



# NEWSLETTER

## Possess Your Possessions

Every year, literally hundreds of thousands of dollars are discarded by people who are unaware they even had the money. Bank accounts, safety deposit boxes, and investment accounts are simply forgotten about. People move to different addresses across the country and the banks and brokerage houses cannot find these people. Notices are posted in the paper and letters are mailed in vain. All of these riches are real and are simply waiting for the rightful owners to come and claim what belongs to them.

Just as these folks are unaware of the money and valuables that are

***"All of these riches are real"***

theirs for the taking, so too the vast majority of Christians are oblivious to the many possessions they are leaving on the table, so to speak. We simply need to possess our possessions, because they are indeed ours.

In the days of Obadiah the prophet, God had to post the notice for Israel to remind them of their possessions that had been forgotten about: ***"And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions" (Obadiah 17b)***. And just in case the house of Jacob was a little confused, the Lord goes on to specify who was to possess what in the next few verses.

The admonition for the house of Jacob to possess their possessions is an event that will occur in the future. The specific possessions mentioned are the land that God promised to the Jews; land that Israel never fully possessed as commanded by the Lord. Today, Israel continually relinquishes more and more of the land God has given to them. One day all of the land will be possessed by the house of Jacob.

There is tremendous truth and application for Christians today to glean from this aspect of possessing your possessions. We have promise after promise in Scripture that we have either ig-

nored or have refused to take possession of. No people on earth have greater potential possessions than Christians do. God has promised the supply of every need. Paul says, ***"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19)***. Yet most Christians leave this possession on the table as if it belongs to someone else.

Jesus said in ***John 14:12***, ***"Truly, truly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do."*** Not only do most of us

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## Biblical Headlines (if reported in today's liberal media)

*On the Red Sea crossing:*

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOR STRIKE  
"Pursuing environmentalists killed"

*On the birth of Christ:*

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS  
"Animal rights activists enraged by insensitive couple"

*On the feeding of the 5,000:*

PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH

"Disciples mystified over behavior"

*On David vs. Goliath:*

HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED CHAMPION  
"Psychologist questions the influence of rock"

*On raising Lazarus from the dead:*

FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER RAISES A STINK  
"Will reading to be delayed"

## Possess Your Possessions (continued)

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leave this possession on the table we are afraid of it. Some claim that Jesus was only speaking to the twelve disciples in this regard, but they do great harm to Scripture with that claim. Jesus said, “**he who believes in Me**” not just you twelve disciples who believe in Me. We own the possession of doing the same works Jesus did but we also leave this one on the table—as a matter of fact we try to bury this one and get it out of our sight; after all, Jesus did miracles and healings and such.

Believe it or not most Christians are afraid of possessing many of the possessions that are ours. Whether we have a lack of knowledge and understanding when it comes to God’s Word or we have been

***“We try to bury this one and get it out of our sight.”***

raised in a church or denomination that has taught us in a certain way, we resist or hesitate possessing what is rightfully ours.

Many churches and denominations believe that certain gifts of the Holy Spirit are no longer in operation today. The primary arguments are: (1) these gifts are not needed since we have the completed canon of Scripture, (2) there is a lack of teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit after the Book of Acts, Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 12-14 early on in his ministry so that doesn’t count, the passage in Romans on the gift of prophecy means proclaiming God’s Word not seeing the future, and James teaching on healing means spiritual healing not physical. Quite honestly that’s a lot to swallow.

**1 Corinthians 12:11** tells us that the Holy Spirit distributes to each of us individually as He wills any number of spiritual gifts. Later in this letter (chapter 14) Paul tells us that the most important gift is to prophesy but outside of this, truly no gift is more important than

another because it is the Holy Spirit who distributes them as He sees fit in order to edify the church. If I have the gift of teaching I cannot claim superiority over you just because you “only” have the gift of administration. I also cannot push you to “walk” in the gift of teaching because the Holy Spirit may not have given you the gift of teaching. **1 Corinthians 12:29-30** makes it very clear that all of us do not manifest all of the spiritual gifts in our lives at any specific moment.

But I digress; the issue is less what gifts have been given to you and more if you have possessed them or left them on the table. Spiritual gifts are a possession that we must possess if it is to be used to edify the church as God has designed.

And this brings up an interesting point; your reluctance to possess your possessions in this regard does not only hinder your life but it also hinders the lives of every other believer in your church. When you leave the gifts of the Spirit on the table there is going to be a lack in the church.

For example, if you have the gift of teaching and you do not take possession of this gift, there will be a lack of teaching in the church; and this is vitally important if we are to see Christians maturing in their understanding of God’s Word and thus their faith. Someone who may not have the gift of teaching will then be forced to step in and do their best, but apart from the Holy Spirit also stepping in with that person the lack will remain. There are many Christians who have a world of biblical knowledge yet have obviously not been given the gift of teaching because they simply cannot disseminate that knowledge in a clear and concise way so that others understand and learn.

Be especially apt to possess your possessions when it comes to the gifts of the Holy Spirit—and also be sure to employ your gifts in a manner that edifies the church.

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## Grace Church Monthly Calendar

Praise & Prayer is scheduled on the second Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. We meet at Dick & Jean’s home.

Monday night Bible study at Chuck & Judy’s home at 6:30 p.m. each week.

Wednesday night Bible study at Pastor Al & Connie’s home at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday evening worship service. 6:00 p.m. for coffee and fellowship, 6:30 p.m. for the worship service.

# Grace Church Happenings

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## **Building & Property Update**

We have reached the stage of getting bids from contractors and finalizing issues with the county. The basic architectural drawings are complete and the engineering phase of drawings is starting to take shape. At this point it appears a best case scenario will be a ground breaking in June.

If the first bid we received is any indication we will be as much as \$200,000 short of the funds needed to complete and furnish the building, along with having several months of funds set aside for the initial expenses entailed in operating a building of this size. We will not go into debt on this project and will continue to trust that God will provide at every phase. We are obviously seeking many other bids to ensure that we get a fair price, along with considering doing some of the work ourselves. We will keep you informed so you may be able to pray more specifically.

Please pray for the leadership of Grace Church that all will be unified in our decision making and that we will have the discernment to use the funds we have wisely. Also pray that the Lord will open up new avenues of funding in His perfect timing.

If the Lord leads you to have a part in seeing this building go up debt-free this year, please send your donations to Grace Church, PO Box 216, Jefferson, CO 80456. Make a notation on your check for the "building fund" and make sure we have a current address if you would like a donation receipt for your 2009 taxes. But

mostly, just pray—we know God will provide!

## **Quarterly Church Celebration**

Our most recent church celebration was held on Sunday, January 18th. It was once again a glorious time of celebrating God's provision and involvement in Grace Church. We prayed, read God's Word, sang praise & worship songs to our King, discussed what God has done and what He is leading us into, and we enjoyed a fellowship lunch of chili.

Our next celebration is scheduled for Sunday, April 26th at 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendars now.

## **Ladies Fellowship**

On Saturday, March 28th, our ladies will be gathering for their monthly fellowship. Meet at Ginny's home in Indian Mountain at 9:00 a.m.

## **Current Sermon Series**

Beginning in March, I will be preaching through a series of sermons entitled "A Passion for Holiness."

Please join us, or request email and/or CD copies of each week's sermon. For more information please visit our website ([www.gracesp.org](http://www.gracesp.org)).

## **Morning Service this April**

The Community Center is needed for another function on Saturday evening, April 25th. To accommodate this need we will shift our service to 10:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. for coffee and fellowship).

# On the Lighter Side

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A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to Honor thy father and thy mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

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One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy,

and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" The pastor said, "Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:45?"

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Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and those who wake up and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

**GRACE CHURCH OF  
SOUTH PARK**

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*“To know Jesus and to make Him  
known”*

*“We will diligently strive to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, IN ORDER that we can help them grow spiritually, IN ORDER that we can make disciples of Jesus Christ, IN ORDER that we can fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord by reaching the world for Christ.”*

## Possess Your Possessions (concluded)

Jesus also told us the Holy Spirit will **“teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you”** ([John 14:26b](#)). What a tremendous possession this is! We have the resource of all knowledge within our grasp, but again we leave it on the table; preferring instead to lean on and draw from our own store of knowledge. We choose to hang onto theologies and philosophies that safely fall into our comfort zone. We refuse to dig into the **“all things”** Jesus promised us and stick with the “some things” already learned that don’t rock our theological boats.

My church is probably sick of hearing me tell them that we must BELIEVE WHAT WE READ AND NOT READ WHAT WE BELIEVE when it comes to Scripture, but I firmly believe (and I am growing in this belief) it is the single most vital aspect of our Christian lives. We have such a tendency to develop a certain philosophy of beliefs and set them in cement that we leave no room for learning. Please do not get me wrong; I am not saying we should discard biblical teaching but we had better be sure that our beliefs are backed up by Scripture in an irrefutable way. Far too many of us have beliefs and philosophies that are grounded in denominational beliefs or traditional teachings that are loosely backed up by a possible implication of Scripture and nothing more. And with these less than irrefutable beliefs we now color other verses that also loosely agree with our stance; we are in essence building a house of cards by stacking one loose interpretation upon another to support what we are comfortable with.

We are not possessing our possession of being able to be taught all things by the Holy Spirit.

Peter tells us, **“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”** ([1 Peter 2:9](#)). How many Christians have

possessed this possession? How many live as if God looked down through eternity and said “I choose you”? How many realize the privilege that is theirs in the fact that they are a priest of God who can approach the throne of grace at any time? How many live in holiness and understand the preciousness of being God’s possession?

According to this verse the only ones who realize all of this and who have possessed this possession are the ones who are routinely proclaiming the gospel message by sharing the glorious story of how God snatched them out of the darkness and gently placed them into His marvelous light. As the old hymn goes, *“I once was blind but now I see.”* When was the last time you proclaimed this to an unbeliever? If it’s been a while you need to possess this possession.

When it comes to some of the choicest treasures of our faith, we simply do not possess our possessions. We read and even speak out the twenty-third Psalm, and relish in the knowledge that the Lord is our Shepherd, but when difficult circumstances strike we immediately set our minds to worry.

Quite honestly most Christians just admire God’s truth; they don’t possess God’s truth. Possessing God’s truth means you put it to full use with unwavering trust. Admiring God’s truth just means you give it lip service once in a while by choosing what you believe.

Dig into God’s word and make it a point to possess your possessions—they’re yours!

Pastor Al

## Scripture Memory

This month’s challenge is to memorize [Obadiah 1:17](#) - **“But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, and it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions”** (NASB).