

Wisdom Nuggets by Pastor Sharp



JUST DO IT!

Don't you think Christians ought to be wiser than the unsaved people of this world?

After all, we have the Word of God, the wisdom of the Creator of the universe in our hearts. We have the mind of Christ and the Holy Spirit inside us constantly teaching us what to do.

We ought to be the wisest people on earth. But do you know what Jesus said about us? He said, "*...the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.*" (Luke 16:8)

As a pastor, I've found that to be true in many cases. I've found, for example, that worldly people don't generally expect natural results without doing what it takes to get those results. They don't expect a light to come on before they turn the light switch. They don't expect their cars to run if they don't put gas in them.

They don't sit around crying, complaining and wondering why God doesn't love them enough to turn on the light or put fuel in their cars. They simply obey natural laws God

put in motion for their good. They know what to do; naturally speaking, and they **just do it!**

Christians, however, are a whole different story. Spiritually, they know what to do but many times they won't do it. Then they sit around wondering why God isn't blessing their lives.

Someone came to me and said, "Pastor, I don't understand why I'm not prospering financially. I've done everything I'm supposed to do. I've spoken the Word over my finances again and again. I've proclaimed, my God meets my needs according to His riches and glory by Christ Jesus. But He doesn't do it!"

"Well, if that's the case then God is a liar," I answered, "and I know God isn't a liar because He cannot lie. So let me ask you a question, "Are you a tither?"

"Why no!" she said. "I'm waiting for the blessings of God to come to me first. Then I'll start tithing and giving." My friend, the Christian life doesn't work that way. God has told us in His Word exactly what we must do to re-

ceive His blessings and we need to stop arguing with Him about it. We need to stop being lazy and unbelieving. We need to stop resisting His Word and **just do it!**

Someone might say, "Well, I don't believe we have to do anything to earn the blessings of God. He just gives them to us." It's true that we don't earn God's blessings. Jesus earned them for us. He paid the whole price for sin and with His own blood; He made us righteous so that we can inherit all the blessings of God.

But even though we don't do anything to ***earn*** those blessings, there are some things we must do to ***receive*** them.

God gave us a picture of that process in the Old Testament when the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River to go into the promise land. Now, the Israelites obviously hadn't done anything to earn that land. It was their inheritance, given to them by God simply because they were children of Abraham. The Promised

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- Sunday Service — 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Night Service — 7:00 p.m.
 - Corporate Prayer
Sunday — 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night — 6:30 p.m.
Saturday — 12:00 noon
- Television Ministry — Sunday Morning
6:00 a.m. — KMBT Channel 12

Land was a gift. Yet they had to do some things in order to receive that gift. When it came time for them to cross the Jordan, the Lord gave them some instructions. He said to the priests who bore the Ark of the Covenant, “...**When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.**” (Joshua 3:8)

Clearly, God was going to part those waters so they could cross over. But they had to do something first. They had to step out on faith and obey God. They had to have enough faith in the integrity of God’s Word to act on the Word before there was any natural evidence that it was going to come to pass. By faith and obedience they had to put themselves in position to receive that which God was giving them. They had to act on God’s Word.

What happened when they did that? A miracle was put in motion. (Joshua 3:15-17)

Don’t think acting on the Word is just an Old Testament principle, either. Jesus taught about it in His ministry. (Luke 6:46-49) The letter of James written to New Testament Christians says, “**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves**” (James 1:22) and “**For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**” (James 2:26)

Obviously, we are going to have to do some things if we want to enjoy the fullness of our inheritance in Christ Jesus. What things will we have to do? Quite simply, we will have to hear the Word of God and obey it.

Joshua 1:8 says it this way, “**This book of the law (Word of God) shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**”

NO MODIFICATIONS OR SUBSTITUTIONS

The second decision you’ll have to make is to trust the Word of God enough to act on it. For instance, when you see God says that tithing will cause the windows of heaven to open and bless you, and then act in faith and tithe! Don’t wait for a convenient time. Don’t wait for the day when you have some extra money and you can afford to tithe. **Just do it!**

Don’t modify the Word either. Do it just the way God says. Don’t say, “Well, I can’t afford to tithe 10% so I’ll just give 5%, God will understand.” If you do that, you’ll miss out on the full measure of God’s blessings.

That’s what happened to Peter the day he allowed Jesus to preach from his boat. After Jesus had finished preaching, He wanted to bless Peter so He gave him some instructions. He said to Peter, “...**Launch out into the deep, and let down your**

nets for a draught.” (Luke 5:4) Noticed, Jesus had already prepared that blessing for Peter. The fish were already out there waiting on him. But Peter had to do something to receive that blessing. He had to act on Jesus’ Word.



But Peter didn’t fully obey that Word. No doubt, he thought, “*What does this carpenter-turned-preacher know about fishing? I can’t catch fish in the daytime. The fish will see the net and swim away. What’s more, I’m tired. I’ve already washed my nets and I want to go home and sleep.*”

After all these thoughts ran through his mind, Peter answered Jesus and said, “...**Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.**” (Luke 5:5)

Do you see what Peter did? He modified Jesus’ Word. Instead of putting all his nets back into the water, he just put down one net. What caused him to do that? Three things!

HUMAN REASONING, UNBELIEF & LAZINESS

The first was human reasoning. What Jesus told Peter to do didn’t make any natural sense. More often than not, that’s the way God’s Word is. It doesn’t make natural sense. It doesn’t make natural sense when you can’t pay your bills to think you’ll be more prosperous by giving away 10% of your money. But that’s what God asks us to do.

If we go by human reasoning, we’ll never obey God. If they had trusted human reasoning, the Israelites would never have marched around Jericho seven times and then shouted. How on earth could that make the city walls fall down? The blind man Jesus healed would have never gone to the pool of Siloam to wash mud from his eyes. How could that possibly heal him? The servants at the wedding feast of Cana would never have filled those pots with water. What could that have to do with getting more wine?

Most of the time we will not understand why God is telling us to do a certain thing but we must trust Him and do it anyway! That’s what Proverbs 3:5-6 says.

The second thing that kept Peter from fully obeying Jesus’ Word was unbelief. He didn’t believe he would actually catch that draught of fish that Jesus promised. One thing we’ll have to settle within our own hearts if we’re to enjoy the full blessings of God is the integrity of His Word. We must dare to believe that what He says, He will do.

We must believe that not just in our heads but with our whole hearts. We must settle the fact that He and therefore His Word can absolutely be trusted.

The third hindrance Peter encountered was fleshly laziness. He'd already washed his nets. He was tired and wanted to go home. How many times have we heard the Lord say to us, "Spend some extra time in the Word tonight" or "Get up early tomorrow morning and pray about this situation." But our flesh rebelled. It was lazy and instead of taking authority over it, we yielded to it and missed out on a boatload of blessings just like Peter did.

When he let down that one measly net, the Bible says, it encompassed such a great load of fish that it broke! Of course, Peter immediately realized his error and called his partners out to help him but he still lost that first load of fish!

Over the years, I've realized we are the ones who determine how richly we are blessed. God has already provided all the riches in glory for us. We can disobey God completely and miss out on all of them. We can obey Him half the time and end up halfway blessed. Or we can obey Him all the time and be **100%** blessed!

Make up your mind to start every day by choosing God's way. Don't just think about God's Word anymore. Don't just talk about it. Start acting on it!

Step out and put your feet in the Jordan. Set your miracle in motion by acting on the Word. Then watch God roll back the waters of impossibility for you. God has already given you the promised land of victory in every area of your life. He's given you His Word to show you how to take that land. Now it's up to you.

JUST DO IT!

"Where are the Fathers", by Phillip G.

Goudeaux, is a book currently being studied by the Men's Ministry of FCCC. To be a male does not mean you are a man. One of the greatest tragedies in America is that we have a fatherless generation where the men have abandoned their responsibilities. They have allowed their careers or some other circumstances in their lives to be the number one priority. The man is to be the provider and guide to help lead and direct the family. MEN — we encourage you to obtain a copy of this book and study with the FCCC Men's Ministry...let it become a part of who you are as a man. You can learn how to be a father from *The Father*. A few of the topics in the book are:

The Highest Honor is to be a Father & A Father is Responsible & Accountable. Attend the Men's Ministry on April 26, 2007, 7:00 p.m. at FCCC. When you have the blessing upon your life, you will be different from everyone else, and

this will cause people to see what God is doing in your life.



"Making An Impact" by First Lady Gwen Sharp

In Order To Be Who God Says You Are ~

1. Do An Inspection ~ Psalms 139:23-24

A. In order to be what God wants you to be, look at yourself and do an inspection.



2. Get To A Point of Conviction ~

A. Conviction - when you decide the only way is God's way. **Isaiah 55:10**
 B. Your way is not the right way. Get to a point to where you say... God your way is the right way. Be convicted that His way is the right

way.

3. Make A Confession ~

A. Confession - is choosing to say what God's Word says about you. **Mark 11:23** ... Never say what you think or what others say.

B. In order for me to be who God says that I am, I have to put pressure on my mouth and start speaking the Word of God, regardless of what's going on around me. **Proverbs 18:21**

Remember When You HEAR The Word of God, You Must

- 1. Believe It**
- 2. Receive It**
- 3. Act On It**



Sister to Sister — “Putting Your Best Foot Forward”



The Sister to Sister Ministry learned a lesson on how to examine shoes. Shoes are important because our feet are important. Our feet take us places. Where we put our feet determines what direction we'll go in. What we wear on our spiritual feet is important too. How we walk and how our steps are ordered will have an impact on us and those around us. Sometimes we need to be a little more selective on what shoes we find ourselves wearing as Christians.

Psalms 37:23, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way.” Psalms 119:105, “Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”



Congratulations to the FCCC May 2007 High School Graduates



Jamie Paige will graduate from Clifton J. Ozen Magnet High School. She plans to attend Texas Southern University & major in Pharmacy. She is the daughter of June Fontenot and goddaughter of Ronnie Fontenot.



Andrew George will graduate from Central Medical Magnet High School. He plans to attend Southern University & major in Electrical Engineering. He is the son of Patricia George.



April Bernard will graduate from Clifton J. Ozen Magnet High School. She plans to attend Florida A&M University and major in Business Management. She is the daughter of Carolyn Mitchell and Marlin Bernard.



Emmitt Williams will graduate from Central Medical Magnet High School. He plans to attend Prairie View A&M University and major in Electrical Engineering. He is the son of Emmitt and Nettie Williams.



Joshua Grimes will graduate from Clifton J. Ozen Magnet High School. He plans to attend Prairie View A&M University & major in Mechanical Engineering. He is the son of Kenneth & Laura Grimes.

“Praying for the First Family” by Evangelist Rochelle Guillory

Evangelist Guillory delivered a dynamic message on “Effective Prayer for Pastors and First Families” as she spoke to family and friends at the Faith Christian Center Church Prayer Seminar. Her message included definitions and steps on the Purpose of A Pastor...the Bible clearly says a Pastor is a gift from God to man and Ephesians 4:8, 11-12 gives his purpose; Building a Relationship with Your Pastor and First Family...the relationship between the First Family of a church and a congregation is a covenant relationship; and Praying Effectively for Your Pastor... intercession is making a request to God on behalf of another and God hears the prayers of the righteous. Bless the First Family with prayer!



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BUILDING BRIDGES
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