

# BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

## 2021 DEVOTIONALS

ISSUE 2: VOL. 2: Issue 2

**FOCUS**

ON THE

**SON**

IN

**2021**



## 2021 DEVOTIONALS

- ✚ A Wednesday Dinner w/ Bro. Booker
- ✚ The DEVOTIONALS
- ✚

### TEMPORARY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES DUE TO COVID19:

11:00 AM - **SUNDAY** MORNING WORSHIP-  
IN-PERSON SERVICES FOLLOWING STRICT  
COVID19 PROTOCOLS, I.E. MASK REQUIRED -  
VIRTUAL (FB AND CONFERENCE CALL)

SERVICES UPLOADED TO YOUTUBE@BIRD ST.  
COC

7:00 PM - **TUESDAY** DEVOTIONAL AND PRAYER  
CONFERENCE CALL

7:00 \*\* PM - **WEDNESDAY** NIGHT BIBLE STUDY  
\*\* CHANGED FROM 6 W/DST

11:00 AM TUESDAY AND 7:00 PM THURSDAY  
LADIES DEVOTIONAL CALL

**STAY CONNECTED!**

## MISSION STATEMENT:

WE, The FAMILY of GOD's  
people at 428 Bird Street are:  
**PASSIONATE IN WORSHIP,  
COMPASSIONATE IN  
SERVICE,  
AGGRESSIVE IN WITNESS,  
STRONG IN FELLOWSHIP,  
AND  
COMMITTED TO  
DISCIPLESHIP!**

<sup>19</sup> GO therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>20</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I AM with you always, to the end of the age.~

Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is none* upon earth *that* I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; *But God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever. PSALM 73/25-26



*BRO. ELL T. BIGGERS*

*BRO. KEITH CHUNN*

*BRO. TERRY LOOPER*

*BRO. RICKY MCGEAR 931-607-9029*

*MINISTER:*

*BRO. ANTHONY BOOKER*



## Devotional from ORA WALLS:

### *Practical Applications*

**Ecclesiastes 12/13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep** his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Which I translate as Find Out WHAT GOD Wants You To Do and Do IT!!!

Being off Milk for a while now – Grandpa is blessed to being able to chew on the Meat of the Word – so Grandpa wants to pass on to us! It has been at times that when things happen the older one is the better one is able to hand a situation because the outlook has changed. 10 years prior to present or 10 years beyond how will the outlook had changed As we are in the world but not of the world – how do we function in it? We determine our choices based on either emotion or logic and education or indoctrination. These 4 things govern how we act.

GOD's WORD is Light – when we look into it – it Guides us – Commands us. It is necessary inference which is sometimes hard to understand! However, if we enter into our relationship with JESUS with an Honest Heart that wants to do what GOD wants then the HOLY SPIRIT will guide you.

### **Psalms 119/15 and 97**

<sup>15</sup> I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. <sup>97</sup> O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Meditation on the Word and the biblical principles of GOD will help in living it out in our everyday lives. Even if the narrative may pertain to something else but you learn to indoctrination will be made better through education. All kinds

of tidbits for living are all through the Bible. Story of the green snake(s) in the blackberry patch....if you don't know to expect them – you are likely to work picking blackberries and never notice them. However, if you are aware that they are there, you are most likely to see one or several and the beauty is you can keep working in that blackberry patch because they are not going to bother you.... Can I interject some humor here? Uh uh no no Grandpa!!!

It is fun and enjoyable to seek and find new knowledge in the Word of GOD. We must all seek to be continuous in our learning! It seems the more you know that sometimes you learn how much you do not know. But that should stop no one from searching the WORD, seeking to understand the WORD and applying the WORD to our everyday lives. **Find out what GOD wants you to do and DO IT!**

## Devotional from BERNIE KNOWLES

### Keeping Confidence In Praying and Don't Be Discouraged In Praying

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; <sup>2</sup>Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. <sup>4</sup>And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; <sup>5</sup>Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. <sup>7</sup>And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth.

we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: <sup>4</sup>(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but ***mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;***) <sup>5</sup>Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and ***bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;***

GOD's truth is filtered or blocked because of satan's partitions; however, we must trust and recognize the truth of GOD. We have been buried with the resurrected CHRIST. As such, we are part of spiritual royalty.

The partitions try to keep us from overcoming worry resisting old habits or depression – we have to stop believing satan's lies in order to overcome. We are new creatures! We must apply the truth of HIS WORD to break down the partitions – satan's work to tear down is gradual not all at once. Remember from previous devo...his most valuable tool is that worn-down pick-like tool that gets used over and over. GOD has given us Power over partitions(satan's strongholds) – Partitions fall by applying the TRUTH of GOD's WORD!

## Devotional from KENNETH FLEMING, JR.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SAMUEL 7/7-12

<sup>7</sup>And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. <sup>8</sup>And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.<sup>9</sup> And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the Lord: and ***Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him.***<sup>10</sup> And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: ***but the Lord thundered with a great thunder*** on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel. <sup>11</sup>And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and

smote them, until they came under Bethcar. <sup>12</sup> ***Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.***

We have been in challenging and unprecedented times recently especially with the onset of this global pandemic we are in coupled with economic uncertainty, political upheaval and unrest, social injustice – it would be easy to throw up our hands and give up. However, the story in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel can give us hope and strength to carry on.

This story ends with Samuel dedicating a memorial to GOD by placing a stone at the location where GOD helped the Children of Israel. The Stone was called Ebenezer which means THE LORD HELPED US!

We can consider that up to this point or up to the present time things are “So Far – So Good”!

There have throughout history been recorded events in the Bible that document the gathering, placing of stones to commemorate important events which could be a single stone or a pile of stones with a significant name or inscription attached for the event. We see these same examples today where people may gather together and reminisce, reflect why the memorial was created. These memorials pay tribute, commemorate historical events, which maybe for famous individuals in sports, the military, scientists, heads of states and locations of significant military battles.

The following represent just a few important events where stones are mentioned:

**Genesis 28/18-22.** <sup>18</sup> And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. <sup>19</sup> And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. <sup>20</sup> And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, <sup>21</sup> So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: <sup>22</sup> And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

**Genesis 31/45-49** <sup>45</sup> And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar. <sup>46</sup> And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap. <sup>47</sup> And Laban called it Jegarsahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed. <sup>48</sup> And Laban said, This heap is a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed; <sup>49</sup> And Mizpah; for he said, The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.

**Exodus 17/14-15.** <sup>14</sup> And the Lord said unto Moses, **Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.** <sup>15</sup> And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it **JEHOVAH NISSI:** <sup>16</sup> For he said, Because the Lord hath sworn that the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

**Joshua 4/9-24.** <sup>9</sup> And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day. <sup>10</sup> For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until everything was finished that the Lord commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hastened and passed over. <sup>11</sup> And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over, that the ark of the Lord passed over, and the priests, in the presence of the people. <sup>12</sup> And the children of Reuben, and the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, passed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses spake unto them: <sup>13</sup> About forty thousand prepared for war passed over before the Lord unto battle, to the plains of Jericho. <sup>14</sup> On that day the Lord magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life. <sup>15</sup> And the Lord spake unto Joshua, saying, <sup>16</sup> Command the priests that bear the ark of the testimony, that they come up out of Jordan. <sup>17</sup> Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, Come ye up out of Jordan. <sup>18</sup> And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before. <sup>19</sup> And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho. <sup>20</sup> **And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal.** <sup>21</sup> **And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones?** <sup>22</sup> Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. <sup>23</sup> For the Lord your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as

the Lord your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: **24 That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever.**

**Joshua 24/26-27.** <sup>26</sup> And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, **and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.** <sup>27</sup> And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, **this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the Lord which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.**

In focusing on vs. 12, this was done to HONOR GOD – Ebenezer means Stone of Help/Assistance. From time to time we should definitely take a pause and look back and see how GOD has brought us through it ALL – in that moment we did not see a way out – we in the moment may have lost hope – questioned how we would make it – the trials just seemed to pile up. However, GOD Intervened – HE gave us strength, the fortitude to look/move forward.

What we can be sure of is that what HE did for us then – HE will do for us in the future! The Ebenezer Stone honored how GOD helped the children of Israel and it was So Far – So Good to this point – we as they can trust that GOD has more in store for us down the road.

**We must:**

- 1) **ACKNOWLEDGE/RECOGNIZE GOD'S DIVINE HELP**
- 2) **WILLING TO RECEIVE GOD'S DIVINE HELP**
- 3) **LEAVE A RECORD ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S DIVINE HELP**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGE/RECOGNIZE GOD'S DIVINE HELP**

The Philistines were the proverbial thorn in the side of Israel – the Philistines were always planning various times and ways to attack the children of Israel which caused great panic for GOD's people. They realize they cannot defeat this group and plead to Samuel to ask GOD for help. Samuel indeed cries out to the LORD on their behalf. Serious conflict, daily life struggles test our strength and wills that we feel we must handle it on our own but we can't – we have never done it on our own because our strength and will is inadequate. We must have the divine help of GOD. Acknowledge the need for GOD's Divine Help.

#### **WILLING TO RECEIVE GOD'S DIVINE HELP**

GOD responded to Samuel's cries for help with the Philistines when "HE Thundered with a great thunder" – The children of Israel probably thought GOD would just smote them out. GOD THUNDERED which scared the Philistines so bad that the children of Israel defeated them. What we must realize is that GOD will respond in HIS way and it is up to us to accept HIS RESPONSE! We have to be mindful of GOD's Response to our requests for help and accept what HE sends our way

#### **LEAVE A RECORD ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S DIVINE HELP**

The Ebenezer stone was a memorial to GOD's Help and Assistance to be remembered! Maybe we should make a statement to the congregation that names a stone that marks the event that we have received GOD's divine help and we are honoring GOD for HIS help.

2 Questions to Consider: 1. Where are our stones? 2. What are the names or our statements to GOD about what the LORD has done for us? Memorials – Monuments that we can erect that signify what GOD did for us in that moment – We will be cognizant of what GOD did for us – that pebble ,that stone reminding us of where our help came from when we were in need. **THUS FAR**, the LORD has Helped us and consider that GOD is not finished helping us in the future. HE has brought us a mighty long way and will not leave us or forsake us.

We are encouraged to pause and reflect on all of the times the Lord has helped us! We can give HIM our needs where conflict, challenges, struggles, obstacles, anxiety, trials are concerned and know that **THUS FAR THE LORD HAS HELPED US – AND GOD IS NOT FINISHED!**

## Devotional from KENNETH FLEMING, SR.

*Life's Defining Moments - Joshua 24/14-15.* <sup>14</sup>“So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. **Serve the Lord alone.** <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to serve the Lord, **then choose today whom you will serve.** Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? **But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.**”

In life there are defining moments – experiences that come along and change our lives so that our lives will never be the same. Experiences include ups/downs, victories/defeats and maybe just snapshots of particular occurrences. Defining moments are sometime occurrences that branded in the fabric of our memories.

The 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries have brought many defining moments that you remember the day, where you were, what you were doing?

Examples of some of these defining moments in our nation's history comes to mind: 1912 The Titanic sinks - 1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor ( a day that lives in infamy) - 1945 August 6 and 9 Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan – 1963 Death of JFK – 1968 Death of MLK – 1964 Vietnam War – 1986 Explosion of Space Shuttle Challenger – 1995 Domestic terrorism/Bomb at the Murrah Federal Bldg. – 2020 spent in the human disaster of COVID19! We can also look at defining moments in the Bible: Moses with the Burning Bush and parting of the Red Sea – Blind people sighted/Deaf people hearing – Joshua with Crossing the Jordan and Entering the Promised Land – the 3 Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace – Daniel in the lion's den – Peter walking on water and witnessing Jesus transfiguration – Paul spoken to by Jesus and blinded on the Damascus road

All of the events of the Bible were beyond a regular human experience – outside of the box and the individual would never be the same again.

Joshua had defining moments also with being chosen as Moses successor and declaring the ability of Israel along with Caleb declares that Israel can overtake the Land that GOD promised and at Jericho when the walls fell. Joshua nears the end of the journey with the children of Israel and secures his legacy with the holy writ of GOD. Joshua has these defining moments when he tells the children of Israel to make up their minds on who they will serve but he lets them know that he and his house will serve the LORD.

Our defining moment should be when we become Christians! It should not only be a defining moment in our life but also a defining moment to GOD to see that we have devoted our lives to HIM. Many times we define ourselves by things of the world like our professional life, our possessions (e.g. home, car or bank account). The change in us should make these things very secondary to devoting ourselves to GOD.

What should be most important in defining ourselves is how JESUS defines us – we become a child of GOD – JESUS makes us who we are to be. Nothing has the gravity of being a Christian – there is no comparison – What Good is it if we are all the other ways defined IF we are not Christians? Profit the world to lose soul. GOD looks at the heart of man not all the things that we may consider great.

Joshua makes the declaration, “BUT As for me and my house – We will serve the LORD. The defining statement about who he was. In having so many things to define us we must remember who we are. Remember the defining moment changes our life forever. It is a moment that we are never to be the same – it is a moment sewn into the fabric of our being – it is a moment we will never forget and our life is changed forever. The totality of all things is that defining moment or our becoming a Christian which is the most important event in our life. The defining moments in our life as Christians should be pleasing to GOD.

Covid19 is a virus that we take note of – we may pause when we or someone sneezes or coughs – it may cause us to think twice where in the past we would have not given much thought about a sneeze or cough because either had never been a reminder of the over ½ million people whose lives have been lost. The fabric of our hearts, souls, minds and spirit may have a discomfort with other people and this period once over will never be forgotten. Defining moments in our life should please GOD.

## Devotional from TONY BURNS



Matthew 5/13-16 <sup>13</sup> **Ye are the salt of the earth:** but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. <sup>14</sup> Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. <sup>16</sup> **Let your light so shine before men,** that they may see your good works, and **glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Thankful for God's mercy – thankful our redemption through the SON – All must come to repentance – The WORD is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

We are to be the salt of the earth and let our light shine before men. We are Christians living according to GOD's WORD. Since as Christians we are salt, the world can be preserved with us. The world can receive flavor through us. As salt the world can be healed through us. Without Christians the world is in darkness. We are saved as followers of JESUS and through HIM the world has hope. Christians save, preserve, give flavor and heal. We live according to GOD's WORD or we are useless like salt that has lost its savour and is only good to be trampled under the feet of men. Useless we are unable to add quality to life or save or heal with have no influence. Lights of the world can heal, can save, can influence, can add quality to life! JESUS....IS.....THE....LIGHT....OF THE WORLD – HE can expose evil – give direction – take away darkness – provide direction – and give Good News!!! Christians should reflect that light. The first century church lived without electricity so once the sun went down there was no light and without JESUS the world would be in total darkness.

The world is watching Christians to see how we handle things! Therefore we must be careful with how we show the world our life in CHRIST (as Christians) – our life takes on a Mt. Rushmore take in that everything we do can be seen from afar. [Writer's note - one of my favorite quotes from Shakespeare is Why, then, 'tis none to you, for there **is** nothing either good or bad, but **thinking makes it so.**"] It came to me as Brother Burns broached the subject of social media in our lesson.

Social media is good – we have been able to connect with our fellowship, our family and our friends as well as preachers being able to share and spread the gospel of CHRIST during this pandemic as never before. We eagerly await the opportunity for everyone to safely return to our buildings. The world can see Christians through their posts, tweets and text. These days the world says words are powerful and have meaning and are out there floating through the airways. And fortunately that when GOD's WORD goes out – it does not return to HIM without accomplishing its mission.

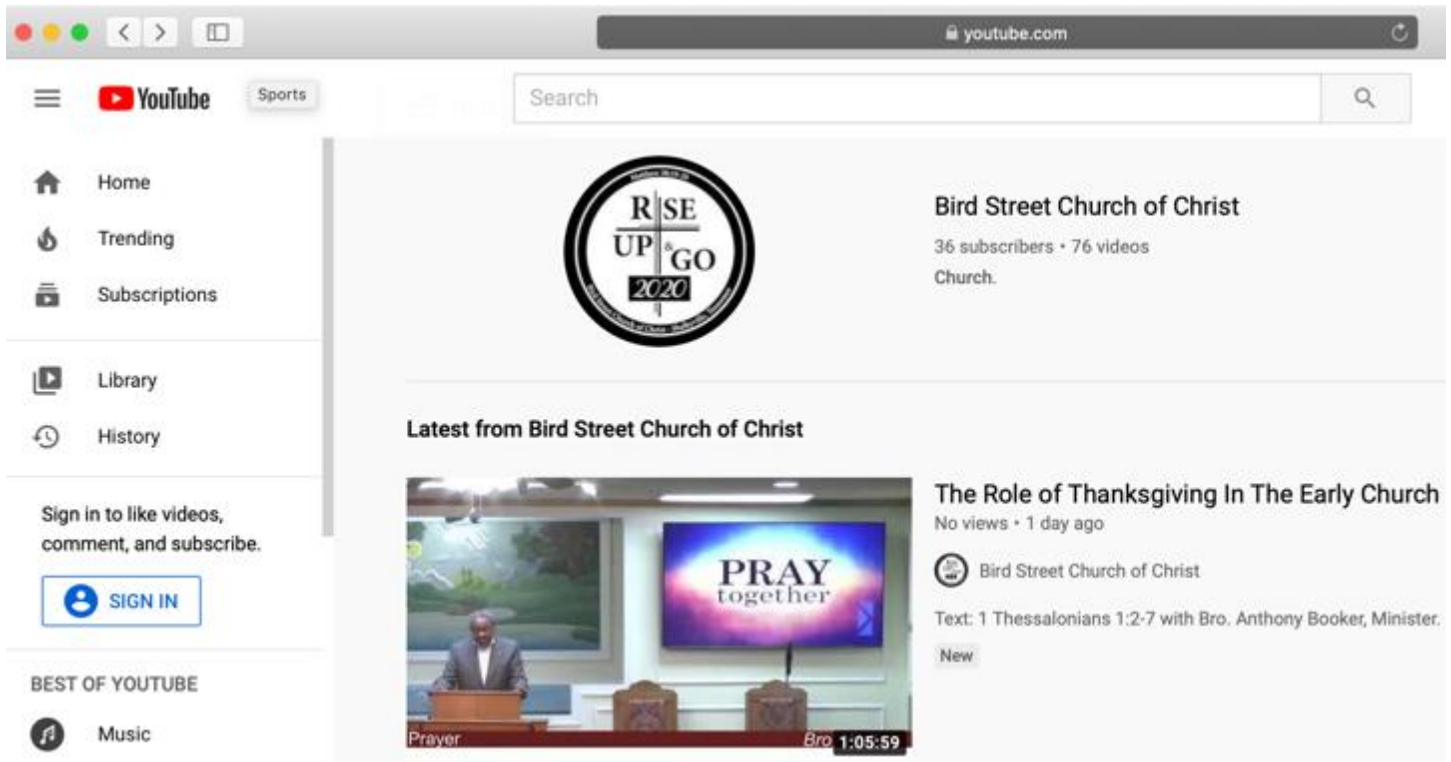
Social media is bad – because again those posts, tweets, texts go out and can't come back can be especially harmful when the words are such that battleground is created because there is a lot of venting on people on social media. Sometimes are words in social media we allow to hurt us and then in an instant we can send out words as Christians that can damage, devastate, shame or reproach others. Our light seen by the world gets dim. Candlestick in darkness is seen by everyone.

We are light and we want the world to see our good deeds so that GOD GETS the GLORY – so when we are paying a light bill, delivering food and performing other acts of kindness and good will GIVE GOD the PRAISE! That light is shining in the actions of your good works.

Salt/Light – being seen of men – we have Abba/Father to hold on to - to guide us inn our quest to be salt and light! When we give GLORY to GOD we can be strong and overcome being faint or weary – no one Can take away our Joy or cause our light to dim.

We must **be salt and light by doing and saying what will be well pleasing to GOD.**

## SUBSCRIBE TO BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST ON YOUTUBE



### Giving Options:

In Person: Drop By Church on Sunday at Designated Time

Mail: Bird Street **VISIT BIRD STREET ON FACEBOOK:** COC – P.O. Box  
**NEW** Shelbyville, TN. 37162

**ONLINE GIVING:** [birdstcoc.org/give](http://birdstcoc.org/give)

[BIRD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST PRAYER WARRIORS \(Group\)](#)

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