

Angels long to look into these things...

By Pedro Gelabert

Peter writes to the Christians in the first century:

1 Peter 1:10-12 ESV Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ... things into which angels long to look.

In emphasizing the greatness of the salvation that has come to Christians, Peter affirms that even the angels of Heaven are deeply concerned and interested in this salvation; and why not? For their own number who had sinned, there was no day of grace, no offer of pardon, no opportunity to seek a remedy. The same verse of the word of God which relates their sin also relates their being cast out of Heaven!

2 Peter 2:4 ESV For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment...

No wonder they were interested in this new process whereby God forgives sinful and rebellious people! No greater wonder ever appeared, either in Heaven or upon Earth!

This wonder is represented typically in the carved figures of the holy angels adorning the mercy seat:

Exodus 25:20-22 ESV The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. ... There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

Why did God choose to meet them at the mercy seat? Under the Old Covenant, this was where the blood of bulls and goats was sprinkled, to atone for sin, the holiest of holy places. This is the place Jesus now permanently occupies interceding for us before the true mercy seat of Heaven (**Heb 7:25**).

This is why we approach the throne with confidence (**Heb 4:16**), knowing that the perfect blood of Jesus is able to satisfy the righteousness required to meet God face to face (**Heb 9:12-14**).

No wonder the cherubim in the Holy of Holies of the temple stood bending over the mercy seat (the emblem of redemption), the angels gazing intently upon it and desiring to fathom the depths of the "great mystery of godliness, God manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels" (**1 Tim. 3:16**). The angels' ministry to Christians naturally makes them want to penetrate this mystery that reflects the glory of God's love, justice, wisdom, and power. They can only know the part that is revealed through the church, since they don't have the direct share in salvation that we have (**Hebrews 2:16-18**).

Praise be to God for this awesome salvation we have and for the faithful husband He has promised! Soon we will look into His face forever!

(Portions taken from Coffman Commentary on the Bible.)

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

Evangelist
Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist
Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Minister
Charlie Gomez

Youth Minister
Roger Wine

Marriage Counselors
Derek Peterson
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Prayer

For the past few months, we have been embarking on a journey – a prayer journey. We are under orders from the Lord and Savior of our souls, Jesus Christ, to change this world through the power of the gospel! In the past, we were in the world’s grasp. But now, since we have been rescued from it, we need power from above, because we have now become a threat to the world! The world that once held us in its grasp before we came to know Jesus will not release its hold without a fight! Prayer is the pathway to spiritual power. The Bible says in 1John 5:4, “For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith!” What did John mean when he said, “*even our faith?*” In addition to the many answers we can give, Jesus ascribed “faith” to a person of who is consistent and constant in prayer (*Luke 18:1-8*). Prayer is Power! The time of prayer is the Time of Power! The place of prayer is the Place of Power! And we need this power to help us live victorious lives in Christ! Each time we pray, we invoke God’s power on this troubled world. Each time we pray, we are depending on His strength to help us walk in a manner worthy of our calling (*cf. Ephesians 4:1*). Each time we pray, we are trusting in His will, in His guidance and in His sovereignty! Our growth in Christ depends on our constancy in prayer. When we are consistent, our anxieties and worries are replaced by peace and a calm assurance that can only come through Christ (John 14:27). You can tell when a person is a man or woman of prayer!

Your fellow Kingdom saint,

Bob Carr

DATE	NAME	TOWN
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6/23/03 Scott Ro Prattville, AL

Weekly Budget: \$ 8,500

DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
4/6/08	290	\$11,165
4/13/08	273	\$10,016
4/20/08	287	\$9,041
4/27/08	286	\$10,596

Thankfulness

by Bernadette Gomez

Would you describe yourself as a thankful person? What would those who know you best say? When is it easy for you to be thankful and when do you find it difficult? This is definitely a growth area for me. It is easy for me to be thankful when things are pleasant, but when circumstances are difficult then being thankful is a real challenge. God wants us to give thanks in *all* circumstances as 1 Thessalonians 5:18 instructs us: “*give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*” My prayer is that this study will help renew your mind and plant new seeds so that you will enjoy a harvest of repentance in this area.

First, we need to understand what thankfulness is. Webster defines thankfulness as feeling *or* expressing appreciation. But what does God say? Let’s turn to Luke 17:11-17. We learn from the story of the ten lepers that all ten felt appreciation for Jesus healing them of their leprosy, but only one person took the time to go to Jesus and say, “thank you”. According to Jesus, gratitude not expressed is actually ingratitude. True thankfulness, according to the scriptures, is feeling *and* expressing appreciation. Now that we understand what thankfulness is, how do we give thanks in everything?

The first step in cultivating thankfulness is to use our spiritual eyes, not our physical eyes. If we are not perceiving the situation correctly, we are not going to react correctly, especially with regards to thankfulness! How do we know if we are looking at things with our physical eyes or spiritual eyes? We will know by the fruit produced. Think about a difficult situation you are facing right now. Do you find yourself complaining? Are you irritated? Are you anxious and stressed? The list goes on. Which do you struggle with? These are all indications that you are viewing the situation with your physical eyes.

What does the Lord say about viewing things with our physical eyes? Let’s take a look at 2 Corinthians 5:16 “*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.*” God instructs us not to regard people from a worldly point of view and he doesn’t want us to view Christ in this way either. Using wisdom, we understand from this scripture that we are to use our spiritual eyes to view Christ, people, and any situation we find ourselves in.

The second step in cultivating thankfulness is to put off our old selves and put on our new selves as God instructs us: *Ephesians 4:22-24* “*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*” Let’s face it, sisters, your old self does not want to sacrifice itself or be inconvenienced. It takes a conscious effort to deny our flesh. And don’t be naive, it will always be uncomfortable to deny our old self because the flesh has desires that are deceitful. Every desire of our flesh promises a great reward, but it’s actually a lie! Remember our flesh is evil and is continually decaying, so we don’t follow our flesh. Rather we put off our old self and instead put on our new self.

So how do we put on the new self? *Ephesians 4:23* encourages us: “*to be made new in the attitude of our minds;*”. How are we made new in the attitude of our minds? By reading the Word, A LOT! That means we have to study and meditate on the scriptures A LOT so we can be transformed and strengthened. Then we will have the discipline to put on the new self and live according to the Spirit.

The third step in cultivating thankfulness is to learn to value and regard highly the situation we find ourselves in. This is easy when things are pleasant, but when things are difficult, how do we value the situation we are facing? One way to learn to appreciate what we are going through is to ask ourselves the following questions: “What is God trying to teach me?”, “How do I need to mature so I may reflect Christ?”, “What spiritual blessings are to be gained if I do what is right?”, “What are the potential blessings others will receive by my gracious conduct?” Put on your new self. Use your spiritual eyes. Then you will be able to discern and see the wisdom and peace you will receive by applying God’s Word and repenting of your bad attitudes.

This, sisters, is how we are able to give thanks in all situations: using our spiritual eyes, putting on our new self, and appreciating what comes our way because we are aware of the potential blessings to be received. As the Lord reminds us in *Colossians 2:6-7* “*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*”

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night Bible class on May 14th (Long Island and City).
- 📖 **Devotional Services:** May 9th and 23rd 8:00 P.M., here in the chapel. Please come early to fellowship and to encourage one another.
- 📖 **Women’s Retreat:** The Women’s Retreat is on June 20th-21st. Registration will be through May 11th in the lobby.
- 📖 **Kent Men’s Retreat:** The Kent Men’s Retreat is on June 6th-7th. See www.cocmensretreat.com for more info.
- 📖 **LICOC BBQ:** The LICOC Annual BBQ will be on July 19th. Registration will be from June 8th-22nd in the lobby.
- 📖 **VBS:** VBS this year will be held Aug 11th-15th during the off week in August.
- 📖 **Becoming One Seminar** - Sunday mornings, May 18th - June 29th. See Steve Aponte, Sr. for more information.
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 We are now reserving the front two rows for people who wish to be prayed with, during the song of invitation. Please try to find seating elsewhere. Thank you!
- 📖 All announcements should be submitted to Derek Peterson.
- 📖 Address/telephone changes can be e-mailed to directory@licoc.org.
- 📖 **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✝ Apologetics Press.....International
- ✝ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✝ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✝ Oswaldo Sanchez.....El Salvador, Central America
- ✝ Doug & Lucy McDougle.....Moscow, Russia

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert(347) 392-4339
Individual House Churches

Spanish Ministry.....(Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Charlie Gómez.....(631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Willie Tolison, and Bill Oden. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

2008	Location
May 21 - June 1	Williamsburg, VA
June 18 - June 29	Richlands, NC
July 30 - Aug 10	Bellevue, NE