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Thursday of each month
at 10AM Central Time.
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To post events in the IMA News-
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Comments, suggestions, or
article submissions may be
addressed to:

Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner,
IMA PROCLAIM Editor

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"SPRING: A Season to Fix Issues" Article Continued from Pg. 3

We would all agree in natural terms that using the correct tool for the job is important. Spiritually speaking, we need to do the same. We correct unbelief with belief; doubt with faith; fear with love; insecurity with truth. Wounds need to be healed through Jesus Christ. Areas that are "plugged up" may need release, brought about by forgiveness, surrender, or confession. Work with the Holy Spirit in the process. God's ways of healing are far superior to our own. Allow Him to direct your steps in the "spring cleaning process" of the soul.



As you do your "soul checkup," I encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area of your heart that needs attention. You may be prompted to forgive, resolve an issue, repair a relation-

ship, or repent of ungodly characteristics. The good news is that Jesus is a great repairman! He is in the business of restoring hearts, and each of ours can be made brand new! We can repeat David's prayer in Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew (make like new again) a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).

The time and effort you put into repairing issues of the soul is well worth it! Once things have been set in order within our hearts, God can move us into greater dimensions with Him. Forward progress can happen unhindered. God is moving in these latter days. He has marvelous plans in which He would love to include us. Let's not allow inner issues to hold us back. These are the days of a great harvest, and God needs "whole" workers who can partner with Him!

IMA MID CTRL DIST CONF:

- **Dates:** Mon-Wed., June 19-21
- **Location:** Church of the Open Door; Hot Springs, Arkansas
- **Host Pastor:** Rev. Teddy Frye
- **Featured Speaker:** Pastor Charles Johnson; Heart of Worship Ministries
- **Theme:** "Victory through Strengthening the Things that Remain"
- **Scripture:** Isa. 43:1-3; Rev. 3:2

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Relational

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PROCLAIM

MAY 2023



SEASONS OF OUR SPIRITUAL WALK

By Rev. Jason Buck; Grace Community Church

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"Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses. Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains... There the Lord will display His glory, the splendor of our God" (Isa 35:1-2, NLT).

I don't know about you, but I love spring. For those of you in the south, I envy you. Winters in northern Wisconsin are brutal. This year was especially harsh. So far, our area has been the 8th snowiest season on record. As I'm writing, it's raining and will turn to a possible 3 to 5 inches of snow soon. As we say in the north, Uff Da!

Much like the seasons of weather, there are seasons in our spiritual walk. Many times, we experience drought or dry times in our hearts. But there are also times of growth and blossoming. The key, I believe, is to be prepared for the winter seasons and anticipate the spring.

Each fall I pull out the snow blower, find all the shovels and get a new bag of salt for the ice. I have to prepare for what is to come. When things are going well in your ministry, always be prepared for the season that may come next. Because right



around the corner there may be a time that things get cold and dark.

However, we must also remember that if the winter season in our heart has been brutal, it may also be brutal for those we minister to. We need to encourage ourselves and others that spring is right around the corner. A time of growth is near.

"With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you'" (Isaiah 35:3-4, NLT).

After each snowfall, I would double check my older neighbor's driveway. She can't take care of it herself. So, I or another neighbor help out. Help the discouraged and encourage those around you that spring is right around the corner. God is about to display His glory!



Abounding in Hope

By Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner, IMA Proclaim Editor

Millions of God-fearing Christians are very angry at the laws, journalism and media in our nation. The grim reality is that this scheme is meant to take masses of people away from God. It is a long-term, deranged plot toward globalism. Further, this one-world agenda simply reflects the soul of the old guard called Washington Elite.

A spiritual battle rages in the heavenlies over America. It is for the soul of our nation. Will righteousness prevail? Will evil win? What moral code will we embrace as a nation? The real question should now be asked: "How do we lead the people of God amidst a culture that has strayed from its biblical moorings?" To answer that question, let us turn our thoughts to the Book of Exodus and consider the spiritual climate of what Egypt was like at the time. God had raised up Moses to lead His people amidst a governmental system that had run itself amuck. How did God equip Moses to lead Israel during this time of lost spiritual heritage? Here are some factors to consider:

First: Proclaim a message of Hope. God came to Moses with a special message of HOPE. He said, "I have heard the cry of My people and I will deliver you soon!" Bondage of soul, that seemed so real to them at the time, would soon be over. God (through Moses) would take them

out of slavery and into the promise land. Moses spoke these words to the Children of Israel. (Remember, they had been in bondage four hundred years and had given up on any possibility that things could get better). Nevertheless, God renewed their HOPE by reminding them of His faithfulness and promises originally made to Abraham [Isaac, Jacob]. We, too, need to proclaim that God is faithful; that Christ will never leave us nor forsake us!

HOPE is a message we must bring to the pulpit every time we minister God's Word! Every round table discussion or classroom situation must abound with HOPE. Paul wrote an encouraging prayer for those he cared so much about at Rome. He prayed (Rom. 15:13), "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." God would not have us possess just a little hope. No, He wants us to ABOUND in hope. So, what is hope? Gifted Bible teacher Derek Prince writes, hope is the "constant, unwavering expectation of good."

Second: Provide clear direction. Keep in mind the circumstances that were present at the time of our text. People were troubled. Government was overreaching personal rights. The national attitude was depressing. Something positive needed to be spoken. Liberty had to be fought for.

Secularism showed itself in Moses' time by killing of infants. Government was ever increasing in size. Antagonism toward the true God put pressure on people to work more, yet receive lower wages in a challenged economy. This applies to our country today in terms of our spiritual heritage. As it was then, so it is now. We must fight for our freedom and stand for moral purity. The weapon of prayer must be taken up and implemented in this battle. Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Finally: Listen for the word of God! We need to recognize that God did speak to Israel. Amidst this great crisis, God spoke a *rhema* word to Moses to be a deliverer and leader to Israel. God was about to do something awesome for Israel and called upon Moses to partner with Him in the restoration process of his nation. Today, God is calling ministers of the gospel to help the church understand His plans for us amidst this present crisis. Remember, the future is only as bright as the promises of God. Peter reminds us that God's divine power equips believers with all that is needed in both [natural] life and godliness [spiritual life]. He declared, God has given us "exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4).

There is hope for the people of God today. God cares about the restoration of our country as well. He cares about all that pertains to His people. Every IMA MINISTER must become a mouthpiece of HOPE to the people of God! Equip saints to thrive amidst a depressed, broken, and uncertain culture.



Quotable Quotes about Mothers

"I don't believe there are devils enough in hell to pull a boy out of the arms of a godly mother." —Billy Sunday

"Godly mothers not only bring you up, they bring you to God." —Anonymous

"What you do in your house is worth as much as if you did it up in heaven for our Lord God." —Martin Luther

"The power of a mother's prayers with all her children kneeling around is far greater than any public ministry." —Charles H. Spurgeon

SPRING: A Season to Fix Issues

By Julie Gaskill; IMA Member



Sunday School Class for the ladies: *Lord, what would You have me teach?* I was praying about what God wanted me to communicate for my next Sunday School topic. I drew in a breath of spring air and as I exhaled, I planned on saying aloud the word "spring." Instead, what came out of my mouth was the word "issues." What a weird word to mix up, I thought. Then I felt the Holy Spirit say, "That's your answer! SPRING IS A SEASON TO FIX ISSUES."

It is true; during the change of season, spring often reveals issues that need addressing. In the natural sense, roads and structures need to be repaired; spring cleaning takes place in homes; yards need to be raked; and as the snow melts (at least here in the northland), a myriad of other problems are revealed that demand attention.



In the spiritual sense, there is a real need for us to address issues of the heart. God whole-heartedly advises us: "Keep (guard, tend, protect) your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23, NKJV). Home and work projects require regular attention, but how much more important is it to address issues of the heart? The Bible says that everything else in our lives is affected by what "springs forth" from the heart. Certainly, we should take inventory of what is in our hearts! Let's take a moment and consider some of the possible issues that could be lying unchecked in our hearts.

The first is UNBELIEF. This is the state of harboring skepticism about God's Word. When Jesus was in Nazareth, His hometown, it is stated in Matthew 13:58 that Jesus did not do many mighty works there because of their UNBELIEF. Did you know that unbelief can hinder miracles from taking place? Even if Jesus has a home in your heart, He may be limited in what He can do in your life if unbelief is also a resident.

Another issue to beware of is DOUBT. Doubt is the feeling of uncertainty about the truth, reality, or nature of something. When we hesitate to believe God or are uncertain about what He says, be on the lookout for DOUBT. Doubt will cause you to second guess everything – everything you know to be true, everything that God says about who you are or who He is. Doubt is the enemy Adam and Eve suc-

cumbed to in the garden of Eden when the serpent caused them to second guess God's clear command.

FEAR is an ever-so-common issue that rears its head every chance it gets. It is an extremely distressing emotion evoked by impending danger, evil, or pain; whether the threat is real or imagined. Moses, the mighty delivered of the Israelites, was influenced by FEAR on several occasions. The first time God told him to go and speak to Pharaoh, he voiced his fears instead of responding in faith. If you find yourself saying to God, "I can't because of ..." or "But what if..." – these may be indicators of the presence of fear, and it certainly needs to be dealt with.

Another common problem of the heart is INSECURITY. This can manifest in many different ways, often causing someone to overcompensate in another area. This throws them "off balance" and causes instability in life. Insecurity is lack of confidence or assurance. The secret to maintaining confidence, is to not place it in human beings, but to place one's confidence in God. He alone is our secure ROCK. "Do not be afraid of sudden terror... For the Lord will be your confidence..." (Prov. 3:25-26).

Sometimes we have WOUNDS in our hearts. We may have endured injury, pain, damage, or offense done to our hearts by others. Have you ever lashed out about something or been over-protective in an area of your life? It is wise to consider the possibility that you are protecting a wound. No matter the source of the injury or with whom the blame lies, we ultimately have to take responsibility to obtain healing. Isaiah 53:5 displays the beautiful picture of Christ enduring wounds, pain, and punishment so we could obtain healing. There is no wound so great that Jesus can't mend. God heals the broken-hearted (injuries to the soul), and carefully wraps our wounds (Psalm 147:3).



You may wonder if you really need to address issues of the heart. How dangerous can invisible issues be? Truth is, there is danger in allowing problems to continue unaddressed. What can happen if we ignore heart-issues?

- They can grow;
- They can cause further damage;
- They can lead to other problems;
- They can cost more time and effort to fix later;
- You cannot be made "whole" (complete, perfect) until the repairs are made.