



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 8, 2012

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

Email:

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

ONLY BELIEVE

I have an irrational fear that God will one day show me what I could have had or become if I only believed more, worked more, or trusted more. Political correctness has people silencing themselves. Spiritual apathy is becoming favored over the risk of failure. God's people should not be afraid and they should contribute to an atmosphere that fosters growth. Okay, he failed, but he tried.

How pitiable is that group that never tries but only points out faults, weaknesses, and scars of former baggage. They might as well work for the media. In **Matthew 9**, two blind men called to Jesus saying, "*Son of David have mercy on us*" (**vs. 27**). The phrase, Son of David, is a messianic title indicative of their belief and it was used in conjunction with the plural "us." When they came to Him later, He asked them, "*Do you believe I am able to do this?*" Where did this faith come from? Think of your ailments. What would you answer?

These men no doubt heard of His miracles but they had never seen one. They were blind. But, they were no less convinced. Furthermore, their belief was validated when Jesus said, "*According to your faith be it unto you*" (**vs. 29**). Faith is rewarded with sight, for that matter it always is. Yes it was a wonderful occurrence for those men but at the same time fearful. Suppose they didn't really believe all that much. "*According to your faith,*" would have been a very sad judgment.

Jesus changed the world with 12 men who could not operate power point, drive a van, or even give proper structure to a sermon but, they believed. Any substantial or permanent failure on the part of a church concerning the spread of the gospel is because it is not known or not believed.

Tim Turpin

BE STRONG

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” **Ephesians 6:10-11.**

If you said to me, “Strength is an essential attribute of Christians – Christians are supposed to be strong.” The strongest people I know are Christians. What does it mean to be strong though? Over the past few years my own perspective of strength has yielded to God’s perspective of strength as revealed in His word.

My own perspective on “being strong” was borrowed from the world’s perspective. I thought as a Christian, “I am supposed to get through this on my own strength. I will not rely on anyone else. I can do this on my own. I’m not supposed to ask God for help, not even in the smaller things.” This worldly view disguised itself in my thoughts. Soon, that view of strength began to create all kinds of new problems for me. Relying on my own strength quickly proved how weak I was. Getting by on own adequacy promptly revealed my inadequacy, even in the smaller things. By my own definition of strength I was convinced I could be a strong Christian and child of God, all the while not needing strength from anyone else. Praise God for **Ephesians 6:10-18**. This verse has transformed my mind.

We are supposed to be strong as Christians. BUT the source of our strength does not reside in us. We borrow strength, might, and the ability to protect ourselves – we receive these things from God. **Ephesians 6:10** plainly reveals strength as an attribute of the Christian, and God as the source of that strength. *“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”* The following verses only reinforce this God-based perspective on strength. Be strong (and able to stand) because you wear His armor, His truth, His righteousness, His gospel, His faith, His salvation, and His word. Saying we must be strong (and at that, strong in ourselves) will lead us into sin quicker than anything else! As a matter of fact, trying to be strong in ourselves IS weakness (and foolishness). Being strong in ourselves will force us to think, “I don’t need the church, I can handle this,” or, “I am worthy and sufficient in myself.”

May we daily learn to be weak in ourselves, that we may then be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.

John Michael Kennedy, Mt. Juliet, TN