

Love Letter

"Jesus Wrote In The Sand"

Weekly Newsletter Published and Distributed By the Agape Church of Christ
Agape Church of Christ / Adorn Hall 4165 FM 521 Rd, Fresno, TX 77545
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AGAPE
CHURCH OF CHRIST



From The Pen Of A Free Man

"Purpose For Struggles"
Bro. G. A. Freeman

The following is a story of nature demonstrating the fact that struggles are a necessary part of growth and development for the Christian in this life. God places these struggles (or trials) before us to prepare us for that perfect home in heaven with Him.

The Man And The Cocoon

One day a small opening appeared on a cocoon. A man sat and watched for the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and could go no further. The man decided to help the butterfly, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restraining cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening was God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

As Christians, struggles (or trials) are exactly what we need in our life in order to grow and develop properly. If God allowed us to go through our Christian life without any obstacles, it would cripple us spiritually. We, like the butterfly, would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never fly!

Brethren – Let's thank God for our daily struggles (trials) and display the same attitude toward trials as the Apostle Paul. The great Apostle said in 1 Peter 4:12-13 – "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

Till The Last Amen

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Important Dates

*** Weekly Zoom Thursday
Stay With The Book Research Hour 7:00 pm**

*** Weekly Broadcast
The Place Where It Is Written
Every Monday on Facebook and YouTube**

Plan Of Salvation

In order to obey the Gospel and become a Christian, a member of the Church of Christ, which is the Kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13) which is the body (Col. 1:18).

God has provided a scheme of redemption. A Plan of Salvation.

All who obey God, through Christ, must:

1. Hear the Gospel.
Rom. 10:12-17;
1 Cor. 15:1-4
2. Believe in Jesus, as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
Jn. 8:24
3. Repent of your Sins.
Acts 2:38; 17:30,
Lk. 13:3, 5.
4. Confess Faith In Christ. Rom. 10:9.
5. Be Baptized for the remission of sins.
Mk. 16:16,
Acts 2:38; 22:16
6. The Lord will add you to His Body, which is the church.
Acts 2:47

This is the simple plan of salvation. There are biblical examples of this : Acts 8:26-39.

Dear student of the Bible, follow after the Lord in the same fashion , and you too can be saved.

men, Amen, and Am

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Corners (Evangelism Ministry)

We Don't Hear Too many AMENS

In the congregation that I was a part of growing up in the 60's, we could often hear an "Amen" being audibly heard at the end of the preacher's statements that gave emphasis to important declarations of God's truth that was being proclaimed.

The excitement generated by these "Amens" not only inspired the preacher, but also encouraged us as hearers to listen more intently. I could hear "Amens" flowing just as spontaneously at the end of prayers being offered as well as at the end of some of the hymns we sang. One could tell that the whole congregation was alive in their vibrant praise to the God of heaven.

It's sad to say, but we don't hear too many "Amens" anymore in congregations of the Lord's people. Have we ever wondered why that is? Is it because we've lost the excitement we once had when we heard God's word being proclaimed, or is the world too much with us? (1 John 2:15-17). Brethren, it's something to seriously think about.

The New Testament church was characterized by hearty "Amens" in its worship services (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:16). In fact, the term "Amen" in the Greek appears some 229 times in the New Testament. Jesus used it often to give emphasis to important declarations of truth (i.e., "verily, verily" – KJV). The apostles stated it at the end of prayers or statements of grave importance. Yes, even angelic beings cried out "Amen" when praise was given to God (Revelation 5:11-14; Revelation 7:11-12).

According to Vine's Expository Dictionary, the term "Amen" means, "at the beginning of a discourse — surely, truly, of a truth" or "at the end — so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled." The audible stating of "Amen" allows the whole congregation to express approval to a prayer or a sermon. Its expression permits the entire church to be active participants in the worship service.

In the Old Testament, God's people were commanded to say "Amen" as their response to the reading of God's word (Deuteronomy 27:15-26). When David spoke God's will to Israel, "all the people said, 'Amen!' and praised the Lord" (1 Chronicles 16:36). When Ezra read from God's book "all the people stood up" (Nehemiah 8:5), "Then all the people answered 'Amen, Amen!' while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground" (Nehemiah 8:6).

Thus, it is indeed needful for the church in the 21st century to show the same enthusiasm in worship as God's people did in ancient days. The cold, heartless, and ritualistic worship that we see in many congregations of the Lord's people today, needs to be replaced with some heartfelt "Amens" at important points in heartfelt sermons and at the conclusion of heartfelt prayers.

Brethren, along with sincere expressions of joy and excitement in our worship, engaging in heartfelt "Amens" will go a long way in edifying the church as we worship the only true and living God (Psalm 63:1-3; Hebrews 13:15).

AGAPE Spot Light (Highlighting Our Members)



Humility is a key factor in the life and spiritual growth of our dearly beloved brother Rodney Jones.

He and his family have been worshipping at the Agape congregation for the past 2 years—being drawn by the warmth and genuine love of the

saints.

Rodney is a lover of poetry and of various and sundry forms of music. He recalls in his youth, wanting to be a DJ when he grew up, as he used to put together mixed tapes and CD's for friends

and family.

His current position as working in the corrections department keeps him with a heart of compassion and concern. He holds daily to 1 Jn. 2:6 "He that abideth in Him, ought to walk even as He walked."

Brother Jones looks forward to traveling on a cruise ship to visit a host of destinations with his family and loved ones and to be used by the Lord as he grows more and more along this spiritual journey towards heaven.

God bless you Brother Rodney, in this Christian walk of faith, as we shine the Spot Light of Agape on you.

Till the last amen.

"Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O Lord . . ."

Psa. 70:1

AGAPE Considerations (Activity Ministry)



The Greatest Activity

The greatest activity we can spend time doing is worshipping God. Worship is not repeating hasty, routine petitions or listening to mood-inducing music.

Worship is the experience of being "lost in wonder, love, and praise," as Charles Wesley wrote — It's awe that inspires adoration.

When my wife and I first saw the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon, it left us virtually speechless. We gazed in awe at this magnificent spectacle and thought, "This is a glimpse of God's majesty." However, our awe by itself was not worship.

Our reaction is different when we come face

to face with Jesus in the Scriptures. Awe changes into adoration as we behold Him in all His majestic beauty. Let's for a moment consider what grips our soul by His majesty:

His unsullied purity — "Which of you convicts Me of sin?" (John 8:46).

His unrivaled wisdom — "No man ever spoke like this Man!" (John 7:46).

His unbounded pity — "When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion" (Matthew 9:36).

His overwhelming majesty — "He was transfigured before them" (Matthew 17:2).

As we see Jesus in the Gospels, our awe changes to adoration. Let us bow in worship and exclaim along with doubting Thomas — "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

AGAPE Salutations

We, the Church of Christ, that meets at the Adorn Hall in Fresno, TX are delighted that you have received this particular edition of the "Love Letter"; a weekly publication which highlights important events and featured articles by our Minister and staff.

When you have the opportunity we would be elated to welcome you to any and all of our services at the congregation.

It is our great joy to proclaim the glad tidings of Christ, His Kingdom and His glorious gospel.

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