

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The “Elijah Complex”

“I’ve had it! I give up! I quit!” “There is no point in going on. I’ve tried everything I know and nothing works.” “I’m alone in fighting a losing battle; no one cares.” Those quotes came from three extremely discouraged preachers who stood up, defended and magnificently represented the Truth of God’s Word in the face of doctrinal error and compromise. Yet, they had been “let go” by their spineless brethren for doing so (reminiscent of 2 Timothy 4:16). In each case, the ignoble brethren used the same inane excuse—“We agreed with what he said; we just didn’t like the way he said it.” Phooey! No, the truth be told, what they did not like was for the preacher to openly stand up, oppose error and compromise, expose it for what it is, and refute it with a “thus saith the Lord.” (After all, someone might be made uncomfortable, someone might not like it; it might cause trouble in someone’s family, ad infinitum.)

It is understandable how and why some valiantly sound brethren (not just elders and preachers, but other faithful Christians as well) acquire what has been termed the “Elijah Complex.” Please recall that after some very perplexing confrontations with the people of Israel, Elijah said, ***“I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away”*** (I Kings 19:10). To say the least, Elijah felt lonely, helpless and without hope—even after a glorious triumph succeeding in his God-given task.

Today, it sometimes happens among the most loyal members of the Lord’s church, that they, like the prophets of old, will feel lonely, helpless and without hope. We too can see that many of God’s children in the church have forsaken the New covenant, rejected sound Gospel preachers and have “after their own lusts” heaped “to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:2-4). No doubt, many sincere Christians have thought, “I, even I only, am left.” Many members of the church must be close to feeling the same, when they openly ask, “What is the church coming to?”

But, remember, Elijah was mistaken about being the only faithful one left. God revealed to Elijah, ***“Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him”*** (I Kings 19:18). This news surely must have encouraged Elijah, strengthened him and made him more optimistic. However, as long as the seven thousand were unknown to him, they provided Elijah with no moral support or sense of comradery. As far as he knew, he was all alone and he felt it.

Unquestionably, in the Lord’s church today, throughout the world, there remain many times seven thousand faithful servants of the King of kings. Even so, all too often, in many congregations the faithful children of God are either non-existent, or they can be called “the silent minority.” Wherever the faithful are found, whatever their situation, they need to make themselves known for the benefit of the faithful everywhere. The silent must become vocal, the timid must become brave and the inactive must become active to set the “machinery” in motion which will accomplish the Lord’s will. Otherwise, Satan’s tool of discouragement will afflict many with the “Elijah Complex.”

There is no excuse for the faithful not making themselves known. Banding together in their common cause, the Cause of Christ, knowing that they do not stand alone, encourages every faithful soul to withstand Satan and his forces. When the faithful work together, confident of one another, they restore in the hearts of men a love and a respect for God.

Satan and his forces must be given no quarter. The Lord's army must put Satan on the defensive. Satan must be attacked in the church to get him out. After he is out of the church, Satan must be attacked in the world (by knocking on doors, teaching everyone possible the soul-saving doctrine of Christ). By the grace of God, Satan must be given no place or time for rest. Victory belongs to the faithful, ***"If God be for us, who can be against us?"*** (Romans 8:31). The "Elijah Complex" should never be experienced by any faithful Christian. To make this so; faithful souls must take their stand!

Tommy J. Hicks

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Vona Lawson** who passed away on May 15th. Her funeral services were held on Friday, May 22nd at the Sunset Memorial Gardens Funeral Home. Vona was a former member at Eisenhower but was currently attending Gardendale Church of Christ. She was 90 years old.

Prayer Requests

Trina Plyler (George and Jurlean's daughter) is in a Fort Worth Hospital in ICU. She is being treated for an infection in the stomach and may need more surgery. She is in need of prayers at this time.

Maxine Newton (a former member) has been sick with double pneumonia for over a week now. She is on oxygen and also has failing kidneys and doesn't seem to be getting better. Maxine is in very poor health at this time and is in need of prayers.

Conchida Williams (Devida's sister) has a cracked hip bone. She is scheduled to have surgery on June 1st in Chillicothe, OH. Prayers are requested for her at this time.

Concerns Update

Cathy Eastwood's day surgery on May 26th in Albuquerque, NM went well. She was able to go home that evening. Keep Cathy in your prayers while she recuperates.

Prayer List

Jack Aaron; Teri Armentrout; Brian Basaldua; Bill Berry; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Maddie Clay; Lavern Couch; Kim Drake; Jazmine Duron; Cathy Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Thomas Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Winford Hambright; Irene Hernandez; Leo Holloway; Letha Hooper; Vertie Howard; Devin Jones; Linda Latch; Liz Leach; Betty Leeth; Charles Lewis; Jed Martin; Alyssa May; Ora McAfee; Krysta McMullen; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez, Jr. & Julie Munoz; Maxine Newton; Tanya Nichols; Rudy Ochoa; Juanita Orosco; Trina Plyler; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Danna Robertson; Janelle Shirley; Susan Simmons; Princess Tadashi; Mark Thompson; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Jackie Wallace; Lindsey Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Jay Wesson; Tom Wilcox; Carolyn Wilkerson; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question

When Peter walked on the water to Jesus and began to sink, what did he cry out?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

It was Joshua who commanded the sun and moon to stand still when the Israelites fought the Amorites. (Joshua 10:12-13)

Events

Watch *"In Search of the Lord's Way"* Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

The **New Mexico Christian Children's Home** will be here Wednesday, July 22nd for their food drive. They are requesting **Coconut Oil** and **Dryer Sheets**. If you can help with this need, it would be greatly appreciated.

Would You Be Missed?

After completing many years as a journalist, Arthur Brisbane was offered six months of paid vacation time by William Randolph Hearst, the publisher of the San Francisco Examiner. Brisbane refused to accept the kind offer because of two reasons. He said, "If I quit writing my newspaper column for six months, it might affect the circulation of the newspaper. The second reason is that it might not affect the circulation of the newspaper.

Mr. Brisbane's answer was profound. In view of his answer, let's ask ourselves, "If I dropped out of sight for six months and did absolutely nothing for the Lord, would I be missed?" Would the Lord's work suffer or would there be no difference whatsoever? As members of the Lord's church, we each have a responsibility in doing the Lord's work and building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16; cf. I Corinthians 14:26; 2 Corinthians 12:19; Ephesians 4:12). We cannot hire someone else to fulfill our responsibility to the Lord (Gal. 6:4-5; Rom. 2:6; I Cor. 3:8) We are individually accountable to God for what we do with the time He has blessed us with. Let us hear the inspired writer, Paul, as he wrote to the Ephesians brethren. ***"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil"*** (Ephesians 5:15-16—ESV).

Brethren, let us resolve from this day forward, that we will become more involved in the Lord's work, ***"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds"*** (Hebrews 10:24—NIV). God has so richly blessed us with time, talent, vision, and financial means. Let's be willing to put these gifts to work for the Lord and His cause, ***"while it is yet day; the night cometh, when no man can work"*** (John 9:4).

—Mike Riley

Sunday, May 31st, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus spread in Odessa and surrounding areas, the Eisenhower Church of Christ elders have made the decision to "Live Stream" all their services on Facebook since we can have no more than 10 people in attendance. Below are our scheduled services:

Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m. **(at Church Building & FB Live Stream)**

Sunday Evening Service -- 5:00 p.m. **(FB Live Stream)**

Wednesday Evening Bible Class -- 7:00 p.m. **(FB Live Stream)**

Sunday AM

"David Strengthened Himself in the Lord"

(I Samuel 30:1-6)

Sunday PM

“Drifting”

(Hebrews 2:1)

Other Responsibilities: Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990—*Deacon*: Josh Wells 770-6753— *Pulpit*: John Wood 413-7444—*Table*: David Ryan 512-924-0983 — *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons*: Josh Wells 770-6753— *Collections*: Josh Wells 770-6753