

# From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

## Spread It Before the LORD

Kevin W. Rhodes

**T**he situation before Judah in the days of Hezekiah looked bleak. Sennacharib, the king of Assyria, had sent his army to surround Jerusalem, and his representative, the Rabshakeh, to threaten the southern kingdom into submission. Through his messengers, Hezekiah, shaken by the superpower's military might, asked Isaiah what to do. In response God's prophet assured him that God would take care of the problem (2 Kings 19:1-7). Then the Rabshakeh returned once more with threats that Assyria would do to Jerusalem what it had done to all others before it. Having destroyed the cities protected by other gods, the Assyrians had no fear in attacking Jerusalem and Jehovah God (2 Kings 19:8-13). "And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD" (2 Kings 19:14). Hezekiah prayed to the LORD with all his might, praising God's greatness, appealing to Him to listen, laying out the situation, expressing confidence in Jehovah's power, and pleading with Him to save them from sure destruction (2 Kings 19:15-19). Hezekiah needed God's help. He knew it, and he sought it in prayer.

The reality facing many people today lies in that they know they need help but fail to turn to God for the help they need. But more than even this, Christians who do turn to God in prayer often do so in a generic, heartless, doubting manner. Can you imagine knowing a loved one is deathly ill and then only offering a prayer saying simply, "Please be with those who are sick"? Have we really become so ritualistic as to act like God wants our requests submitted in writing, in triplicate instead of as a heartfelt plea from a caring soul? More than this, why would we, as God's children, knowing that we have sinned very specifically against the One who gave His Son for us, only add a signature line, "Please forgive us of all our sins," at the end of a personal prayer? May we never allow formula to replace feeling in our prayers. Instead, let us spread our problems, our anxieties, and our hearts before the LORD and open up to Him every time we bow as children before the throne of our Father. He knows all about them anyway.

### Shepherds

Sid Carruth  
Kenneth Helm  
Clark Lehtinen  
George Sowell

### Deacons

Gary Barger  
Jeff Day  
Vince Grinnell  
Justin Hewlett  
Bill Hughes  
Tim Norman

### Preacher

Kevin Rhodes

### Sunday

*Bible Study*  
9:00 am

*AM Worship*  
10:00 am

*PM Worship*  
5:00 pm

### Wednesday

*Ladies Class*  
10:00 am

*Bible Study*  
7:00 pm

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# Spiritual Responsibilities - 1

Kevin W. Rhodes

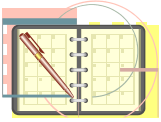
Jesus' call of discipleship demands far more than what many people consider reasonable. They want access to all the spiritual blessings Jesus provides while still clinging to the priorities of a life without Jesus. However, regardless of what people might wish, our Savior does not waver or compromise just to make discipleship easier. Indeed, if He were to respond and follow our lead, we would cease to be His disciples. However, the extent to which He calls disciples to give priority to their spiritual responsibilities and to their discipleship remains challenging to this very day.

Jesus recognized that this world requires something of us. He lived it. However, He also modeled how to arrange priorities so that the spiritual always receives the greater emphasis, attention, and time. He had already told a disciple to focus on the eternal. "Then He said to another, 'Follow Me.' But he said, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father.' Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God'" (Lk. 9:59-60; cf. Mt. 8:21-22). Burying someone in the heat of ancient Israel required some urgency. As Martha told Jesus regarding the body of her brother Lazarus, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days" (Jn. 11:39b). Indeed, it would not have taken four days for such an issue to appear; therefore, burying a body quickly deserved someone's attention, and a child would have the responsibility first for seeing that a parent received proper burial.

Nevertheless, Jesus insisted that following Him come first. While some might consider such a requirement unreasonable, Jesus issued it to establish a principle: the responsibilities of discipleship outweigh even the responsibilities of family. The spiritual always deserves greater priority than the material. "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit" (Rom. 8:5).

Some express a willingness to follow Jesus yet delay doing His will. They confuse the urgent (worldly responsibilities) with the important (following Jesus Christ). They then have a half and half view of discipleship. They want to treat the flesh and spirit as equals in life and in quality. They want to be Christians, but they hold onto other obligations—even when that prevents them from following God's will. Many people have problems taking on the responsibilities of discipleship because they have filled their schedule with other responsibilities. They insist they would attend regularly if only work did not interfere. They say they would gladly assist in visitation or evangelism if it were not for that pesky garage that has to be cleaned. They argue how much they want their children involved and learning, but those soccer matches and school activities just seem to take up so much time. Yes, they do. But the real problem lies in the refusal of those who claim the name of Christ to rearrange their responsibilities with spiritual priority.

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# News and Notes

## Among our sick

- Kay Holly's colon surgery has been postponed because the robot that the doctor were going to use is broken and a new one has been ordered.
- Mary Reynolds has a very large Baker's cyst that ruptured and has collected a lot of blood. She has to see an orthopedic doctor to have it drained. She asked for no visitors please. It is too hard for her to get up and answer the door.
- Sara Wisialowski is in ICU at Life Care in Fort Worth.

## Response

We rejoice that Crysta Haynes responded to the invitation confessing sins and asking for the prayers of the congregation. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. God Bless you Crysta in your decision.

## *60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*

Everyone is invited to a come and go reception for the sixtieth Wedding Anniversary of James and Helen Henslee on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:00 in the annex. Your attendance is our gift.

## Please Note

- Family Day will be Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Bible Search activities start at 10:00 AM. The study will cover Ezra 5.
- Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 55 years and older game night will start at 6:00.
- Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, the elders, deacons and preachers' breakfast will be at 8:00 AM at Sunrise Grill, and the meeting at the building will be afterwards.
- Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, will be the younger youth service project for ages 10 years and younger or anyone interested. Meet at the building at 9:00 AM.
- Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, Cherokee Home for Children Annual Auction will be at 9:00 AM. Several will be serving hamburgers for lunch. See Clark and Deborah Lehtinen for details about the auction and if you can help with the meal that day. Also, if you would like to help with the cost of the food please give your money to one of the elders.
- Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, will be our next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. We will have our regular morning worship services, pot luck lunch in the annex and 1:00 PM singing in the auditorium.

## Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 9/8

### Front South

Perry Elkins  
Don Crecelius  
Kenneth Helm

### Front North

Jason Hackler  
Jeff Day  
Kyle Day

### Back South

Royce Gorman  
Vince Grinnell  
Cody Grinnell

### Back North

Joshua Haynes  
James Henslee  
Dewayne Henegar

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Ken Boroughs  
Andrew Collins

Sunday PM

Jeff Day  
Vince Grinnell

Wednesday PM

Luke Norman

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Barry Lehtinen

Wednesday

Dale Ash

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Dale Ash

Sunday PM

Dale Ash

Wednesday PM

Jeff McPherson

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Barry Lehtinen

## Collection Counting

Don Crecelius / Johnny Walker

## Wed. PM Devotional (9/11)

Ryan Cowan



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

Accepting the Consequences

PM

Recognizing Apostasy  
1 Timothy 4:1-5



## Listen to the Gospel!

### Luis and Mike in the Mornings

(Monday - Friday) from 7:00 am - 9:00 am cst on  
[KnowTheTruthRadio.org](http://KnowTheTruthRadio.org)

### Biblical Foundations with Pat McIntosh

(Tuesday - Thursday) 7:00 am or 11:00 am  
[btradio.net](http://btradio.net)



## Our Records

Bible Class .....	132
AM Worship.....	228
PM Worship .....	168
Wednesday Bible Class 9/4.....	173
Contribution .....	\$6,002

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