



GRAN ALACANT TABERNACLE NEWS

October 2015
Issue 4

Greetings to all our brethren and friends of the Tabernacle in the name
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We thank all our brothers & sisters that during the summer season have come to visit the Tabernacle to worship with us, some already know us and have joined us before and some new. We have been blessed with the communion and fellowship we have had together thank you. Thank you also for all that have helped and contributed during the worship times, for your prayers, music playing, for reading the scriptures and leading bible studies.

It is at these times of fellowship that we spiritually grow as we edify and encourage each other in our walk with the Lord.

The sad part is the departure time, when everyone goes back home, especially as the winter season approaches and we have very few visitors.

How wonderful it would be if all our visitors would be the local congregation, we would have to get a bigger building! However we thank you for your thoughts, prayers and contributions even from a distance and pray that the Lord will keep us and sustain us so that we can carry on being here for the next visit.

As many of you are aware we are an independent church and autonomous we do experience some difficulty to cover the rental and running costs of the mission here. Please do join us in prayer for guidance and wisdom from the LORD to fulfill His will for the mission here in Gran Alacant to reach the lost with the saving grace of the Gospel of our Lord and savior Jesus.

Any help you can provide is a blessing thank you.

We praise and thank the LORD for our Spanish speaking members, please continue to pray for them, we have been blessed with their teachings and contributions, we also have a young Spanish couple who have joined us this summer and have been attending the meetings regularly.

Here in Spain although laws have expanded religious liberty, the majority of the people still believe that everything that is not Catholic is a sect, there is much idolatry and religious festivals that are not biblical that they all enjoy yet the Gospel of our Lord is rejected by many.

There is a need here in Spain just as in many other nations for the Gospel message to be proclaimed in truth and in Spirit, and for those of us who know the Lord, His mercy and salvation and as children and servants of God, we must pray that in His strength we may proclaim this truth as commanded by Jesus in the great commission Matt.28

To the Praise and Glory of our LORD! Thank you for your continuing prayer & friendship.

I would like to share with you one of the messages I received in my emails, it is from a group that shares the words of AW Tozer that I enjoy reading regarding church leadership. Tozer died in 1963, but when he was alive, he wrote and warned about things that were beginning to happen in modern Christianity which mislead those that are seeking God. He wrote a book called "The Size of the Soul" In it, he uses 1 Timothy 6:20–21 to define church growth.

"O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith ..." (1 Timothy 6:20–21)

This is what Tozer wrote about this.

Failure and Success: Crowds at Any Price

"The crowds-at-any-price mania has taken a firm grip on American Christianity (and also in the whole world today) and is the motivating power back of a shockingly high percentage of all religious activity. Men and churches compete for the attention of the paying multitudes who are brought in by means of any currently popular gadget or gimmick ostensibly to have their souls saved, but, if the truth were told, often for reasons not so praiseworthy as this...."

Our constant effort should be to reach as many persons as possible with the Christian message, and for that reason numbers are critically important. But our first responsibility is not to make converts but to uphold the honor of God in a world given over to the glory of fallen man. No matter how many persons we touch with the gospel we have failed unless, along with the message of invitation, we have boldly declared the exceeding sinfulness of man and the transcendent holiness of the Most High God.

They, who degrade or compromise the truth in order to reach larger numbers, dishonor God and deeply injure the souls of men. The temptation to modify the teachings of Christ with the hope that larger numbers may 'accept' Him is cruelly strong in this day of speed, size, noise, and crowds.

But if we know what is good for us, we'll resist it with every power at our command."

"Lord, deliver me from this temptation. Give me a deep, unshakable commitment 'to uphold the honor of God in a world given over to the glory of fallen men'—whether I achieve crowds and success or not. Amen."

I have found myself praying that God would grow our church at Gran Alacant , but what is it that I was really praying about? Was I asking for more people to sit on the seats? Or was I asking for spiritual growth? The answer from God was 'spiritual maturity' growth within the body of Christ, for only when the body is strengthened from within in unity with other believers can it proclaim the truth of the Gospel and the Glory of God to the unbelieving world.

Of course we want our local church to grow, but have to discern what exactly we expect from church growth, and pray for the right reasons.

The main reason and priority is proclaiming God's word in spirit and truth in order that those who are lost and seeking God can be reconciled to Him through repentance and belief in the works of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, in order that they can join the body and worship God the father in Spirit and truth through Jesus His son.

The character of a Christian starts to develop and spiritually grows by being a "living sacrifice" that is being "transformed by the renewing of our minds." (Rom: 12)

We have already seen some of the practical evidence of being a living sacrifice in part 1 (every Christian is a part of the body of Christ and each believer is equipped with a gift or gifts by God in order that we may serve Him). He has instructed us to serve Him practically by using all that He has given us, physically and spiritually for the edification of saints, by which every believer the whole body of Christ the church, can grow healthy in Godliness in order that God's perfect will can be achieved through us for His Glory. God equips each individual true believer with gifts for a purpose, to serve Him.

If we resist this it is not that the will of God will not come to pass, it will still go forward for He will use other means or people for His purpose to come about and those that failed to participate will have to give account to God.

Christians need one another, the race to the end that the apostle Paul talks about in some of his letters cannot be achieved by our own individual selves because we are not our own, being part of the body of Christ and as children of God, we belong to one and other and are dependent upon God through the Holy spirit to move each and every one of us to fit and be knitted together in order that we can show the world the Love and mercy that He has bestowed on us, it would be an impossible and prideful mission if one decides to do it alone and separates themselves from the body, (because eventually they will return to the world).

The apostle Paul tells us that just as the body has many parts, eyes, nose, ears, hands feet and more so it is with the church body, we need all the members to be in accord for it to function according to the will of God, we cannot all be eyes or all be mouths for if that would be the case we would see but not speak or speak without seeing.

A fundamental Christian character is a result of being a living sacrifice which means we are to love without hypocrisy demonstrated by **abhorring evil and clinging to what is good**. This love is agape, and is sacrificial in nature, in giving of oneself for the benefit of another and it is based on conscious choice and not on passing and floating emotions.

Christians are to love without hypocrisy, not just with the lips but with deeds and facts.

This is the love God has for us, it is the love we are to have for God, and it is the love Christians are to have for one another.

in John 15: 12 Jesus said, " 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

God has forgiven us through Jesus Christ who paid the penalty on our behalf and satisfied the wrath of God, this has broken the power that sin had over us, we are now in the process of being conformed to the image of Christ Jesus, and it is an ongoing development, it is not that we are perfect that makes us different from non Christians, but it is our surrender and obedience to God that makes us different to the world.

Pride will have to go, our own will needs to surrender to God's will, Jesus has to be the Lord in our Lives and when that happens, others will see that we truly belong to Him, otherwise we are no different to the world.

This is the part of the journey the following and walking with the Lord that many start to struggle with and sidetracking from, the salvation message is appealing, the freedom from the slavery of sin is joyful, being preserved from the wrath of God is desired and wanted by all, the thought of heaven and the new world and to be eternally in the presence of God is inspiring and hopeful,

but when it comes to the obedience to the faith taking up the cross and following then things start to get a little tricky, and many different opinions start spreading around.

Following the Lord according to His ways is not open to opinions He has set forth His ways and standards and made them known to us through His word; we either follow or not follow.

But just as Israel did and are also doing today being "stiff necked", many (Christians) are looking for worldly logical ways to avoid certain requirements of God, like a lawyer looking for loop holes in the law in defense of his case, especially when it comes to, giving, whether it is taxes, invoices, time in prison for evil doing or returning what does not belong to them.

Twisting the word of God to accommodate personal belief or to satisfy personal desires whether spiritual or material is spiritual adultery and even when there are no specific commands for certain actions that many believe are doing as servitude to God if truly and consciously examined with discernment by investigating within the word of God, many would realize that they are fooling themselves and deceiving others.

People can be deceived and fooled in this world but when it comes in trying to deceive or find ways to get out of what God has commanded us there is no way that He can be fooled, and we will have to give account.

The fact that we have received God's mercy and His sacrificial love, for free, which means that we could not do anything to obtain it, in any form or manner is true, all of our righteousness and goodness is as filthy rags as Isaiah tells us, what God has done for us is free, there is nothing we can do or offer that can obtain it, it is free to receive, but there is a cost in following. Jesus said that there is a cost in following Him, the cost is dying to the world, taking up the cross and giving our lives to Him, and giving our lives to Him does not mean according to our will and thinking and convenience by choosing our own set of rules, but it is according to His will, His choice based on what He has given us in the first place, His "righteousness" through the sacrifice at Calvary, His life, His Body and shed blood, His death and resurrection in order that we may have life with Him.

in 2 Peter 1:1–7 Peter encouraged believers to develop this character commanding

*1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by **the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:** 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to 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. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness **brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (love= agape)***

This "brotherly" term used biblically is how Christians refer to one another as the "brethren" or "brother" or "sister" as part of the family of God His children and people.

Within the body of Christ this family relationship develops through the common commitment and purpose since we are all brothers and sisters by our adoption into God's family, which means that our obligation to one and other is carried out with joy because of our common purpose in serving our father God through Jesus and have a desire to be with each other and to be involved with all aspects of care and growth for one and other knowing we are all part of the family, the body of Christ.

To be continued

The Sermon on the Mount is one the most recognized teaching of Jesus, in chapter 5 the section known as 'The Beatitudes' have the promised blessedness.

The Poor in Spirit, is realizing our weakness and sinfulness in front of a righteous God, those who mourn is referring to having a contrite heart and confessing and repenting our sins to God, the blessed meek are those who surrender to God and begin the journey of obedience.

When we lack meekness, we will not be willing to listen to God's word for edification, correction or instruction; because **of pride** which produces rebellion. Meekness will cause us to consider that we may be wrong, that we should investigate and that we are in need of guidance and correction.

The fourth Beatitude (Matthew 5:6) "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*"

The passage is simple, but there are very few in this world that truly hunger and thirst for righteousness.

The hunger and thirst that Jesus is mentioning here is for "the righteousness of God". The two words used; hunger the need for food and thirst the need to drink, are physical symptoms which if not alleviated by eating and drinking, will cause weakness and pain leading to starvation and dryness to the body and eventually death.

In the spiritual body as with the physical hunger, the hunger is a need for nourishment which is God's righteous word, a lack of spiritual nourishment causes spiritual weakness.

In the Physical Body the lack of nourishment, going without food and water for a long period of time will cause our bodies to become weak and can also become an easy prey for viruses and disease and become sick. We need nourishment to convert into energy for our bodies to function correctly to be strong and defend ourselves from the many diseases and to also be productive.

Within the spiritual body the lack of nourishment will cause our spirit to be weak, unfruitful, and defenceless and an easy prey for the evil that surrounds us. We need spiritual nourishment to be strong and firm in the Lord, to be spiritually fit and active to defend the faith we have received and to be fruitful.

Hungering for True Righteousness.

Just as there is physical junk food there is also spiritual junk food, we must avoid the things that are harmful. When one is hungry, it is tempting to just eat whatever is available, but that is not always the best thing for us. We can find all kinds of junk food that may look, taste and even smell nice but may have little or no nutritious benefit and can even cause obesity, tiredness laziness and defenceless to various diseases. In today's fast moving modern world it seems that good natural wholesome food is harder to find and more expensive, while the junk is everywhere and cheap.

The same is true in a spiritual sense, we cannot fully benefit from the good if we are also consuming or partaking of the spiritual junk that many religious organization are feeding those in search of God in today's world.

We are warned not to seek spiritual junk food, in Matt.23:27-28 to the Pharisees Jesus said ; "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness*"

We must search for the spiritual food that will be beneficial for us, the true righteousness of God

PSALM 63

*O God, You are my God;
Early will I seek You;
My soul thirsts for You;
My flesh longs for You
In a dry and thirsty land
Where there is no water.*

*2 So I have looked for You
in the sanctuary, To see
Your power and Your
glory.*

*3 Because Your loving
kindness is better than life,
My lips shall praise You.*

*4 Thus I will bless You
while I live; I will lift up my
hands in Your name.*

*5 My soul shall be satisfied
as with marrow and
fatness,
And my mouth shall praise
You with joyful lips.*

*6 When I remember You on
my bed, I meditate on You
in the night watches.*

*7 Because You have been
my help, Therefore in the
shadow of Your wings I will
rejoice.*

*8 My soul follows close
behind You; Your right
hand upholds me.*

*9 But those who seek my
life, to destroy it, Shall go
into the lower parts of the
earth.*

*10 They shall fall by the
sword; They shall be a
portion for jackals.*

*11 But the king shall
rejoice in God; Everyone
who swears by Him shall
glory;*

*But the mouth of those who
speak lies shall be stopped.*

PSALM 42:1-2

*As the deer pants for the
water brooks,
So pants my soul for You, O
God.*

*2 My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.*

that will make us acceptable in His sight. **God's word is founded on righteousness for He is righteous and He loves righteousness.**

The apostle Paul in (Rom. 6:13) speaking to Christians in Rome said ; *“And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

In the physical body, hunger and thirst warns the body that it needs food and water. In the spiritual body, it is a signal that the soul lacks those things that bring us closer to God. In the psalms we read;

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” (Psa. 42:1-2).

*“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You”
(Psa. 63:1)*

Spiritual “hunger and thirst” is the need for our soul to be in God's presence and for everything of God, His word, His people, His ways and His righteousness.

God is the ultimate example of righteousness, we should expect that if we are to find this righteousness, it would be found in God, or will come from Him. The apostle Paul reminds us that the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17). *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

We must study and feed on God's word so that we may grow spiritually, in our physical we eat about three times each day, every day of the week, all the years of our life until we die. Do we feed ourselves as much spiritually? How much more should we hunger and thirst for Spiritual food, we should treat our spiritual hunger and thirst just as our physical, through regular study of God's word and in prayer and obedience to Him.

Studying God's word is not enough, hearing God's word is not enough, if we believe that His word is our spiritual food, then we must partake of it and act upon it. God's word will only benefit us when we understand it, and then apply it.

Paul told Timothy the word of God is *“profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete”* (2nd Tim. 3:16, 17), that is only if and when we apply it, without application the word of God does not benefit us, just as by looking at or reading and hearing about food is not beneficial, it is only when we actually eat and digest it that it will be beneficial.

Applying it requires that it be always in our hearts in our minds so that we may put it to use when needed. *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psa. 119:11).* It is when we do not store and keep a hold of God's word firmly, that we will fall to temptations and enter into sin.

Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matt. 6:33), it's our highest priority, then all other things will be provided.

The blessing is that we will be filled; it is a blessing that God has promised throughout the Scriptures, for He has always wanted us to seek righteousness and avoid the unrighteous. Through the prophets He has urged men to seek righteousness with the promise that when they do, they will find it.

Jesus promised, (Matt. 7:7, 8). *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened"*

In these words we have the promise of fulfillment, but we must note that it demands an effort on the part of the seeker. It is **the one who asks who will be given, the one who seeks who will find, and the one who knocks will have the door opened.** There is no promise to the one who does nothing.

So we must be hungering and thirsting for righteousness, for the promise is that we will be filled.

In (Psa. 63:1) we read. *"O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land where there is no water"*

Here in the psalm we see a desire for the Lord, with such a confidence that even in that place where everything is against us, in a dry place with no water, the promise is that He will provide and fulfill His promises to those who seek Him, as in verse 5 (psa.63) *"My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips"*

This is what Jesus is telling us in this beatitude, God has promised that those who seek Him will find him. If we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we will be filled. We must consider these things for the blessings do not come without conditions; let us be among those who truly hunger and thirst for righteousness, and who show it through lives that are spent in seeking it, and applying it.

"put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:24).

And In (2nd Tim. 4:6 -8), *6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

How wonderful to be able to make this statement our own.

As Christians we should all understand that when a person places their faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, there are radical changes that take place. We are freed from being slaves to sin through the renewing of our minds we are now voluntary servants of God, His righteousness has been imputed to us through the works of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

This is **an ongoing, a continuing** hungering and thirsting, not the once only fill your belly up that would be nice if we could just fill ourselves the once and then never have to think about eating again, but that is not the case however much we eat we must then eat again in the next days, just as we need to eat and drink physical food daily we also need to eat and drink and partake of the spiritual food daily to grow in His righteousness, as we are being changed to be conformed into His image.

May God Help us through the Holy Spirit to seek Him daily.

Two very old Hymns by authors who wrote hymns according to the word of God in the Holy Scriptures.

Almighty God of love (Charles Wesley 1762)
To avert from men God's Wrath (John Hus 1558)

To avert from men God's wrath,

Jesus suffered in our stead;
By an ignominious death
He a full atonement made;
And by His most precious blood
Brought us, sinners, nigh to God.

Hither each afflicted soul
May repair, though filled with grief;
To the sick, not to the whole,
The Physician brings relief;
Fear not, therefore, but draw nigh;
Christ will all your wants supply.

But examine first your case,
Whether you be in the faith;
Do you long for pard'ning grace?
Is your only hope His death?
Then, however your soul's oppressed,
Come, you are a worthy guest.

He who Jesus' mercy knows
Is from wrath and envy freed.
Love unto each other shows
That we are His flock indeed;
Thus we may in all our ways
Show forth our Redeemer's praise.

Almighty God of love, A Hymn based on Isaiah 66:19,
A passage that speaks about the re-gathering of Israel to Mount Zion also about the gospel going out to all the nations of the world. This also shows that many Christians in the past would understand the prophecies in scriptures in terms of Israel's future in God's plans.

To avert from men God's wrath

God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:9

Almighty God of love

Set up the attracting sign
And summon whom Thou dost approve
For messengers divine.
From Abraham's favoured seed
Thy new apostles choose
In isles and continents to spread
The dead-reviving news.

Them snatched out of the flame
Through every nation send
The true Messias to proclaim
The universal Friend.
That all the God unknown
May learn of Jews to adore
And see Thy glory in Thy Son
Till time shall be no more.

O that the chosen band
Might now their brethren bring
And gathered out of every land
Present to Sion's King.
Of all the ancient race
Not one be left behind
But each impelled by secret grace
His way to Canaan find!

We know it must be done
For God hath spoke the word
All Israel shall their Saviour own
To their first state restored.
Rebuilt by His command
Jerusalem shall rise
Her temple on Moriah stand
Again, and touch the skies.

Send then Thy servants forth
To call the Hebrews home
From west and east, and south, and north
Let all the wanderers come.
Where'er in lands unknown
Thy fugitives remain
Bid every creature help them on
Thy holy mount to gain.

An offering to their God
There let them all be seen
Sprinkled with water and with blood
In soul and body clean.
With Israel's myriads sealed
Let all the nations meet
And show Thy mystery fulfilled
The family complete.



Blessings from Gran Alacant

Gran Alacant Evangelical
Tabernacle

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Alicante, Spain

The Church at Gran Alacant, thanks God and all our brothers and sisters that have come to visit us during the past months, thank you for your time of worship together, and for your generosity, prayers and edification. We pray that by the word of God you have been blessed and that also God willing we may enjoy fellowship together in the near future.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.*

*May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

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Please continue to pray for us that the Lord will guide us into His will for the church mission here in Gran Alacant.
Blessings in the name of Jesus the messiah .