

FLOURISH

From the Pastor's Desk

I was asked a question some time ago, "Why was wisdom described as a woman? My reply was simple and one I had learned years ago. The writer of Proverbs chapter 9 (King Solomon) merely personified the word (to give human attributes to a word or inanimate object). I must admit that even that answer is too simple. Wisdom is not just a word, but a spirit—a divine spirit. In the spirit world, the angels are seen as male and even female:

"Then lifted I up my eyes and looked, and behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork... (Zechariah 5:9)

Let us look at the text. The writer Solomon was led by God to speak to his son in the previous chapter about the wayward and sinful woman. He now directs his focus to the woman who molds and shapes destiny. Mind you, Solomon spent countless hours studying women. The bible declares that he was a king with 700 wives and 300 concubines (women of secondary import). In his studying, one thing was apparent; women want to and desire to be understood. Women want to be number one, the object of desire and affection. How they go about achieving that goal is still a mystery.

In Solomon's early reign, he asked God for wisdom and an understanding heart:

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people" 1 King 3:9

Behold, I have done according to thy words; lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

1 Kings 3:12

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore."

1 Kings 4:29

FROM THE EDITOR

Prayer Still Works!

These words were powerfully echoed in the message by Pastor Lloyd Brown during the Friday, February 26th services of the Birthday Celebration of our Pastor and our District Superintendent Richard E. Patterson Sr.

The Lord moved greatly amongst his people. It was not just a program, but a Spirit-filled service where members and guests alike shared in the honoring of our pastor with tributes, heart-felt words of encouragement, love and adoration to the a man of God who is passionate about God and his people. The scripture states emphatically that the elders that rule well is worthy of double honor, especially those that labor in the word and doctrine. Many people came far and near to join the celebration of this great man of God.

On Sunday, the Lord moved in a wonderful way again. Pastor Tyrone Gaston ministered a powerful word of strength and encouragement to our Pastor and to the people of God.

We thank God for all that he has wrought in these services and we can assuredly say,

That the best is yet to come!

Continue to pray for the man of God and that we will run with the vision that God has given unto Him.



DO YOU REMEMBER?????

1. What was wisdom personified as?
2. Who was Solomon speaking to?
3. Name 4 things God gave Solomon.

1. as a woman 2. his son 3 wisdom, understanding, exceeding much, largeness of heart



Flourishing in God's House

By 1st Lady Missionary Kista Patterson

“Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.” Psalm 92:13

What powerful words written by the Psalmist! In order to grasp a full understanding of the scripture, you must understand the meaning of planting and flourishing. **Planting** is to put or set in the ground for growth; to place firmly or forcibly.

We are all familiar with the process of growth; however; flourishing is different. God set us in His house firmly and some forcibly, for the purpose of growth. When we are firmly planted in the Lord, the process of flourishing takes place.

How do you know when you are firmly planted? When your life bears witness with the scripture below:

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abound therein with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2: 7- 8

Flourish means to grow luxuriantly; to thrive; to achieve success and to prosper. It also means to be in a state of activity or production; to reach a height of development or influence. Flourishing is when you reap where you did not sow. If you have a rose bush in your yard and your bush comes up in your neighbors yard where no seed was planted, that is flourishing! When you begin to affect your surroundings!

The blessing of God in you will affect your family and friends. Speak the salvation of your household and your neighbor's household into existence. Your place of flourishing is determined in the courts of our God! *“The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”*

“For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.”

Missionary Kista L. Patterson

Missionary Kista Patterson is the wife of Pastor Richard E. Patterson and the mother of 3 children; Richard II, Stephen and Krysta. She has been a member of St. Samuel Temple Church of God In Christ for over 20 years. She currently serves as the Women's Department President and secretary to the Minister's Wives President Mother Earlene Sanders. She is a dynamic teacher of God's Word. Read the powerful testimony of Missionary Patterson on our website: www.stsamueltemple.org

Why Sunday School?

By Deacon James Richardson

Have you ever stopped to think about...”**Why** our church has a Sunday School? It is the wish of most of us to see Sunday School grow and expand, but before we can see such growth, we need to take time out to think about our purpose and goals for our Sunday School. The Bible has the answer to any problem or question that any of us might have about living our lives in the way God wants. For the person who doesn't know the Bible well or how to apply it to their lives, finding these answers can be difficult. That is exactly where Sunday School should come in. It is necessary for us to meet the needs of the people of our church and community. Establishing goals for our Sunday School is an important way for us to lay a foundation for growth, both in attendance and in spiritual commitment to the Lord.

Here are several important goals to consider:

1. **Help persons of all ages** to learn God's Word and how to apply it to their lives. A primary goal of any Sunday School should be to help people learn what the Bible says. In addition, we should strive to help everyone learn how to apply the Bible to their own lives. Teaching them to ask “What is God say to me?” and “How can I apply His Word and His Will for me to my life. Understanding the scriptures and memorizing them can also help.
2. **Evangelism**- The main goal of the church and certainly its Sunday School should be to see that everyone comes to know the Lord as their personal Savior. Sunday School provides a unique opportunity for everyone to learn in depth, what it means to become a Christian and a follower of Christ.
3. **Provides opportunities for Christian fellowship.** One is reminded that “no man is an island.” It is hard to be a Christian on your own. That's why it is important to be part of a church- “the Family of God”, knowing that others have faced similar trials and they have found solace in the Bible and in Jesus Christ. Fellowship, events, and activities for individuals and groups are so vital.

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As you attend more classes, you will be able to ask God to guide you to people to talk to and confide in. Getting to know each other in Sunday School can be extremely important for everyone

- 4. Provides opportunities for Christian service.** Although some people are more “hands on” than others and feel the need to help. Sunday School and individual classes can provide many opportunities for members to interact and serve the Lord and their fellow man within the church and their community
- 5. Provides opportunities for spiritual growth.** For nature has a rule that implies “if something stops growing, it will soon die”. This same rule applies to the church and Sunday School. In order for your Sunday School to grow, to remain vibrant, relevant and alive, it must have teachers, leaders and members who are excited about sharing the “Good News” that they have found for their lives with others. Sunday School that work to promote spiritual growth of their members will surely find the added bonus of an increase of attendance too!

To be part of the overall growth, outreach and mission of the total church, one might ask “WHAT SHOULD BE OUR TOP PRIORITY? The church? The Sunday School? NO! Jesus Christ should come first! He is the rock on which all programs are built upon. Yes, each ministry has its purpose, which is different, with each having different methods and purposes of each part; whereas all must be in harmony, working together for the One who is our primary focus. Jesus Christ.

In Summary... Sunday School allows us to

KNOW, GROW and GO!

Who Said...

- 1. My punishment is more than I can bear?**
- 2. If you take one step, God will take two?**
- 3. The race is not given to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but he that endureth to the end shall be saved?**
- 4. It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks?**

Answers:

1. Cain Genesis 4:13
2. Not a biblical quote
3. Not a true bible quote but a splicing of two scriptures--Ecclesiastes 9:11 and Matthews 24:13
4. Jesus Acts 9:5

Featured Family Of the Month Minister Carlos II and Sister Sherylenn Patterson

Minister Carlos Patterson II and Sister Sherylenn Blackburn, were married September 19, 2009.

Sister Patterson is a patient advocate for a health center and Minister Patterson is a Build Court Assistant for a foreclosure firm, both are committed members of St Samuel Temple Church of God In Christ. On Sundays, you will find them in the choir singing the praises of God, in Sunday school or bible class. Minister Carlos Patterson is the District YPWW (Youth) President

Sister Patterson will be graduating this June with her Masters in psychology.

What makes your family “works”?

Minister Patterson states, “At this point in our marriage, we are still getting to know one another and learning about one another. We are also trying to be patient with one another and loving each other is how our family works.

Why is it so important to have God in your life?

“God is the source of all life; without Him, our marriage would not have life. God sustains us when we ourselves cannot.

What words of encouragement would you like to share with other young marrieds?

Have patience and listen to one another; being able to share. Communicate-without communication, you have nothing working in any relationship, especially marriage and always keep God first.

