

Ok... Everybody, close your eyes, I want you to see this...
This morning, we are for a moment going to walk by faith, not by sight...
Seriously, close your eyes, I really want you to see this.

Today is Pastor Appreciation day here at the Gathering. So first we are going to honor our Main pastors; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I know this is good with you. Amen???

So here we go...

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him, nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men, and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...John 1: 1-5

And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the Glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth...John 1:14

And listen to this... And of His fullness we have all received...Grace for Grace...John 1:16

Ok, you may open your eyes...

Grace for Grace... not Grease...grace is not the grease we slide in to heaven on...now listen to me, yes His grace is sufficient, but it is so much more. It is His empowerment that enables us to become like Him...by the renewing of our minds...the healing of our bodies and other relationships through forgiveness...and that leads to the intimate relationship with our magnificent Triune God.

I wonder do you know Him...

Let's pray

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen...Mat 6:9b-13

For If you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses...Mat 6:14-15

Nope...No He won't...

So if we want to Honor the Father, Son and Holy Spirit...A great place to start is Forgiveness...
And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you...
Eph 4:32

Good start...Now let's move forward and show honor to the pastors that have been given to us here at The Gathering.

First I want to say, it has been an incredible 7 years watching how God has orchestrated putting together this little tribe and it's leadership, and I am so excited about what He is going to do going forward.

We now have a Youth Pastor, we have praise and worship Pastors, We have a Family life Pastor, we have a Swiss army knife Pastor, and of course, our Lead Pastor.

Many of you have been asking, what we can do for these awesome people... to show them just how much they mean to us. Well good news, I was appointed to help you out with this.

Let's start with our Youth Pastor, Young Mr. Adam Hatley...
Adam probably has the hardest job of all our Pastors...He is dealing with TEEN agers...

Let me tell you, Adam loves the Lord...Bless his heart he also likes (a lot) anything UNC basketball. He also has more motivation to be around Chapel College since his girlfriend now attends classes there.

Adam Loves Steak...He like's Outback, he like's Logan's...be assured, you can't go wrong giving this young man access to Steak.

Adam loves to drive his car around and just spend time hanging out with his Lord. Have you seen his car, Gas cards would probably hit the spot.

And make no mistake about it, all these this would be good, but Like I said, I now this guy a little better now and do you want me to tell you what would really honor him...

Adam wants you to: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and let him make your path straight...Prov 3:5-6

He wants you to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind (can you say all); and love your neighbor as yourself...Luke 10:27

But do you want to really honor and appreciate him, join me in praying Jer 29:11-13 over him...

Heavenly Father, Adam knows the thoughts that You think toward him, because you say so...
Thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give him a future and a hope. Then Adam will call upon You and go and pray to You, and You will listen to him (wow...not just hear him, but actually intently and intimately listen to him) and Adam will seek You and find You, when he searches for You with all of his heart...
Captive Adam Lord Jesus...and it is in Your name I pray...Amen

Next up, Phil and Jennifer Baucom,(worship Pastors) Stephanie and Jerry Zunino(Data Past/ Worship)
(because the two have become One flesh) Eph 5:31

Phil and Jen, Stephanie and Jerry, love the Lord too but they also love date night... Now don't get me wrong, they love, love love, their kids, but...they understand they must invest time with each other so they can be at their combined best to raise these children...and to honor their covenant with God...

So what might a date night need? A baby sitter...

Not to hurt anyone's feelings but if they don't know you well, and if the girls don't know you at least a little, maybe this might not be the best gift for you...

Gift Cards... The Darden restaurant group is always a good choice for them according to some of their friends. These include the Red Lobster, Olive garden, The Capital Grill, etc...The outback group which includes the Bonefish Grill, Carrabba's and Flemings. Any of these or others could make date night most enjoyable. Gas Cards are always a help, especially when you're going out of town for your date night. All good right... And I know that they would really appreciate any of these... but, I know their heart,

Listen to this... Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord...Psalm 150:6

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God. For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful...Psalm 147:1

Sing praises to our God, sing praises to our King, sing praises...Psalm 47:6

Are you getting the theme here... What would honor Phil and Jen, Stephanie and Jerry, as well as the others that join them each week to lead us into the presence of Jesus...is to step in, step in and draw close to our King...When we draw near to him, He will draw near to us...James 4:8

Praise the Lord, all you gentiles! Laud Him all you peoples!!! Psalm 117:1

So let's also pray for them...

Heavenly Father, we pray for Phil and Jennifer, Stephanie and Jerry, and all those that join them to lead us into your presence...and let them not grow weary while doing good, for in due season they shall reap if they do not lose heart...Therefore, as they have opportunity, let them do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. Gal 6:9-10

In your name we pray Jesus...Amen

Ms. Brigitte Kimmer and Richard (remember...the two are one flesh)

Ms. Brigitte is our Family Life pastor...I wish I had time to tell you the effect I had on Ms. Brigitte...let's just say, one day up at Glory Beans she took one look at me and passed out...true story...Oh and by the way, I did not catch her...she hit the floor...Bam! It was in slow motion...It was awful...I felt terrible...

Anyway...what kind of things does Ms. Brigitte like?

Believe it or not, she still loves Glory Beans, blessing her with a gift card from there actually blesses her and Ms. Connie who attends here also...

Amazon...the lady has 3 kids, there is always something they are needing.

Wow, that one was pretty simple, right.

But you know there is more to this than just that ...What would really honor her would be for you Parents, Grand Parents, Aunts and uncles to really understand that children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward...Psalm 127:3

She would want you to not expect or allow her or her wonderful helpers to raise up your children. That **you** would train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it...Prov 22:6

How...Some of you young people aren't going to love this one...He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly. Prov 13:24

And you fathers,

Do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Eph 6:4

And remember Jesus said, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them, for such is the kingdom of heaven. Mat 19:14

And finally... (These words of Mine...God's)...You (not just Ms. Brigitte) shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Duet 11:19

Let's pray...

As it is written, How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him and her who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaim salvation. Who says to Zion (and Albemarle) your God reigns!!! Isaiah 52:7

Especially to our children...We lift Ms. Brigitte up to you today... In your name Jesus...Amen.

Our Swiss Army Knife pastor...John Baugh and Ms. Carolyn remember the 2 shall be 1 flesh...right.

Some of you might not know John Baugh he is mostly behind the scenes... he managed the building of this building and before that he managed the up fitting of the McClellan's building we were in after we moved out grew Glory Beans... Now he also handles the business of the church, paying the bills and keeping us on level ground with all that important stuff. John and Carolyn were sent to us literally just in time.

So what does Mr John like??? If you figure it out, let me know...No I'm just kidding...

John and Carolyn have three grown children and none of them live in Albemarle, so trips to Charlotte, Valle Crucis (near Boone), and Blacksburg Virginia are in their future...Gas cards. They still have to eat, but I know John has a big green egg that he likes to cook on. So gift cards to the butcher shop would be good. He loves to garden...I guess Mauney's feed mill would be cool. And I don't know if you noticed, but they have dogs...several of them and are often babysitting other people's dogs...

But I know what get John going...Your walk with Jesus through your relationship with the Holy Spirit. The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by that Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5b:5

I mentioned earlier that John does pay our bills, so He really wants you to understand that God loves a cheerful giver. So let each one gives as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity...2Cor 9:7

He wants you to know, to really understand that money can be a trap... the love of which is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows...1 Tim 6:10

It can come between us and God...Malachi records God's word like this, Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me! But you say, in what way have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings.

Hold on stay with me...I feel some squirming in the room...

You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Well that didn't help did it, many of us are now looking down at the floor...hang in there...Listen to this...

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house,

And try me now in this. Says the Lord of host, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

And if you think that is amazing, listen to what he says next.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field.

Say the Lord of host...Mal 3:8-11

Trusting God, walking by faith, not by sight...That is how you honor John Baugh

Let's pray,

Again Father, let John and Carolyn not grow weary while doing good, for in due season, they too shall reap if they do not lose heart... therefore, as they have opportunity, let them do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. Gal 6:9-10

That they would trust in You with all their heart and lean not on their own understanding, that in all their ways they acknowledge You and You shall direct their paths...Prov 3:5-6

And that You would be a shield for them and the one who lifts up their head. Psalm 3:3

I pray this in Jesus name. Amen

Last but not least...Pastor Paul and Ms. Wendy....the two shall be one flesh...right?

I'll make this easy on you...Pastor Paul would like everything I have mentioned for all the other pastors and Coffee...K cups, and Swedish Fish...I really don't understand that but whatever...did I mention coffee???

I met Paul Jenkins years ago when he was a youth pastor, and the leader of another ministry... We attended winter retreats that He and his "That Youth Thing" partners put on at Winter Place, West Virginia. Events like Winter crave, tee shirts like Blow Chunks in reference to Revelations teaching about being lukewarm and being Vomited out of God's mouth...

I could see there was a call of God on his life. His passion for the Gospel and his love for God's word was always evident.

I was able to walk with him at a distance when he and his family walked through the valley of the shadow of death when he and Laura's mom and brother died within days of each other. Yes they all grieved, but it was different, they grieved with hope. A hope that came from an intimate relationship with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. That testimony that they lived, served me well as our family walked through that same valley a few years ago.

I am so thankful to have shared in God's calling with Paul and Wendy...and their kids...to have been a small part of joining 19 other people to plant this little tribe...It has been so wonderful to watch the Holy Spirit have his way with people, give us similar visions, and then confirm them in the most amazing ways. When I think of Paul, I often think of James, Jesus's brother who got to hold the pen and write a letter that would change and challenge millions.

So as I conclude today, If you really want to honor Pastor Paul, listen to these words and remember to Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Mat 6:33

Read James 1:1-8, 16-17, 19-25

Honor Paul and Wendy by being teachable...follow the scriptures, being obedient...doers of the word.

Remember all of this, is in context of your relationship with Jesus...

So here is the question, actually the questions...

Have you been born again? Jesus says you must be born again.

And if you have been born again, have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?

To fulfill Jesus's commandments (the great commission) we must have the Holy Spirit as our operating system, no other will do.

If you cannot say yes to both of these questions... Ask and It will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! Mat 7:7-11

All of our Pastors need us to be teachable, they are our equippers for a time such as now...

Let's Pray,

Heavenly Father, Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, anoint Paul and Wendy to preach and teach and bring Apostolic results (Acts 2:37), as our Pastors speak the word, let signs and wonders follow confirming It (Mark 16:20). Let the sick be healed; let the oppressed be set free. Anoint Paul and Wendy with the truth (Mat 16:17). Let people be cut to the heart and receive Jesus and be baptized in The Holy Spirit... Protect them Lord as only you can...Protect their children, as only you can...In Jesus name...Amen