

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Limiting God

Limit God? Preposterous! God cannot be limited. His power is infinite. He is the "**Almighty**" God. He is the Creator. He is the One who sustains us and gives us "*life, and breath, and everything else*" (Acts 17:25). He is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. How can man limit such a God as this?

As powerful as He is, God's power may be limited in our lives. Sure, He has control *over* us, but He refuses to take control *within* us without our consent. He gives us the choice. He desires to empower us from the inside, but He only empowers those who have faith in Him. Faith that sees Him as He is and ourselves as we are. He gives strength to those who trust Him.

When we limit God's access to our hearts we effectively shrink His ability to use us or work in us. God-shrinkers are left spiritually powerless. If you are not experiencing His power in your life maybe your concept of God is too small...too limited. Maybe your heart is not completely open to Him.

Jesus tells us about God's power. "*What is impossible with men is possible with God*" (Luke 18:27). With man...impossible! With God...**possible!** We have accomplished much in our history, but with God "*all things are possible*" (Mark 10:27). Our God makes the sunset. He placed the stars in the sky and spoke the worlds into existence (Hebrews 11:3).

The good news is that this God is our Father and has made His power available to us. We must not limit His access to our hearts. He must not limit the power of His Word to change us, or His Spirit to empower us. We must not resist His blessings upon us.

God wants to share His power with us. That's why He sent His Spirit to live in us. The apostle Paul says we can be filled with "*all the fullness of God*" (Ephesians 3:19). That's an awesome reality...that God's fullness is ours. Surely He will accomplish through us whatever He desires if our hearts are open to Him. Let's not *shrink* God's access to our lives.

—Al Behel

Other News/Prayer Requests:

Larry Valentine underwent surgery on two weeks ago to remove his left lung. He is now recovering at home and plans to receive chemotherapy in a few weeks as a preventive measure. His surgeon believes the cancer was contained to the one lung.

Al's brother, Tom, had hip surgery three weeks ago and suffered an apparent stroke. He is currently in rehab and is using a feeding tube. Al's sister-in-law, **Jean Behel**, passed away last Sunday night in Eldridge, Alabama. Al's aunt, **Betty Howard**, is hospitalized with a large blood clot in her lung along with several other clots as well as pneumonia.

Jerry Ellison, Brenda Scott's brother-in-law, failing lungs with no further treatment available.

Dan Elkin's sister, Lorna, producing too much blood.

Jimmy Vance, is recovering from knee surgery.

Paul Huston, son-in-law of Gary and Priscilla Dick, deployed to Egypt for one year. Prayers appreciated.

Baby Shower: For Wyatt Cox, this afternoon, February 9, at 2 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Bottles of Love—pick up your bottle beginning February 16th. This year funds donated will cover the newborn babies in need at Le Conte (as usual) plus will contribute to the purchase of clothing for designated school children in need. Turn your bottles back in by March 16th.

Elder Contact for Month: Dan Elkins, Phone No. 1-865-548-9852

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man, No. 5—He Taught In Parables"; P.M.—"Knowing Our Past...Preserving Our Future"

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—is slowly improving at home from a blood clot in her heart and bleeding from an artery into her stomach. Jim reported that this week has been a mixture of ups and downs. She continues to experience a lot of pain.

Bill England—his cancer markers are low. We rejoice with him.

Debby Bryan—Cancer; **Johnny Bryan**—health issues.

Clara Mayberry—broken arm suffered in a recent fall.

Kathy May—ill in Baxter. You can send her a card at P.O. Box 465, Baxter, TN 38544-0463.

Deb Elkins—It was good to see her back with us following knee surgery.

Joey Bailey fell during a recent snow and broke his arm in two places. He required surgery and is recuperating at home.

Herman Byrne—still having lots of pain following surgery to remove a tumor from his salivary gland, but was better on this week.

Doug Hill is still recuperating from cellulitis.

Wyatt Cox, newborn infant of Heather and Alan Cox, is continuing to improve following heart surgery. Their home address is: 3334 Oma Lee Dr., Sevierville, TN 37876.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident). Dwight Grizzell's friend, **Libby Gilley**, undergoing experimental treatment at Vanderbilt for metastasized breast cancer. Pray for her and husband Barry.

Arania Blount (Brenda Scott's sister)-battling cancer. **Robin McCollum** and **Peggy McCollum** (Al's nieces—both battling cancer). Sue Mercer's sister, **Connie Browning**, is being treated for breast cancer; Beverly Finnell's grandson, **Liam Finnell**, is having health issues; Rick Cliett's 90 year old aunt **Doris Chambers** is recovering from multiple broken bones in her leg; Michael Cliett's fiancé's mother, **Paula Ramos**, report following cancer surgery is encouraging; Rick Cliett's brother, **Ken Cliett**, is battling Ascites and kidney failure; **Mark Baker**, brother-in-law of Coleen Thomason, dealing with complications from abnormal blood vessels in the brain; **Jimmy & Joan Lee**, daughter and son-in-law of Leah Turner's very special neighbor Miss Rose—Jimmy has a malignant brain tumor and is now undergoing treatment and is doing well thus far. Goal is to prevent tumor growth; **Paul Stream**, who works at Cracker Barrel in Pigeon Forge, fell and broke his neck.

Ladies Bible Class: A NEW Series—Begins Tuesday, February 18. Theme: "*Apples of Gold*". See Sue Hayes for materials. This group will meet the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: Resumes in Spring

"Great peace have those who love thy law; nothing can make them stumble" (Psa. 119:165)

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 02/03/14 is **\$1,159,597.63**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pew.

Nursery

Located across main foyer. Closed circuit TV allows viewing and participation in worship.

CDs and DVDs of Sermons are available free at sound booth. Also available on the website at: www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com