

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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Standing In Grace

Who hasn't messed up? I mean, really messed up! Just when we thought we were on top of the mountain we found ourselves in a deep valley of defeat. Our good intentions fell short. Our resolve melted in a moment of intense temptation...or maybe we just got tired and quit trying.

Starting over can be hard. But it is necessary. Getting up again after hitting the floor seems to be a better option than just staying down. Only this time we are determined to succeed. *"Maybe if I just try harder...or, if I can avoid the pitfalls that trip me up. Maybe I can really do it right this time!"*

Living right isn't a simple matter of resolve. It's a matter of spiritual power or energy from above. God knew we couldn't do it on our own. He knew we are no match for Satan, because he knows all the tricks. He has greater knowledge and power than we possess. He is a spiritual being and we are trapped in bodies of flesh with limited resources.

The apostle Paul tells us that we are standing in grace (Romans 5:2). He explains later that this grace teaches us to say "NO!" to ungodliness and worldly passions and to say "YES" to God's holiness. We are to become like God. But, how can we do that? How can we transform flesh power into spirit power? Well...we *can't!* That's the point of grace.

Not only have we been forgiven (which is part of God's grace), we are also empowered to say "No" to sin. Spiritual power comes from the Spirit of God...His Holy Spirit, who makes us new persons in Christ and empowers us to live lives of holiness. Paul tells us that we can "walk" in the Spirit and by the *"Spirit put to death the deeds of the body."*

Saying "No" to sin is part of it. There has to be a line of demarcation, of separation from sin. Still there has to be a clear and decisive "Yes" to our commitment to become like God. A casual "yes" is nothing more than a weak "maybe". Grace teaches us to make a permanent commitment to being all that God wants us to be and to experience the transforming power of His Spirit living in us. All future choices are made when we say "Yes!" to His life changing grace.

— Al Behel

Special Collection for Bibles—for schools in Ukraine, Russia, and Romania last Sunday was \$4,056.77. Another \$1,000 had been donated already.

Other News & Sick:

Sympathy: **Estlina Wilson** passed away on Tuesday morning. The funeral was Thursday evening. Our prayers are with Susan, Jacob and the entire family.

Sympathy: Also to **Coleen Thomason** in the death of her sister, **Sharon Roth**, who passed away Saturday evening in Roanoke, VA. Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

-Rick and Ginny are taking care of their granddaughter for two weeks in San Antonio. Their car windshield was struck and shattered by two objects as they were traveling there. We are thankful they were not injured.

Ladies Bible Study—1st and 3rd Tuesdays—next class is October 6 at 10 a.m. Polly Cline is leading a study entitled, "Hunger In My Soul."

Food Contact For Month: Linda Goodnight. Call her to assist.

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes. Phone: 731-608-4148

Sermon Topics: A.M. — "Is It Well With Your Soul?" - Luke 12:15-21

P.M.— "The Aroma of Christ"

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

Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— still suffering with multiple health issues. Keep praying. God is listening and answering. It was good to see Dez at services recently.

-Sheryle Elkins— is continuing to receive chemotherapy for lung cancer. Please pray fervently for her. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

-Bill Valentine is battling esophageal cancer. Surgery is scheduled for October 21. Please keep Bill and Gail in prayer.

-Marti Cantrell—radiation treatment for breast cancer.

-Bill Green—still struggling with health issues

-Jean Compton— had surgery to repair a hernia.

-Kathy May battling ongoing health issues. She is still in Baxter.

-Keely Chambers is recovering at home with her grandmother.

-Pauline Swallow is dealing with cancer. Keep praying for her.

-Bill England—is back in the hospital battling pneumonia and a staff infection. Bill recently had surgery for lung cancer. Bill came home for the weekend to celebrate his birthday. Keep praying.

-Glen Skelton is recovering from retina surgery.

-Dwight Grizzell is recovering from prostate cancer surgery.

-Josh Hawkes has pneumonia. It appears that Austin is getting sick also

Friends and Family News

-Skip Stewart's sister, **Carol Nusser**, has lung problem.

-Howard Yates' mother is now in assisted living in Soddy Daisy following surgery to repair a broken hip.

-Ben Lachica, Mariejane's dad—is improving in the Philippines

-Sue Hayes sister, Joyce, had a fall resulting in a small fracture to her leg and a serious foot drop issue. Home care and rehab planned to assist in healing.

-Judy Watkins, Rick's sister in Texas, is slightly improving.

-Richard Nichols, Nick Nichol's brother—cancer surgery in Illinois.

-Tom Behel, Al's brother is in serious condition in Alabama.

-Barbara Copley, friend of Bill England and Sheryle Elkins—cancer.

-Ginny and Rick—prayers for their daughter-in-law's grandmother, **Anna**, in Argentina. She is very ill from a persistent infection.

-Dee Lewis, friend of the Clietts, stage four cancer (6th occurrence)

Meetings: Men & Ladies today at 4 p.m.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session

Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Rick Cliett is leading a study on the Book of Hebrews

Sunday Adult Class

1 Thessalonians—Al Behel

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 09/01/15 is **\$1,062,602.56**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pews.

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.