

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”-Psalm 119:105

June 27, 2004

Farewell Letter Barry Fultz

Dear Lakeview Family:

Sarah and I first came to Lakeview fourteen years ago as a young couple. This week as we prepare to move to Alabama with our three children, we can look back and count our blessings threefold for having been part of this congregation.

We can never begin to thank you enough for all you've done for us over the years. You opened your doors and your hearts to us and made us feel a part of you from day one. You've been there for the birth of the children and through Sandlyn's battle with cancer. You've shared our joys, our sorrows; held our hands when we needed it, and celebrated the blessings we've received.

Each of you holds a special place for us. You've taught us many things about what it means to be a family of God's children. Thank you for allowing us to teach your children about God in various Bible classes and for having taught our children the truth found in God's word.

Our God is an incredible Father. You have all helped prove the power of prayer to us through the things our Lakeview family has shared. Always draw near to God and He will continue to draw near to you.

We will never forget the things you've done and the blessing you've been in our lives. We love you all and pray that God will continue to bless each of you. Please remember us in your prayers as we begin this new chapter in our lives.

Thank you again for the blessing you've been in our lives.

“O God, You know my foolishness; and my sins are not hidden from You.”—Psalm 69:1

We Need More Than Better Moods

Gary Henry

“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:17,18).

Although we’d often like to feel better emotionally, that is not the thing that we need most. What we need, much more than any “inspirational” uplift, is to make actual progress in the quality of our character. The spiritual life is not primarily about feeling better. It’s about change for the better. It’s about growth. It’s about real, objective movement toward God. Regardless of the fluctuation of our feelings, being a Christian means growing “in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Reevaluation. The daily question we need to ask ourselves is not “How am I feeling?” but “Where am I in relation to God?” Paul wrote, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Answering that question honestly may not give us a warm and fuzzy feeling, but it will open the door to something we need more than better moods: genuine growth.

Repentance. Honest reevaluation of ourselves won’t help us, of course, unless we have the courage and the will to make the changes that our self-inventory has pointed out a need for. And when changes need to be made, we don’t need a speaker or writer who’ll make us feel wonderful, just as we are. We need a friend who’ll provoke us to repent and move forward in our character.

Renewal of Commitment. The chances are good that many of us already know about areas in which we need to improve, based on past

examinations of ourselves and decisions to do better. Falling backwards is a habit that we all have. So the third thing we need, more than better moods, is to get a fresh grip every day on our commitments. Significant spiritual progress comes from the frequent remembering—and remaking—of our promises to God.

So do you feel better after reading this? Maybe you do, and maybe you don't. But today, you can decide to seek God faithfully whether your feelings are flowing in that direction or not.

“That man is perfect in faith who can come to God in the utter dearth of his feelings and his desires, without a glow or an aspiration, with the weight of low thoughts, failures, neglects, and wandering forgetfulness, and say to him, ‘Thou art my refuge because thou art my home’” (George MacDonald).

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"
(Psalm 118:24).