

West Valley Church of God
P. O. Box 343
San Fernando, CA 91341

Pastors & Elders

Pastor: Wayne and Patty Mitchell
West Valley Elders
Carlton & Judy Green
Cornell Smith

Quotes

"A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself. What a man can be, he must be."

--- Abraham Maslow

"So, technically, Moses is the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet."

--- From Facebook Post
~~Unknown

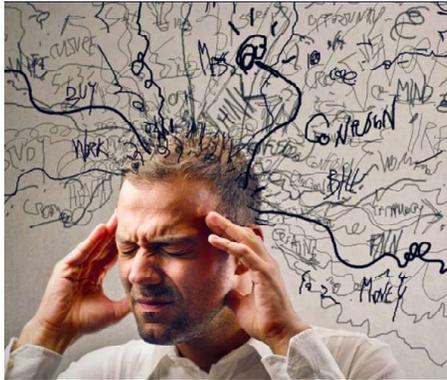
"The Creator is revealed to the heart, not to the eye."

--- Yehudah Halevi

"The remarkable thing is, we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day."

~Charles R. Swindoll

Contributors: Jane Hickok, Susan Thompson, Sara Dean



Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its troubles; it empties today of its strengths. ~ Aish.com



"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars"
~~ Les Brown

Living Waters



Isa:26:3: Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Psalms:18:28: For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Editor's Corner

● Submissions for inclusion in "The Vine" are welcome at any time. We need your input! Please email to the editor (See right column) - in **10 point type, Arial font**, for easier placement.

Send submissions to:
TheVineEditor@aol.com -
Subject Line: Title of Article. **Time sensitive** submissions due **5th** of month for following month's issue. **News and Inspirational articles welcome any time.**

NOTICE... Many paintings shown in this publication are for sale. Check your old copies. Contact Editor.

The Vine

"I am the Vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

October 2019

West Valley Church of God -- "Come worship with us..."
Submissions: TheVineEditor@aol.com
We meet at the Congregational Church of Northridge
9659 Balboa Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91325
Saturday Service 10:30 A.M. - www.westvalleywgc.org



God can do more in five seconds than we can do in five hours or months or years.

This is one reason the habit of prayer is wise.

Sometimes we do not get the five-second breakthrough because we do not ask.

To be sure, God ordains to do many good things through hours or months or years of labor. Prayer is not meant to replace toil. For example, God wills that a chapter be read, or a meal prepared, or a friend

visited in the space of hours not seconds. He wills that a house be built in months not hours. He wills that a child be reared in years not months.

But there are breakthroughs which could come in seconds. They often take us hours or days or months — if they come at all. I have in mind especially the breakthroughs of insight that open a world of life-changing truth and practical wisdom.

All of Us Have Blind Spots and Blind Moments

Many obstacles to joy and fruitfulness are owing to the fact that we cannot see reality the way it is. We cannot see the meaning of a biblical teaching. Or the meaning of a tragic event. Or the meaning of a friend's rebuke. We are blind to it. The breakthrough doesn't come. We may study and think for days or weeks or months, and not see reality any differently than when we started.

Upcoming Events

- Bible Studies, Letters and other Events...see Weekly Bulletin and Bulletin Board.

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Five Seconds (cont.)

I have tasted this frustration dozens of times in trying to understand the Scriptures. I may be preparing a sermon, or pondering a devotional text in relation to some besetting sin, or thinking about a promise of God in connection with a lingering disappointment. I look and look and study and think. And I don't see it. The breakthrough doesn't come. Or it may come after days or weeks of seeking. Or not.



But other times — many times — in my desperation I have gone to my knees and called out for insight. I have pleaded, *Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things in your word (Psalms 119:18). Touch me with your salve that I may see (Revelation 3:18). Enlighten the eyes of my heart (Ephesians 1:18).* And in the twinkling of an eye, the veil has been lifted. I see something that I had never seen before, though it lay right before me. The pieces come together.

Consider two analogies that shed light on what is happening here.

If you want to read the “rest of the story” go here-

DesiringGod.com/org/articles/what-god-can-do-in-five-seconds

The best story in the world is not your individual story, but God's story of redemption, an epic we enter by the grace of Jesus Christ. Only this story is the true story. Only this story will last forever.

If this way of viewing the world decenters us, it also stabilizes us. The true and abundant life does not come from being the author and hero of your story, but from boasting in [the author and hero of salvation](#). Paul Tripp reminds us, “You have a story, but it is not an autobiography. There is an author of your story, but the author is not you.” So don't live merely for your own story — your own dreams, ambitions, desires. [Live for the story that will never end.](#) ~ ~ *Desiring God*

Tests we "endure" are not to prove that God will take care of us. He's designed them to see if we will trust Him in being obedient to His Ways.

Sent in by John Brown

What If?

Just for a moment, consider this. What if it were close to your “last day on earth”? You would not know it in advance, but just suppose, in retrospect, what you would have, could have, should have done, said, thought, avoided, changed or made sure you got done.

Would it be the dishes, or housework that needed finishing up? You certainly don't want to leave a mess! Or, how about an important conversation you have avoided for a long time with a loved one? Or a friend. Projects that never got started, let alone finished? Plans? Attention to details that were important to take care of? Forgiveness? Expressions of gratitude? Given more? Apologies? Saved more?

It could end up being a rather lengthy list. An after-the-fact “bucket list”.

I don't really think it would be the housework. Most likely, clearing up some loose ends involving how you spent your time on this planet... perhaps regrets. But obviously it's not something you want to worry about after it's too late to do anything about it.

I have good news. The time to plan is NOW. That way, you won't have any “unfinished business”. Nothing is more nagging than an unfinished task.

~ ~ ~ *Sharon Mills*



Lesson of the fig tree

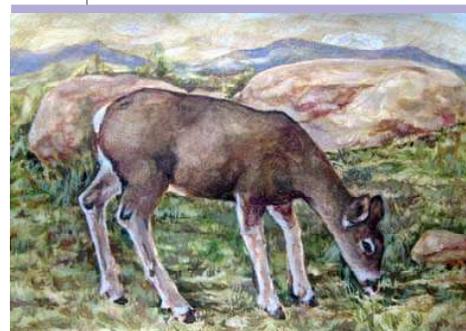
M'r:11:20: And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.
M'r:11:21: And Peter saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree

which thou cursedst is withered away.
M'r:11:22: And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.
M'r:11:23: For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.
M'r:11:24: Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.
M'r:11:25: And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

As The Deer...

Psalms:42:1: As the deer panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

...In times of great trouble, as well as in peace, let us be of this attitude, in expectation of our hopes.



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