

Words from the Woodwards

January, 2022

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Dear ministry partner,

Someone observed, "Straining, driving effort does not accomplish the work God gives a man to do; we must partake of Christ so fully that He more than fills the life. It will then be not overwork but overflow." Oh for the wisdom to live from this overflow! A. J. Gordon wrote, "Christian growth is the becoming real in ourselves, of what is already true of us in the Lord Jesus...The vine furnishes the branches, not only with the principle of life, but with the type of life... A true believer, therefore, will ask no better thing of the Lord than that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in his body (2 Cor. 4:11)."

As we enter this new year we need to acknowledge our total dependence on the indwelling Life of Christ for our counseling, training and publication ministries.

In this mailing we include a statistical report that gives a glimpse of ministry events and online activity last year. But we confess it is God who "gives the increase" of salvation and transformation (1 Cor. 3:7).

I've almost completed a book on how to make our practical *condition* correspond to our spiritual *position* in Christ. It is about how to appropriate Christ as our Life wholeheartedly and daily. This project has been encouraged and sponsored by Bryan Miller, of Miami Florida.

Linda and I were "under the weather" last week. Although I was able to do some work at my home office, it reminded me of how blessed I have been to have health and strength most of the time. If you have had your fought with COVID, flu or other illness, may you be restored for a healthy and fruitful new year. Thanks so much for your friendship, prayers, and support.

Yours in Christ,

John

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Christmas in Pigeon Forge: John & Linda with Dad Shelhamer

Letters

Dear Dr. John,

It's been almost a year since I've contacted you... I would like to give my gratefulness to you and for the Grace Fellowship. And of course, I praise God and our Lord Jesus Christ that I've come to know the exchanged life and ever since the Holy Spirit illumined to me the truth, I've been set free. Every day is a challenge for me because I have to reckon my crucifixion with Christ, but God's grace is sufficient. I've read a lot of books of Watchman Nee, Andrew Murray, *Handbook to Happiness*, etc. and the Holy Spirit reveals to me the things that I need...I'm hoping that God's ministry of exchanged life will continue to set everyone free. Thank you so much and I'm wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

R. (Philippines)

I am much better now with God's grace. He heard my prayer and He is healing me. I still need to get rid of physical and emotional numbness and want to feel energetic again and self aware. I don't want any mental illness at all. God has healed me 80%, please pray for my 20%, Dr. John. God is good. I don't live anymore, Jesus Christ lives in me.

Best,

M. (A telephone counselee from India, studying at an American University)