep your heads up, look around for opportunities. Not to sell things, not for your own advantage, but for the advantage of others. Be devoted to their well-being.

In like manner you cannot show this devotion to the well-being of others in your Christian life if your head is down and you are blind to everyone around you. Paul says we need to show devotion to one another in love. Devotion is a strong word. It takes internal strength to always look at others so you can love them. Do not think for even a split second that this means we only need to look up when our fellow believers are around, and we can retreat inward again when a non-believer is near us. Quite the opposite, look even more! While we are scanning the horizon for others, the reach will be incredibly amazing. This is God's desire. There is not a single living soul on this earth who does not deserve this love, without hypocrisy.

No mature Christian could say, with justice, that they cannot love another person. A new believer might, but not a mature Christian. What happens then? When love is held back, shut in, it is quenched by our own fiery hearts. We withhold love whether on purpose or not and we keep it back. Each time it gets easier and easier and soon we fail to realize it, or some might even glory in holding it back! It would be better to be accused of being lazy with love than to be found holding it back with intention. God has given us something incredible! An internal desire to share His love. We often work, throwing up waterproof walls to stop the love from gushing. Not because we want it all to ourselves, but because we simply do not want to give it out. Not only does it become easier and easier to hold it back, but the choice to let it flow becomes harder and harder. This is the hypocrisy that Paul is concerned with. And I believe Paul's main issue is not necessarily the effect hypocrisy has on you, but on the effect it has on others. The effect it has on the witness and message of the gospel. Not only does your own heart turn cold and sour, but you may be the cause of another heart turning the same. Jesus stated in Matthew 23:13 that the pharisees were shutting people out of the Kingdom. Elsewhere, in Matthew 18:6, Jesus said if you turned away a child from him, you would be better off drowning yourself with a millstone around your neck. Seems very harsh but that is the analogy made by the one who desires that all come into the Kingdom. This is how important Paul's admonishment is! Love without hypocrisy and do it with diligence.

Dan Haley 3

















Next month in our June 2025 Newsletter, CHALLENGES OF THE KINGDOM continues with ZEALOUS.





May 2025

Letchworth State Park

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 SUNDAY			 WEDNESDAY	1 11AM Zoom Study and Prayer	2	3
4 Breakfast @ Grinds 8:30 10AM Study 11AM Worship		6	7  7PM Zoom Study	8	9 	10 
11  10AM Study 11AM Worship	12 	13	14  7PM Zoom Study	15 	16	17 
18 10AM Study 11AM Worship FELLOWSHIP DINNER	19	20	21  7PM Zoom Study	22  Happy Anniversary Joshua & Kerry	23	24
25 10AM Study 11AM Worship	26 	27	28  7PM Zoom Study	29	30	31 



Spiritual Strength & Guidance

Pray the scriptures over those who need strength. This is the most important prayer.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being." Ephesians 3:16

Please be aware of those who are missing from our services, either those in person or those on Zoom & text or email a "thinking of you" note.

Daily specific physical needs

Chronic health conditions

Respiratory Conditions:

Ron Murphy - COPD

Seth Karpenko - Asthma

Diabetes:

Joy Karpenko, Susan Haley,

Neurological Conditions:

Migraines: Kendra Cooke, Joy Karpenko,

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Patsy Cliff

Chere Peters (crippling arthritis)

Susan Haley neuropathy

Mental Health:

Jayden and Morgan Cooke

Seth Karpenko

Special Health:

Dan Haley 3 : Alport's Syndrome (hearing, kidneys, pancreas)

Stephen Pratt: cancer with cont. treatments

Joanne Kraemer: cancer and she is stable

Gordie McKinley: liver cancer & decisions to be made

Victoria Murphy: Sciatica and other health concerns

Judy Hurst (Susan Haley's sister): memory care facility

Jodi Corona

Gabe Torok: broken leg

Hospital:

Believers Gone to be With the Lord

Prayers for the Families - Loved Ones will be Missed

Dustin Kraemer , son of Dan and Joanne

Rachael Wrue, beloved wife of Pete Wrue

A NEW DOOR TO AN OLD PATH

The Christian life is full of many changes. Sometimes a sudden, instantaneous change and sometimes a gradual, over a period of time change. But, if you read your Bible, there will be changes. Because God is continually opening our eyes to new thoughts, new ways of getting to know Him. It's a glorious journey.

I have traveled through quite a few doctrinal beliefs and they, as with all things, change. My knowledge is not yet complete so change is inevitable, I have discovered that many believers don't really get this. But I continue on in discovering my God, regardless. What I believe in the Scriptures is absolutely necessary to my life; how I live.

The latest Door that I have gone through is New and Old at the same time! All of the changes have led to this point - my understanding has gone full circle. It's The Gospel . Old because it is from the beginning of time, Christ is the Creator, and New because Christ brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

This is the Gospel. It is the Alpha and Omega of everything. It is finally understanding that this good news is knowing that what God wants is to love me and use me to show His love to everyone.

This is the Gospel. It is the proverbial bottom line to all that I believe. It's coming to know the purpose of God through His beloved Son, my Savior. It's a Path of perfect joy and peace. It's the Path of discovering the Heart of God.

And This is the Gospel. It is being surrounded by, filled with, dwelling in and sharing Him.

I love to tell the Story for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And now in scenes of glory I sing a new, new song
And it's the old, old Story, that I have loved so long!

The following Bible verse is the translation found in The Passion Translation., Psalm 46:4.

*"God has a constantly flowing river whose sparkling streams
bring joy and delight to His people.
His river flows right through the city of God Most High,
into His holy dwelling places.*

There is a note that accompanies the verse. It says: "The plural 'dwelling places' points to believers today. Each believer is now the HOLY DWELLING PLACE OF GOD! God's river flows INTO us and THROUGH us!"

And it's flowing river is the water of life. The precious Gospel of my Lord and my Savior Jesus Christ.

SLH



What a beautiful blessing this is to me. Thank you,
Lord, for the fullness of joy that You have given.

OBF PRESENCE

"Living in His Presence with Passion and Purpose"

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QR Codes for Services



SUNDAY



WEDNESDAY

Our OBF Newsletter is offered as an opportunity.

We, as saints of God, hunger for fellowship in the Spirit by being aware of one another's needs, blessings and experiences in our walk with the Lord.

Please take time to read the main article, check the calendar, realize the spiritual and physical needs of the brethren, read the Journal Page which is a beautiful testimony of one of the Lord's beloved in the OBF Presence ministry.

"Thank you Lord for all of the precious, folks at OBF. "

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Many thanks to those who make this publication possible:

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Assistant Publisher and Editor: Christy Auberger

Editing Staff: Victoria Murphy, Joy Karpenko

God's Love



Is Our Heritage

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:00 AM also on ZOOM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE & MESSAGE FROM THE SCRIPTURES

11:00 AM also on ZOOM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION TIME

7:00 PM on ZOOM

THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP, STUDY & PRAYER

11:00 AM on ZOOM

ZOOM LINKS are available on our website and in this newsletter, p. 3 and p. 5

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