

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, June 26, 2011
The Little Things Matter

When Elijah prophesied that it would not rain except at his word and then three years later he told King Ahab, *"Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain."* **1 Kings 18:41 (NIV)** There wasn't a cloud in the sky when he made that declaration. He spoke it in faith. Then he climbed to the top of Mt. Carmel bent down to the ground, put his face between his knees, and sent his servant to see if there were any clouds. The servant came and went six times and said he didn't see any, but on the seventh venture he saw a cloud the size of a man's hand and told Elijah. Elijah knew that was it. You might have thought he would have waited until a few more clouds gathered before he got excited, but he knew they were coming. The rain was on the way. Little things matter. Whether it's a little glimpse of something you're believing for or how you're living your life. For example, you pray for a healing touch for someone to be free of pain that is registering 8 on a scale of 1 to 10. Then you ask how they feel and they say the pain is now at 5. We can't have an all or nothing mentality for something to be legit. I would certainly rather have my pain lessened even if it didn't go away completely. We need to see it as a glimpse that God is working. We are to rejoice and continue to press in.

I believe we're seeing a glimpse of a fresh move of God at Grace. We talked about a gaining momentum and I feel it happening. You may have to look close to see it, but it's there. **1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NIV)** ⁹ *However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"--* ¹⁰ *but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.* God has so much in store for us if we would only believe. It only takes faith the size of a grain of mustard seed to do miraculous things, so let's agree with God and see this thing through. The earth is groaning for the manifestation of the sons of God and that's what we are, but we need to act on what we believe. Faith without works is dead!

There is a principle in the Kingdom of God that reveals that the little things matter when it comes to how we live our lives. **Luke 16:10-12 (NIV)** ¹⁰ *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"* Jesus taught us to have our yes mean yes and our no mean no. Anything else is from the evil one. There are no "white lies" in the Kingdom. Our character must reflect our relationship with the Lord. He is truth and we need to be the same. We must be good stewards of all he has given us. We had a workday at the church on Saturday that made me very happy because we were fulfilling this principle. We were taking care of what the Lord has entrusted to us. This is our church facility and needs to reflect our spiritual condition. It's amazing how quickly things go to seed! Weeds grow. Dirt accumulates. Paint fades and things wear out. The same can happen in our lives. We allow little things to creep in that don't seem like anything at the moment, but as time goes on they can reflect the condition of the heart. We all need a vacation: a time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate. However, it we took too much time off from our jobs then we should, we might find they're gone when we get back. **Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)** ²⁵ *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* The **Day** is approaching, so let's gear up for a fresh move of God. Let's cash in on the things the Lord says belong to us as his children.

Ephesians 5:15-20 (NIV)

¹⁵ *Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, (KJV- Redeeming the Time) because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*