

The Encouragement Newsletter

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Second Quarter 2009

We are living in a day where bestowing honor is a rare commodity. It is like the exception instead of the rule. I believe this attitude is prevalent because we are living in a "Me, Myself and I" society. At times we delay giving honor because of insecurities, wanting the attention or glory to be ours and ours alone, and our own selfish ambition. Or, we just do not feel the individual is deserving of our honor. In writing the newsletters, I always end up doing a heart exam with every topic I write about and this one is no exception. I have been guilty of holding back honor and I've learned (and I am still learning) that honor is what the Lord requires. It is a part of His word that we are all required to apply.

If you have been working (in the secular arena or house of God) for a while, you have witnessed all types of ceremonies to honor individuals for their achievements and accomplishments. The principals of honoring is biblically based. However, many of us have witnessed individuals who have not performed well on the job receive honor in the form of a promotion, monetary bonus or other types of recognition. This can be very disappointing when you may be the one working hard, working over time and doing everything right, but receive nothing. It makes one wonder, is all of this worth all the effort. I have been in this situation many times. As I thought about this, I was reminded of Colossians 3:23— "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." This settles my mind and heart every time and places things into perspective. In the end, the Lord is the real one who bestows the greatest honor on His sons and daughters.

Honor has its place in our lives and I want to focus this quarter's newsletter on four areas of HONOR.

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*Honor—
Respect, Esteem, High Regard
and Reward*

Honor God *I Samuel 2:30*

...for those who honor Me, I will honor, and those who despise Me, will be lightly esteemed.

All will agree that God is worthy of honor. He is worthy of the utmost respect we can give to anyone. However, the highest esteem we as His servants can give him is in the form of our obedience to His Word, Will and Way. Jesus quoted Isaiah in Matthew 15:8-9 saying, "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." Jesus was speaking against the attitudes of the scribes and Pharisees who were outwardly doing a lot of good things, but inwardly, their hearts were far from Him. The heart is the most important thing to Him. They had traditions that focused on the approval of man, but the true dedication of a heart to God was missing.

Showing honor in the vertical direction (toward God), is primary to being able to show honor in the horizontal direction (toward others). It is important to have our priorities in line when we seek to honor God and others. We do not want to honor others or traditions at the expense of dishonoring God. This was the problem with the scribes and Pharisees. They were more interested in honoring the traditions rather than recognizing and honoring Jesus.

This was also the problem with Eli. As seen in I Samuel 2, Eli was being reproved because he did not honor God by correcting his sons, who were sinful priest. God sent a man with a message for Eli. In verse 30 we see several words spoken to him, but what is relevant to us is this -

...for those who honor Me, I will honor.

We can honor God in many ways, but the primary way is living a life that is pleasing to him.

Honor Your Father & Mother *Ephesians 6:2-3*

Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), so that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth. (NAS)

Before you and I knew about honoring God, as children, most of us learned to honor our parent(s) or guardian with our obedience and respect. We were taught to honor our grandparents by calling them Grandma or Grandpa. Other adults were addressed by Mr. or Mrs. so and so. We did not dare call any adult by their first name without receiving swift correction (*sometimes in the form of a swift backhand*). I firmly believe it is God's intention that the natural family be the place children learn to honor.

Today there is a desperate need to teach children from infancy to honor. It is as if almost an entire generation does not understand the principals of honoring. It seems almost totally absent. It is evident by what we see in our communities. The dishonor of authority is the result of the dishonor of father and mother. What should we do? We should encourage the young in our families and communities, to honor their father, mother and all authority. Also, we should make sure we are being an example of this principal. For some, there may be tension or unresolved issues with their parent(s) or guardian; however, this does not negate the responsibility to follow the word of God. Regardless of the negative emotions and whether it is believed they are "deserving" of honor. It is a commandment of God (Deuteronomy 5:16) that we all must obey. There is an assurance that things will go well if we honor our father and mother. If this has been a struggle for you, I encourage you to seek God's help and with Father's and Mother's Day around the corner, it is a good opportunity to show honor in some way.

Elders are worthy of Double honor *I Timothy 5:17*

The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor,... (NAS)

Since the father and mother represent authority, I believe we can also interpret this to mean spiritual fathers and mothers the Lord has placed in the local church. In the New Testament, initially all, including the Apostles, were called Elders. They were the spiritual leaders of the church. In our day, every church is headed by a leader (Pastor, Bishop, Apostle) or a team of leaders. They are called to be the spiritual parents to the people of God. They have cared for the rebellious and obedient, cleaned up the mess made by those they lead and rejoiced at their accomplishments. They have given their last dime, had sleepless nights all because of the saints and they have given unconditional love like a natural parent. Many have labored tirelessly and they are worthy of double honor.

I am not sure, but it is my thought that the scripture says Elders are worthy of double honor because they are dealing with natural adults who are spiritual babies, teenagers, young adults and/or adults. For anyone, this role is hard. Some of us tend to go in out of these maturity levels because we are a work in progress. As adults, we all have our own minds, but often seek their counsel, only to do what we want anyway. Although there is so much in the press about leaders living unholy and ungodly lifestyles, fleeing the flock and building their own kingdoms, at the expense of the people, there are many who are after God's heart and they are giving themselves unselfishly to God and serving his people. We should consider them worthy of double honor.

Render to All What is Due Them *Romans 13:7, I Peter 2:17*

*Render to all what is due them...(NAS)
Honor all people....(NAS)*

This is the last and final point. Just in case we come up with an excuse, this one covers all areas. Sometimes it is easy to give honor to God and the Pastor, but what about those who are peers. This can be a challenge. As I stated in the beginning, I have withheld honor from my peers, but after this study, even I have no excuse.

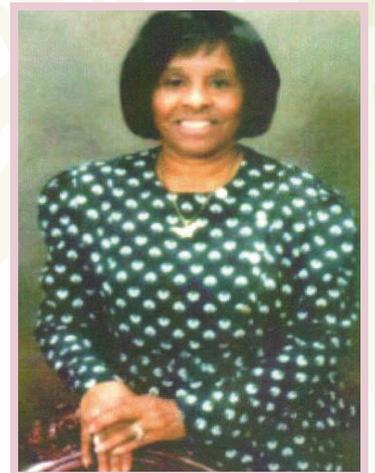
Each person is deserving of honor. How we express our honor for them will differ. It can be expressed by sending a card or giving a gift. We can also express honor by giving a compliment, celebrating them, helping them achieve a goal, or speaking words of encouragement. During these hard economical times, we can give these things without going in our wallets. When we honor one another out of a pure heart, they are blessed, but so are we because we are demonstrating the character of Christ.

Doing a brief study of the scriptures above we see the admonishment of both Paul and Peter to the people of God to love, respect and honor one another. This is what will set us apart from those around us. This is how men, women, boys and girls will know that we are His disciples (a learner in the school of Christ) by the love we have for one another.

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
Romans 12:10 (NAS)*

A Woman Worthy of Double Honor

Before I released last quarter's newsletter, I began developing a plan for this quarter. I knew I was going to focus on honor and had ideas running through my mind. It became my hearts desire to follow scripture as stated above in I Timothy 5:17— The elders who rule well are worthy of double honor. With this in mind, I followed my heart to honor the Pastor and Founder of the New Covenant Church of the Lord Jesus Christ— Bishop Juanita E. Turner. I have been privileged to be a part of this 26 year old ministry for over 19+ years. I have watched her life and I believe she is well deserving of double honor. Having stood the test of time in ministry, she has also stood the test of time in her natural life. The Lord has allowed her to see her 80th birthday last month. She is still full of energy and enjoy teaching God's people the truths of His word. I had the pleasure of sitting down with her and asked her a few questions about her life and ministry. Be blessed and encouraged as you read a little bit about the life of this remarkable woman.



Veronica— **Bishop Turner where were you born and raised?**

Bishop Turner— I was born in Washington, DC at Columbia Hospital, now known as Georgetown. I was raised in North East and North West Washington, DC.

Veronica— **Can you tell me, what was life like during that era?**

Bishop Turner— We did not have to contend with what young people deal with today. We did things like play with dolls until we were 13 years old. At Christmas time, we got nurses and doctors outfits. I actually wanted to be a doctor. I hated to see people hurting and wanted to be a doctor to help people. We also played church and I was the Pastor.

We had safe fun. As teens, we would go to the WYCA and we had clubs in school and the clubs would rent out a place called Odd Fellows Hall for activities. We attended BYPU.

Veronica— **What was that?**

Bishop Turner— It was the Baptist Young Peoples Union. At BYPU we would watch Charlie Chaplain movies we did not go to the movie theater.

Only performers and entertainers smoked marijuana. They were the only ones known to do drugs. It was not like today where children at eight are selling drugs and are exposed to drugs and sex.

Veronica— **What were some of your experiences?**

Bishop Turner— I had to contend with prejudice. During that time blacks had to stand at the end of the counter to be served. There was a store like CVS, where they served deli sandwiches and we could sit on the stool, but in the department stores, like Hechts, we had to check out 2nd to the whites.

One time me, Bertha (*Bishops closest friend*) and another lady, who was white, went to see the AA Allen in North Carolina. When we got there she got to sit in the front, but me and Bertha had to stay in the back. While there we wanted to wash our hands. We were told we had to wash our hands in the out house. I laughed when I was told this, but Bertha didn't like this.

Veronica— **You mean you were told to wash your hands in the toilet.**

Bishop Turner— Yep, in the toilet. This was a different type of prejudice.

Veronica— **Do you mean that the prejudice in North Carolina was different from the prejudice in DC?**

Bishop Turner— Yes. The schools here were segregated. There were no white teachers in the black schools. There was a difference in D.C.

Veronica— **Wow, I heard there were differences.**

Veronica— **Bishop how did you come to know Christ?**

At the age of 9 I was baptized at Shiloh Baptist church. I heard something speak and say go to the alter and be baptized. I went to church, but at age 16 or 17, I didn't have to go. My mother didn't make me. She felt I was old enough to decide not to go.

Through my mom's sickness, I came to know Christ. There was a lady who came to pray for my mother. She was a prophet. I had just finished smoking a cigarette when the lady came. I let her in, but I didn't want no part of the prayer. At that time, I was taking lessons with the Jehovah's Witnesses. But, I let them go when they said there was no hell.

Anyway, the lady said "Little girl, God told me to pray for you." She laid hands on me and I was knocked out on the floor. When I came up I knew I was saved. I looked at my hands and then ran to the mirror to look to see if my face was changed.

She then said, now say "Thank You Jesus". I said this and began to speak in tongues. After this experience I went home. My husband and some friends were there. I went to speak to them and I was speaking in tongues. I then went to the bathroom. The friends were there partying and drinking and smoking. In the bathroom I prayed "Lord if you want this in your house, it's alright with me." When I came out of the bathroom, everyone was gone...including my husband. My step father was still there and he said, "What did you do?" because everyone just left.

Veronica— **Bishop, how did you come into ministry?**

Bishop Turner— I was on the bus one day and overheard a lady talking about a church. She was so excited about this church. I asked her about the church and

I was called not to build buildings, but to build lives.

she told me the name and location. The church was Evangel Temple. So, ministry began at Evangel Temple. I was one of the first Deaconess ordained at Evangel Temple. I taught all new comers to the church. I did a lot of soul winning. Because I was winning so many souls, Bishop Meares gave me permission to have a Bible Study in my home.

I later went to help a lady out who had a ministry. I started a noon day prayer and the church began to grow. One day she was preaching and it was about chicken livers. From that experience I told the Lord, if you give me a pulpit, I will preach your word.

I was riding with Yvonne Johnson (*another close friend*) one day and she said "My life depends on your getting a church set up and moving into the ministry. I later started the church.

Veronica— **What are some hallmarks of your life?**

Bishop Turner—I was the only one allowed to have ministry in my home while I was at Evangel Temple and during this time 27 kids came into my home. They were drug addicts. They were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit while in my home.

Veronica— **You've done so much in you life, why is this such a hallmark?**

Bishop Turner—It was a hallmark because these kids would be high on drugs when they came into my home, but would encounter God while high on drugs.

There was another hallmark. We would go to the hospitals and witness to people. We would see people healed. They would have tubes in their bodies, but they would be healed.

Veronica— **Women were not ac-**

cepted in ministry during the time you began. What were some challenges of women in ministry when you began?

Bishop Turner—I had challenges from some male Pastors. Once I was asked to speak and I was literally stopped from going to the pulpit. I had to speak on the floor. There were men, who were saved in the ministry, but were influenced by other men not to return. While at Evangel Temple the women were not treated differently. Even the blacks were not treated differently although the Pastor was white. This was a non-denominational church and I learned that we should know no man after the flesh, but after the spirit.

It was God who called me. When he called me, he called me to the depressed, desponded and those in debt. I was called not to build buildings, but to build lives.

Veronica— **What type of advice do you have for women and men in ministry today? Either just beginning or those who have been ministering for a while.**

Bishop Turner—I would say-

- Whatever you do, bring glory to God's name and edify the body of Christ.
- Know that you are called by God, not by man.
- Seek to want what God wants.
- Stay away from the doctrine of man. There only one doctrine and that is the doctrine of Christ.
- Let not man's tradition entrap you into uniformity rather than unity.
- Represent Jesus, not an organization, denomination, not a church or Pastor. We are called to represent Him.

Veronica— **What pitfalls would you say to avoid?**

Bishop Turner—Touch not the glory nor the gold.

Veronica— **What do you mean by the gold?**

Bishop Turner—The MONEY! This is what will get many.

- Seek not to be a great one for greatness.
- Seek to be chief servant with a heart to serve God by serving His people.



- Walk in the love of God.
- Be a woman or man of integrity.
- I'd like to use a quote from T.D. Jakes. Jakes said that "No one can beat me being T.D. Jakes."
- Be your own self.
- Remember you are designed by God and wired by His Spirit.
- Be Bold and Be Brave for the Lord God is with you.
- Now this is my pet peeve. Give no offense in anything that the ministry be not blamed.

Veronica— **What do you mean by offense?**

Bishop Turner—Offense is mannerism; lifestyle; decisions; not walking close to the world. To many walk too close to the world

- Let not your good be evil spoken of.

Veronica— **How would you say that men and women should balance their home life and ministry?**

Bishop Turner—Get priorities in order. There were many who walked in error. The order was—

- 1st—God
- 2nd—Ministry and
- 3rd—Family

My youngest daughter saw this order with me and was at a place where she didn't like the saints when she was young. To her, they were taking her mother away from them.

The priority is—

1. God
2. Spouse
3. Children
4. Job
5. Ministry

If the first four are not in place, you have no ministry.

Veronica— I remember hearing a woman in ministry say that some felt that she wasn't being a good mother because she traveled and ministered with her husband. When she did this, her children were cared for by her mother. She said that at times the priorities will seem to change in the eyes of others if one is focused on ministry for a season. But, she knew her priorities.

Bishop Turner—Yes, The word says we must hate brother, sister, mother and father. But sometimes people give these things, like family, as an excuse not to do ministry. We don't literally hate them, but they must not come before God and obeying Him.

Veronica— **Bishop, can you give some final encouraging words to God's people.**



Bishop Turner—Yes. Always remember that nothing per chance just happens to a child of God. His word to us is, "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper". In other words, any weapon formed (**fashioned**) against (**in opposition to**) you not will not prosper (**succeed**). The operative word is "against you" - in opposition to you, not that the weapon won't prosper. If, in your estimation, it does prosper or succeed, it will not be

against, but will work together “for your good” because God’s word also says, “And we know that all things work together for good (not against) to them who love the Lord and are called according to His Purpose. It is very important to get the object lesson of the purpose that He has allowed it to come into your life.

I walked between these two scriptures all of my Christian life. On the right side—”No weapon formed against me shall not prosper and if it gets to me or prosper, then the left side kicks in, that it’s working for my good. Praise the Lord!

If you allow me, I would like to leave you with something that has helped me in my walk with the Lord.

When I was very young in the Lord, in fact, I wasn’t quite a year old in the Lord, when I committed something into His hands that has kept me afloat when faced with overwhelming trials of life, which could have swallowed me up. The commitment went like this, “Lord, I am not familiar with your manner, methods or ways you deal with your children, I was told that if we would ask you for something that we didn’t know was good for us and we continually prayed for that thing, you would give it to us. So Lord, since I don’t know me like you know me, I want to commit this into your hands, that if I at

any time I ask You for something that will take my heart from You or send me on another course out of Your will for me, and if I throw a spiritual tantrum and keep begging for it, do not give it to me. Since that day until now, I have asked for quite a few things that I haven’t received...as yet. But nevertheless, I haven’t been disappointed or discouraged because I haven’t received it because what comes to my mind is the commitment I made to Him a long time ago. I look at it as if it wasn’t His will for me or that it wasn’t good for me. That might not really be the case, but because I view it that way, it has kept me from being disappointed. Rather it has caused me to give Him thanks and praise Him for His faithfulness.

Always want to see things from God’s point of view. It is so important to stay in the center of God’s will and only want what He wants for you.

If you are a minister, stay in your measure and set your values according to eternal principals. Always desire to bring glory to God in all your endeavors. Seek to build up the body of Christ. Prefer others before yourself and whatever you want others to do for you, do so to them. If the body of Christ would do these things, there will be such cohesiveness and the world would see Jesus’ prayer fulfilled—”that they may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You have sent Me.



I pray you were encouraged and blessed as you read the “Four Areas of Honor” and the life of Bishop Turner. As I said, she is still ministering with much fire, enthusiasm and has a rich love for God’s people. I would also like to mention that Bishop Turner has been married to Alfred Turner for 62 years. She has 4 children, 15 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and a host of spiritual children.

She has been a tremendous blessing to me and my family. Starting with pre-marital counseling and marrying Fred and I almost 21 years ago. She presided over the christening of our two sons, dedicating them to the Lord, and has been there for us offering counsel, correction, advice, prayer and encouragement—especially as we have stepped into new opportunities or ministry endeavors, like this newsletter. I have seen her stand tall and strong in the midst of challenges and adversity. Most of all, I have watched her as a worshiper of Jesus and I have been inspired by her love for God and His word. So, thanks Bishop Turner for being a woman of character and virtue. You are truly worthy of Double Honor.

I invite you to visit a Sunday morning 11:00 am service at the New Covenant Church of the Lord Jesus Christ located at 3805 Lawrence Street, Colmar Manor, Md.

As always, if this newsletter is has been an Encouragement to you, please let me know by e-mailing me at hisminstrl@yahoo.com.

May our Lord and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal Encouragement and good hope, Encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

II Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NIV)

**Jesus Christ is the
Author & Finisher of my Faith**

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