



The

# ENCOURAGER

NEWSLETTER OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY  
1575 W. STATE ROUTE 571 • TIPP CITY, OH 45371 • 937-669-3090 • CFFM.ORG

FEBRUARY 2025



A “new” command  
I give you:  
love one another

## All Things New



uring the January 12 Sunday service I shared a story about me realizing that I had inadvertently deleted years of family and ministry photos from my archive. Why and how it happened doesn't matter; they are gone, and I found myself complaining up to the Father that now "he had a problem," and I needed him to "fix it."

While I was speaking, I could feel the emotion behind it and, in a quick flash, I was reminded of how my immediate response has been to say, "You need to fix this." It is usually in faith that I say it because over and over that is exactly what happens when we let go of things that are afflicting us. God works all things for good if we give him opportunity in our hearts and minds to agree to what he has declared in his Word.

But there have also been times when my heart and mouth made that statement with the questionable attitude of, "You fix this or I'm not going to be happy." For me, that is when the Holy Spirit response is *silence*. In that silence, our hearts soften, and we can think soundly without running off into negative attitudes and into the "woe is me" mentality. In that peace, we can hear and see more clearly from the Spirit.

In Romans 8:28, the Apostle Paul wrote, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose." There is a sense of security in ***knowing***. Knowing brings peace and comfort but living in the unknown can allow doubt and worry to creep in.

It is worth noting that Paul did not say "we think" or "we hope." On the contrary we can be certain or *know* that all things work together for good. What "things" is Paul referring to? He explained a few verses earlier, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

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He was talking about sufferings as the trials and problems that we deal with in life. We all could stop right here and write a short (or long) list of problems and challenges that we face ... physical, financial, relationships, and yes, even photo deletions! Paul's life attests to multiple sufferings. If you read 2 Corinthians 11:24-27, it is very sobering to read what his own trials were.

As I was sharing about God "fixing things," I emphatically heard in my spirit, "I don't fix things ... I make them *new!*" I hesitated as I was absorbing what I heard in my heart. Then I remembered the verse—my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts, says the Lord.

I have been spending this past week excited at reading and thinking about how God "makes things new."

Isaiah 65:17 NIV

See, I will create **new** heavens and a **new** earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

Isaiah 43:19 NIV

**See, I am doing a new thing!**

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

to Jesus the mediator of a **new** covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.  
*Hebrews 12:24 NIV*

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life.**  
*Romans 6:4 NIV*

He has made us competent as **ministers of a new covenant**—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.  
*2 Corinthians 3:6 NIV*

**A new command** I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
*John 13:34 NIV*

Ezekiel 36:26 NIV

I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new creation has come:** the old has gone, the **new is here!**

I can personally testify that changing the way I think and speak about trials and problems has brought greater peace and clarity even in the midst of them. Fixing something is trying to get it back to the way it was before, and that is second best.

Give up on trying to control situations and people in order to fix your problems and trials.

Let us elevate our expectation and thinking to allow our Father to make all things "new" according to his plan for each of our lives.

***He is the God of more and he will restore to better than before.***

You are loved and you belong,

***Tonia Shroyer***

Lead Pastor



## CHRISTIAN

When we accept Jesus as Lord, we receive his Spirit within us. Having Christ in us makes us Christians and children of God our Father. As we explore the Bible's promises and walk by the Spirit's direction, the character of Christ within begins to transform us from the inside out, revealing Jesus to the world through our lives.



## FAMILY

The Bible describes the followers of Jesus as God's sons and daughters. We are born again into an eternal family of the Father's love. He has uniquely gifted each of his children and called us to stand together in compassion, encouragement, and forgiveness. The spirit-inspired kindness that we share in our faith communities works to heal relationships and restore families.

## FELLOWSHIP

Christian fellowship is relationship. It is an intimate partnership of spiritual connection, association, and involvement. God calls us to a personal relationship with himself, with Jesus Christ, and with fellow believers so that our joy may be full (1 John 1:3-4).

Our faith community is devoted to encouraging and cultivating these healing partnerships for everyone involved.

# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

CONFERENCE

## Fulfilling Our Call

FRIDAY, May 2 - SUNDAY, May 4, 2025

Christian Family Fellowship Ministry

1575 W. State Route 571

Tipp City, Ohio

[www.cffm.org](http://www.cffm.org) Phone 937-669-3090

### CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

*Ellen Fowler Carol Furman Juany Harbert Sheila Hitchcock  
Belinda Kaplan Jan Rawlins Tonia Shroyer*

#### *SCHEDULE*

FRIDAY, May 2	6:30 pm	Doors Open
	7:00 pm	Session Begins
SATURDAY, May 3	9:00 am	Doors Open
	9:30 am	Session Begins
	12:30 pm	Lunch provided
Afternoon Session	1:30 pm	Doors Open
	2:00 pm	Session Begins
SUNDAY, May 4	9:00 am	Doors Open
	9:30 am	Session Begins

### REGISTRATION

\$45 per ATTENDEE (conference for ages 13 and up)

\$55 per LOCATION for live streaming

Register online at [www.cffm.org/events](http://www.cffm.org/events) by the registration deadline, April 20, 2025



*memories from*  
**MIRACLE WEEKEND**  
in the Word & the Spirit  
Speakers: Jan Magiera & Brent Joseph  
NOVEMBER 2024  
CFFM / TIPP CITY, OHIO



**T**here is a quick answer to the question of this article's title! **Our mouth indicates what we believe. Our speech will tell us what path we are on**—whether we are on a path that tends to righteous thoughts and actions or if we are about to step off into trouble. Jesus said that the words he spoke were (and still are) spirit and life (John 6:63).

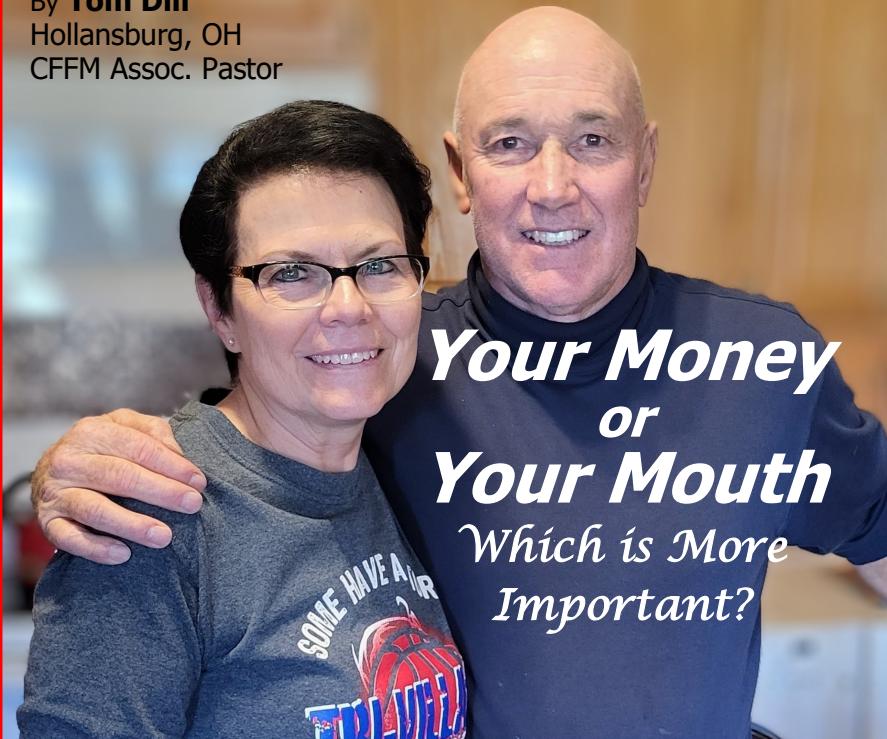
Words bring life or death (Proverbs 18:21). James chapter three talks about the destruction that the uncontrolled mouth brings about. No wonder David said in Psalm 141:3, "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." Twice in one verse David asks for supernatural intervention to protect what he said! In James we learn that the mouth cannot be controlled by man alone. He needs HELP!

God gave mankind the ability to speak, which is designed to be a blessing. Speaking and using words give us authority in the kingdom. With God's blessing we are to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

Our mouth gives us access to his kingdom by our confession of Jesus as Lord. Before it is available to have salvation, one must first confess Jesus as Lord. That's the way the kingdom operates. We confess *before* we receive. We do not receive and *then* confess (Romans 10:8-10).

Mark 11:23, 24 says, "For verily I say unto you, that *whosoever* shall *say* unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which *he saith* shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever *he saith*. Therefore I say unto you, what things soever you desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

By **Tom Dill**  
Hollansburg, OH  
CFFM Assoc. Pastor



## **Your Money or Your Mouth Which is More Important?**

In order for us to declare and decree his promises, we need to hide the word in our hearts. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I may not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord; Teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth" (Psalm 119:11-13; see also Joshua 1:8).

As I attempted to weave ***the topic of money*** into this article, I wanted to address our mindset toward finances and just how much we think the Lord should be involved. When the Gentiles were grafted in, I believe the concept of covenant thinking in their culture was missing. Unfortunately, I think it is still not enough of a part of our way of living. Ephesians 2:12, "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and *strangers* from the *covenants* of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."

Do you suppose that God wants us in authority over all the earth but not over money? I under-

stand that prosperity is not all about money, but it certainly plays a major role (3 John 2). Ecclesiastes 10:19, "A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things." Proverbs 10:22, "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." Do we consider his Word as covenant promises? If so, have we done our part?

Psalm 112:1-3,  
"Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in His house: and his righteousness endureth forever."

Do we fight for the promises? Years ago, when I started to see some of the promises in the scripture, I became very excited about what God had done for me and wanted to share more about it. When I got an opportunity to preach, I wanted people to see what I was seeing. I was quite surprised at the response. There were a few that became excited, but the opposition was extreme. I was ignorant of the religious spirit and the poverty spirit that work overtime to keep people oppressed. I became discouraged and found it much easier to preach other topics. I have had to apologize to God for not standing up for what I believe is the truth. God is the one who gives us the power to get wealth (Deut. 8:18)! He needs us to receive his promises so that he may establish his covenant!

***Let's speak his Word and prosper!***

**G**rowing up in our small North Carolina town, one annual highlight of primary and elementary school was competing in what we called "Field Day." It was an outdoor day of athletic events to build a competitive mindset and team spirit.

From the earliest grades, I happily discovered that I excelled in sprinting races. I don't recall losing what we called a hundred-yard dash during the first eight years of public schooling. Even the guys who didn't talk to me during the year would be my best buds when gathering a team for the four-man relays. We seemed to always win.

So entering high school, I naturally tried out for the track team. There, I was introduced to novel ideas like conditioning, coaching, advanced competition, and building stamina. In my first practice event, speedy Kevin was blown off the track by an older runner. Vivid disappointment.

Ironically, the coaches plugged me into the 400-meter event which I quickly discovered required a one-lap, full sprint around the track. My dreams of replacing The Flash were over. I survived that season, but had no endurance for races of any real distance. For longer events, I never developed the discipline of pacing myself.

**Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT)**

... let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us **run with endurance the race** God has set before us. We do this by keeping our **eyes on Jesus, the champion** who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he **endured** the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he **endured** from sinful people; then **you won't become weary and give up.**

*The Bible describes the Christian life as a race that not only calls for power, but also perseverance, persistence, and patience.* Too often, we only think of the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit as being instantaneous. More often, we need God's daily strength just to walk steadfastly in God's love, peace, longsuffering, etc. Thankfully, the Spirit of God empowers bursts of energy for life's shorter sprints, as well as supernatural stamina over the long run of faithfulness.



BY KEVIN GUIGOU  
CFFM ASSOC. PASTOR



True conversion, transformation, mind renewal, and maturity are cultivated across a lifetime. That's Christianity. Scripture describes salvation less as, "Just gimme a ticket to heaven," and more as turning over life's lordship to Jesus, abiding in him, and exemplifying an invitational kingdom lifestyle.

In the sporty contest of life, we pace ourselves while keeping our eyes on the hope of a "new heavens and a new earth where righteousness is at home" (2 Peter 3:13, NRSV). God has invited us into a royal adventure of joyful, lifelong submission that ultimately explodes into an eternal, breathtaking glory.

**Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)**

... I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **I press on to reach the end of the race** and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

**Philippians 3:20-21 (New Testament for Everyone)**

We are **citizens of heaven**, you see, and **we're eagerly waiting for**

## Staying the Course toward Eternity

**the savior, the Lord, Messiah Jesus, who is going to come from there.** Our present body is a shabby old thing, but he's going to transform it so that it's just like his glorious body. And he's going to do this by the power which makes him able to bring everything into line under his authority.

**We're in it for the long run ... the long haul.** The phrase "long haul" began to be used in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to describe seafaring and transportation efforts to carry cargo over extended distances. It symbolized sustained voyages that required time and commitment with a rewarding goal in mind.

Our voyage of life will surely involve high seas and rough waters, but we are supernaturally empowered to press on by an eternal hope before us. **We begin our Christian life with the end in mind.**

**Romans 8:20-24 (NLT)**

... **with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day** when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, **wait with eager hope for the day** when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were **given this hope** when we were saved...

**1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)**

... **be strong and immovable.** Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

Together, let's enjoy staying the course with the Master into eternity!



## Jesus to the World!

Since our beginning in 1996, we've regularly heard from people who want to be actively associated with Christian Family Fellowship Ministry in our emphasis on...

**JESUS, our focus  
PRAISE, our response  
HEALING, our benefit  
...all to the glory of God our Father!**

Check [www.cffm.org](http://www.cffm.org) to find pastors, contacts and house churches near you. Feel free to contact any of them or our staff so that we may support you and your local faith community. We want to partner with you in personal growth and in cultivating the life of the Lord Jesus Christ in our world.

*I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.*

Philemon 1:6 (NIV)



**~ THANK YOU! ~**  
... for your prayers, encouragement, input and financial support that make all our ministry services possible, cultivating a healthy spiritual family.



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