

From Pastor Greg's Heart

"The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks (Luke 6:45 ESV)."

I have a brother in the faith named Ken. You may have met him at church. He has this insatiable hunger for the LORD, and desires to live out his life as the good person out of the good treasure of his heart which is anchored to Jesus. I don't mean to put him on a pedestal (he is a preacher lol), but he has lived the Christian life a bit longer than me and he had a wonderful mentor in his Christ-centred, Bible-preaching father.

Can I replace Ken's name in the sentences above with mine? Do I have an insatiable hunger for the LORD? Yes, it is my desire to live out the good which Jesus produces in my heart as I abide in Him (John 15:5). I do realize that our backgrounds, our personalities, our experiences are different, but we both have the same LORD. I know that I fail, and I am deceived by old sinful desires that rear their ugly heads in my life, but I beat them back with the power of the Holy Spirit when He convicts me. I need a heart that is breakable, moldable, and fillable by the Holy Spirit. Could this be the definition of a "good heart?" Is my heart pliable and malleable unto the LORD Jesus?

Can I replace your name in the sentences above? Do you have an insatiable desire for the LORD? Does it show in your heart, faith, and speech in your life?

Ephesians 4:1-16 is a passage that comes to my heart today as we live together in this world as "One Body." Here are some snippets of this passage... *"1b, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace... 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."* *

I have another brother who exemplifies an insatiable hunger for the LORD. It is my brother Malcolm. He has a shepherd's heart. I thank the LORD for his service as an elder among us. His wisdom and faith have done a lot of good. He is taking a sabbatical from eldership this church year 2021/22. May God bless Malcolm and Linda as they continue to serve among us in love. I appreciate their hearts for God.

Let God examine your heart today and let your "good" be a blessing to our church.

**A POEM ABOUT TODAY'S WORD
FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE JAMES 1:1-12**

Dear Heavenly Father

Refine our faith through testing
To help us mature and complete
These hidden steps of our life
Will lead us to a life so neat

Remind us to face trials with joy
Give wisdom to help us get by
Our belief will prove - "no doubt"
To give us Peace so we really know why

The humility we'll experience will be blessed
Help us to not fade away
We'll take up our cross every day
To stay close to You, so we don't stray

Looking forward to accept our inheritance
As we work at it with all our heart
Our reward will be more than ever
Love and Joy as we do our part

Thank You Lord for letting us be part of You/Stephen Chambers

Prayer Corner

"Men and women are needed whose prayers will give to the world the utmost power of God, who will make His promises to blossom with rich and full results. God is waiting to hear us and challenges us to bring Him to do this thing by our praying. He is asking us, to-day, as He did His ancient Israel, to prove Him now herewith." Behind God's Word is God Himself, and we read: "Thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, his Maker: Ask of me of things to come and concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands, command ye me. [KJV Isaiah 45:11]" As though God places Himself in the hands and at the disposal of His people who pray - as indeed He does. The dominant element of all

praying is faith, that is conspicuous, cardinal, and emphatic. Without such faith it is impossible to please God, and equally impossible to pray.”

— E.M. Bounds, The Weapon of Prayer

Are we a praying church? Yes, and more prayer is needed until we speak to Jesus face to face. Please consider joining one or more of these prayer opportunities.

Prayer Chain – Pray for urgent needs that happen from day to day. They are communicated through email by our Prayer Chain Co-ordinator Mel Coker (Care & Body Life Steward).

Prayer Warrior – Annually, Pastor Greg invites people from the congregation to fill out a commitment card to pray for our church, our church leaders, our church ministries, and himself. This is done with the aid of a monthly Prayer Calendar. Due to COVID last year’s prayer warriors have been conscripted for this year without a commitment card. If you want to be a prayer warrior and receive a Prayer Calendar contact Pastor Greg at calvarysmithsfall@gmail.com.

Monday Night Prayer Group – Every other Monday night a group of people spend a concerted time of prayer interceding for people within our church, and for important issues that concern the Church and missions etc.

New – Sunday Morning Prayer Team – This group of individuals will meet during the Sunday morning worship service to pray for the worship team, service leader and Pastor Greg’s message or special speaker. A Prayer Agenda will help lead the two or three gathered in Jesus’s name. During COVID restrictions, the Prayer Agenda will be emailed to the prayer partners. In the future when services resume, if enough people sign-up, you may only be required to pray once a month at church. Currently we have 5 people.

Men’s Revival Prayer Meeting – This is a prayer meeting started in 1993 when Smith’s Falls hosted a Steve Russo Crusade. A prayer team was formed for this event. A group of men and pastors, from most of our evangelical churches in Smiths Falls, continued to meet for pray at 6:30 A.M on Wednesday mornings after the crusade left town. Over the years, God has answered in marvelous ways. All praise to Him! It is a wonderful men’s fellowship of prayer held at different churches each week. During lockdown, prayers have been shared via email. For more information contact Bob Kerr at 613-283-0466 or Pastor Greg at 613-283-6474

The 2021 Annual General Meeting – Originally planned for February 9th.

The Annual General Meeting for our church has morphed into a two-week process of collecting feedback from our members and church family. The 2020 Annual Report will be emailed to every church family soon. Please check your email.

The Calvary Bible members will be receiving an additional point of contact by an elder or by our Administration steward Kendall Loewen. This will be a simple phone call to solicit your affirmation for two important documents: 1) The Calvary Bible Church Budgets 2021, and 2) The Calvary Bible Church Leadership Report 2021. These phone calls will take place during the two-week period from February 9 to February 23. The elders will then meet on Wednesday, February 24th to tabulate the responses, and then formulate statements for “legal” purposes. Kendall will do the appropriate record keeping. This should suffice as an alternative to a regular AGM in accordance with advice from the Associated Gospel Churches’ Headquarters.

If you have any questions or comments please call our elder chair Mike Roy at 613-853-4336 or Kendall Loewen at 613-854-9596. We welcome non-member comments, but you will be unable to have a vote of affirmation. If you want to become a member call Mike Roy or Pastor Greg (613-283-6474).

Christian Living

One to One Discipleship – Following Jesus as your Saviour and LORD is never done in isolation. We need a brother or sister in faith to help us grow and mature in our relationship with God and His Church. The apostle Peter wrote in **1 Peter 1:5-8**, *“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” **

If you desire to grow in your faith in a discipleship relationship do one of two things: 1) approach a more mature brother or sister in the LORD and ask them to disciple you, or 2) contact one of the elders or Pastor Greg, and we will find someone for you that you can meet with to grow toward Christian maturity. Call 613-283-6474.

Helpful resources to understand the importance of discipleship from Jake Giesbrecht (another brother with an insatiable hunger for the LORD):

1) Loving Discipleship Videos

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGci1T03GdfG5m4vpD-6F0PjFxp8_pyo

2) Jake’s book ~ “Relationship: The Essence of Discipleship” Available at Amazon.ca

Believer's Baptism – Jesus gave us an example of the importance of baptism when He said (at His own baptism) in **Matthew 3:15**, *“Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.”** Here is an excerpt from our Statement of Faith as an Associated Gospel Church (AGC) ~ “The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances: Believer’s Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Though not the means of salvation, these ordinances testify of the gospel.” Each believer upon their conversion to Christ should be baptized by immersion as ordained by Jesus, taught by the apostles, and practiced in the early Church. A Believer’s Baptism pamphlet and a Baptismal Class is available through Pastor Greg and the elders. We have a baptismal tank at church or riverside baptisms are available in the summer. Call 613-283-6474.

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Becoming a Member of Calvary Bible Church – Why?

Membership is more of an issue today than it was in the Early Church. The Early Church was One Church with Jew and Gentile converts. Today there are hundreds of Christian denominations divided into Roman Catholic or Protestant (non-Catholic). Under the Protestant wing, there is a broad range of liberal to evangelical to fundamental independent churches. Our AGC denomination is a conservative evangelical, Bible believing and preaching, Christ-centred fellowship of churches.

Membership at Calvary Bible Church (CBC) means that you agree with the AGC Statement of Faith and covenant yourself to worship God, fellowship in our community of believers, grow in discipleship, serve in ministry to one another (including giving), and evangelize the world locally and globally. A member at CBC says, “yes” to this membership covenant and submits to the Biblical leadership of the church as set out in Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-13) in order to live-out the Greatest Commandments (Mark 12:30,31) and fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). A Church Membership pamphlet and a Membership class(es) is available through Pastor Greg and the elders. Call 613-283-6474.

Small Group Ministries

Before COVID we freely met as small groups in many forms and sizes. We offered – Sunday School for all ages, Evening Service, The Marriage Course, Women’s Study groups, Mom’s Life group, Men’s Study Group, and Youth.

Currently, we have a Tuesday Men's Group led by Jordi Wills done virtually; Ladies' Group led by Heidi Wills; and a Mom's Life Zoom that is sporadic. Once the emergency order and lockdown are lifted look for announcements regarding these small groups. Call Jordi at 613-229-7220. Call Heidi at 613-207-0428. Call Bethany for Mom's Life 613-285-7020.

Bits and Pieces of News:

Communion is traditionally the first Sunday of every month. The ordinance of celebrating the LORD's Supper also called "Communion" has been held monthly for decades at our church. You are probably aware that other denominations like the Roman Catholics and Brethren celebrate the LORD's Supper every week. If you want to know the differences in the way in which the LORD's Supper is practiced among the denominations do your own study online or have a chat with an elder. There is a difference between an ordinance and a sacrament. During COVID lockdown, join us virtually with your own bread and juice at home in remembrance of our LORD Jesus's sacrifice for our salvation.

Our Elevator is still in repair. It is at the point where TSSA (certification body) will inspect and give it the license to operate. Final cosmetic details and touch-ups are still on going. The elevator went out of commission April 2018. We are grateful that Berg's Elevator has taken an interest in our elevator or we would have had a greater expense and problem on our hands. Our elevator has received a hydraulic upgrade.

Leadership and Development Sessions. Our elders, steward leaders and some ministry leaders will hopefully be meeting on Saturday, February 27 from 8 am to noon for spiritual leadership encouragement and training in God's Word. Trainers will be Jake Giesbrecht, Chris Coker, and one session by Pastor Greg and Jordi Wills. We appreciate your prayers for our leaders as we seek the LORD for wisdom serving Him in our time.

Constituency Referendum #11: Cast your vote on Bill C-6. Send in your Mail-In Ballot to our Member of Parliament Scott Reid. You should have received a green-and-white pamphlet explaining "An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conversion Therapy)." The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, the Christian Legal Fellowship and the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms have posted arguments against Bill C-6. If you do not have a ballot, please visit <https://scottreid.ca/BillC-6/> It is conceivable when this Bill is passed into law that a Christian parent who is seeking counselling for their child's gender dysphoria can be legally prosecuted for engaging in "conversion therapy." Christian and Biblical Counsellors will be at risk of prosecution if they help gender dysphoric individuals with the Biblical understanding of male and female gender. We need to keep praying and loving all people and believe the Holy Spirit will *"prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8b)."* *