

**KANSAS CITY**

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“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.”

Psalm 119:1-6

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. Psalm 118:8

**GOD’S HOLY DAYS  
2008**

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April 19th  
Lord’s Supper  
(observed evening before at  
Sundown )

April 20th-26th  
Feast of Unleavened Bread\*

June 8th  
Pentecost\*

September 30th  
Feast of Trumpets\*

October 9th  
Day of Atonement\*

October 14th-20th  
Feast of Tabernacles\*

October 21st  
Last Great Day\*  
\*begins evening before

“We will go where the Spirit of God leads, and teach the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God.”

“And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.**”

Exodus 3:14-15 KJV

**THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD**

*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

*Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

*Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work. But the seventh day is the Sabbath to the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:*

*For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

*Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

*Thou shalt not kill.*

*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

*Thou shalt not steal.*

*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*

*Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor’s.*

Exodus 20:3-17

**MINISTRIES**

# Kansas City Church of God Ministries

## Schedule FEBRUARY / MARCH 2008

### FEBRUARY

(All locations & times are subject to change)

#### Feb. 2nd - Sabbath Service, 1 P.M.

##### **Optimist Club Building**

109 N. Lexington St.  
Harrisonville, Missouri 64701  
For Directions: 816-380-7821

#### Feb. 9th - Sabbath Service, 1:30 P.M.

##### **Topeka - Shawnee County Public Library**

1515 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
Phone: 785-580-4495

Service will be held in the Menninger Room, 2nd floor on West side of bldg.

Directions:

**From the East:** take I-70 to Topeka. Take Exit 362C - 10th Ave./ Madison St.

Turn left and follow 10th Ave. for several blocks until you come to Library.

**From the West:** take I-70 to Topeka. Take Exit 359 - Macvicar Ave.

Turn right and follow Macvicar to 10th Ave. Turn left on 10th and follow to Library.

#### Feb. 16th - Sabbath Service 1 P.M.

##### **Optimist Club Building**

109 N. Lexington St.  
Harrisonville, Missouri 64701  
For Directions: 816-380-7821

#### Feb. 23rd - Sabbath Service, 1 P.M.

**We are presently working on a location**

I will send location notification to everyone within a 100 mile range once I have more details.

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#### Mar. 1st - Sabbath Service, 1 P.M.

##### **Optimist Club Building**

109 N. Lexington St.  
Harrisonville, Missouri 64701  
For Directions: 816-380-7821

#### Mar. 8th - Sabbath Service, 1:30 P.M.

##### **Topeka - Shawnee County Public Library**

1515 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
Phone: 785-580-4495

For directions to any of these locations call the numbers listed, call 816-380-7821, or if you have internet access you can get directions at:  
[www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

*“OUR COMMISSION”-“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28: 19,20*

## GOD'S CREATION ALL AROUND US.

By Stephen Hicks

I have had a lot of fun lately watching the birds at the feeder. Ever since we got the digital camera, Samantha and I have found one thing to do that we both enjoy, which is photographing God's wonderful creation.

We are hoping to design some birdhouses that we can build and sell this spring, and to have some to use around the farm.

One of Teresa's favorites are the Downy Woodpeckers. They are the smallest of the woodpecker family in North America. When they get sunflower seed at the feeder, they don't eat it there, like many of the other birds. They take one seed, and fly to the oak tree where they wedge it into the bark, and then peck the living daylight out of it, to get to the kernel inside.



Here's some interesting information about the Downy Woodpecker: *It is common across the continent except in the north and southwest. It prefers to excavate nesting holes up to 50 ft. from the ground in dead tree trunks or branches. It lays 4 to 7 white eggs which are incubated by both parents for 2 weeks. Young birds leave the nest 3 weeks after hatching. It has a sharply contrasting plumage of black and white and the slightly larger male has a red patch on its nape. It feeds on wood boring insects, berries and seeds, but will come to both suet and seed feeders.*



I had tried to put out a suet feeder last winter, but the raccoons had easy access to it and carried the food and the feeder off.

This year I took a piece of stiff wire and made a bracket that would fit into the overhang of our vinyl siding. It hangs down right in front of the living room window, out of reach of the cats, squirrels and raccoons. Once the woodpeckers found it, they cleaned it up in about a week. This was a suet block about 1 1/2 inches thick and about 6 inches square. I actually found some that was made with beef fat instead of pork fat. They love it, and we enjoy seeing them. When they land on it, it spins around in circles like a merry-go-round, but they just hang on for the ride.

I didn't get around to filling up the feeder one time and the birds had cleaned up all of the seeds except for a few that were still on the inside, but out of reach. The little woodpecker (picture above) realized that if he pecked on the metal dish, the vibration would cause the seeds to fall off of the hump in the middle of the dish and slide into the openings in the glass. After watching them work for awhile, I decided to be nice and fill the feeder again.

If you don't have a bird feeder, I would recommend that you get one. If you're not sure what kind to get, let me know and maybe I can offer you some suggestions. If you have a lot of birds around, you'll need 2 or 3 feeders if you don't want to have to fill them every 4 or 5 days. If you don't mind keeping it filled, you can get a small inexpensive feeder. Someone might tell you to get a finch feeder and fill it with Niger or Thistle seed, but I've found that our finches love black sunflower seed, so that is all we buy and all the birds seem to enjoy it. Even the Blue Jays have started feeding on the seed under the feeders with the Junco's.



Whatever you decide, a bird feeder will give you hours of enjoyment, and you'll be amazed over time just how many different types of birds will show up to feed.



**Stephen & Teresa Hicks**  
(816) 380-7821

**E-mail Address:**  
goodnewsminister@earthlink.net

*As for  
me  
and  
my  
house,  
we will  
serve  
the  
Lord.*

## GOD'S WEEKLY FEAST.

Were you aware that one of God's Feast, in fact the first Feast that He names in Leviticus 23, is the weekly Sabbath?

You would be surprised at how many times I here people speak of the Sabbath as if it was just another day of the week. They actually feel like they are free to do whatever pleases them on that day instead of treating it as the day that God intended it to be.

First, let's read what it says in Leviticus 23:1-3 *"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings."*

God tells Moses to speak to the children of Israel about the Feasts of God. He says that they will keep these Feasts as Holy convocations, or Holy gatherings.

I've always been a bit disturbed that so many of God's people will show up on Annual Feast Days, such as Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day, but when it comes to the weekly Feast of God, they will find any excuse that they can to stay home.

Didn't we just read that God considers the weekly Sabbath as one of His Feast Days, and if so, shouldn't we consider the reasons He made a day for us to rest in?

We know that He didn't create one day out of

seven to rest in because He was tired. He didn't stop because He was tired and needed rest. He chose to stop working, or in the Hebrew, it could be said that He abstained. He chose the seventh day to stop what He was doing, and sanctified it, or set it apart. He made it a different day, then all of the other six. He had His work week in bringing everything into existence and now, on the seventh day, the last day of the week, He finished what He was doing, and chose to stop.

In doing this He created a day for us to stop with our regular work week, take our minds off of the things we've been working on and shift our thinking and focus towards God. We should work to keep our focus on God each and every day, but with our regular weekly routines there are many distractions. We also need that rest that He has provided for us, along with the fellowship to help us to get through the next six days.

I'm sure that we all realize that our bodies need to rest in order to keep functioning properly. Even animals need rest other than nightly sleep, and it's been proven that machinery functions better and wears longer when it has periodic rest.

The Sabbath day was not only given by God to us as a day of rest, but God does expect us to give the same day back to Him in worship. There are so many that don't want to give this day back to Him. We are prepared to give God anything but our time, and yet our times are in His hand. We begin to think that He gave us the Sabbath for our own recreation, our own pleasures, to only do things with our own family, or to some it is just another day to work.

Many people have failed to recognize, or have simply chosen not to recognize that it is one of God's Feast Days, and He requires us to have a Holy gathering, or assembly. They choose for themselves when they will attend services, instead of obeying God and attending on the Sabbath as He commands.

There are very few reasons that anyone can use to justify not keeping God's command to us. One is if a person is unable to drive, and can't get a ride. Another is if they don't live close to a Church group.

I have heard people say that they didn't come to Sabbath service because they felt they were contagious from an illness. My first question to them would be, "Well, did you call for the elders as it tells us to do in James 5:14-15? I hope you can see the point I'm trying to get at, and that point is that we have to start treating God's weekly Sabbath as the Holy Day it is supposed to be, and not like our own little holiday.

I know that there will (Continued on Page 10)

# Young Disciples in Training

## BUILDING TRUST

By Stephen Hicks

In bringing up my own children, I did my best to instill in them the benefits of building trust and the importance of working hard to keep that trust.

They were always taught that it only takes a moment to destroy a lifetime of trust. One thing that they might decide to do could weaken the trust that we as parents had with them.

Many young people today take trust for granted. They treat it as something that is of little worth, whether it is trust between them and their friends, or between them and their family.

I would like to start here by giving some examples of trust between friends, then I will finish with trust between family members.

Some examples of trust between friends would be things like keeping things that were meant to be confidential between you and the person who told you, just as you would want something you told them to remain confidential. The only time this rule would not hold would be if a person has confided in you information of something that they are going to do that would be illegal, or harmful to themselves. In these cases, I truly believe that something like needs to be shared with an adult, even if it means losing a friendship over it. Hopefully, over time your friend will realize that you were only trying to help them because you care for them.

Another example of trust between friends is when we make an effort to be there for them, whenever we can. At time circumstances may prevent us from helping them, but we should make every effort to be there when they need us. We should also keep their feeling in mind. Quite often a trust is damaged in a friendship because of what we say to them. We should never be hurtful in the things that we say about anyone. Just because others might make fun of someone, it doesn't mean that we should join in with them. If we focus our attention on helping others, it usually seems like our own problems aren't as big as we thought they were.

Building trust with our parents and family is so very important, if we want to have a healthy relationship with them. You have to be able to talk with your parents. Many times young people are afraid to approach their parents about different situations, because they don't know how their parents will react to what they are going to tell them. This kind of fear can put a wall between children and their parents.

*(I'm sure that there are going to be some adults reading this article so I'm going to pause here and tell them how important that it is to take time out and just sit and listen to your children. Many times they just need someone to vent some of their frustrations on, and by listening you will get to know your child better, and gain a better understanding of the things that they face each and every day. There's nothing wrong with turning off the parent switch once in awhile and just be a friend to them. I found that you can still give them advice as a friend just as easy as you can being their parent. My daughter Samantha and I have some really nice talks. The other night when we pulled in the driveway, I just stopped the car, and we sat and talked. Those are very special moments in my life to be able to share with her, and have her feel comfortable enough to share with me. In all our conversations I always work God into them, just as we all should. Make sure your children know that they can come to you anytime. Make yourself available to them.)*

As young people, spend time with your parents. Share your feelings with them, go to them for comfort, and hold fast to the bond of trust that you have with them. One way that you can do this, is to keep them informed of what you will be doing when you go out, and where you will be. If you can't tell them what you are doing or where you will be, then you probably shouldn't be doing it. Do your best not to lie to them, because that is one thing that will break down trust faster than anything. If you want family or friends to respect you, then treat them with the proper respect too. Everyone of us knows what is right and what is wrong. If we stick to the right things, life will be much simpler. END



## FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE BIBLE STUDY

*Study begins at 7 p.m.*

**Join us by calling: 1-304-848-6940**

**When the recording begins enter:  
1699932**

*(The study is approximately 30 minutes long  
and is a toll call unless you have unlimited long  
distance, or call from your cell phone.)*

## CHURCH FORMING IN TOPEKA, KANSAS AREA.

Anyone interested in being a part  
of this church group please contact  
the local hosts.

Judy Hermann (785)-554-9089

OR

Tom Shadoin (785)-233-5905

*“But go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.  
And as ye go, preach, saying,  
The kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the  
dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received,  
freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver,  
nor brass in your purses, nor scrip for your  
journey, neither two coats, neither shoes,  
nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of  
his meat.” Matthew 10:6-10 KJV*

## CLINTON CHURCH OF GOD

The Clinton Church will be having  
services at the Sportsman Lodge on the  
4th Sabbath of each month. For informa-  
tion on other weekly services during the  
month contact the local hosts:

John & Jeana Booth: 1-660-890-2512

or

Marlene Brown: 1-660-492-0423

## Heber Springs, AR Church of God

### Local Services

Saturday, February 2nd, 1PM

Saturday, February 9th, 1PM

Saturday, February 16th, 1PM

Saturday, February 23rd, 1PM



**Hosts: Don & Charlene Mayfield  
(501) 362-3672**

*The Searcy Church has now moved  
to Heber Springs. Call for directions.*

## JUST FOR LAUGHS

(It has been proven that laughter is good for us.)

A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other except that the little old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about.

For all of these years, he had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover.

In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside.

She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling \$95,000.

He asked her about the contents. "When we were to be married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll."

The little old man was so moved; he had to fight back tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness.

"Honey," he said, "that explains the doll, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?"

"Oh," she said, "that's the money I made from selling the dolls."

**ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS PUZZLE**

1. A. Jehoiakim, king of Judah. (Dan. 1:1)
2. C. Chaldeans. (Dan. 1:4)
3. A. Belteshazzar. (Dan. 1:7)
4. For them to serve Nebuchadnezzar. (Dan. 1:5)
5. Ten. (Dan. 1:20)
6. True.
7. True. (Dan. 2:1-18)
8. B. (Dan. 2:36-45)
9. True. (Dan. 2:47)
10. D. (Dan. 3:1-5)
11. C. (Dan. 3:8-25)
12. True. (Dan. 3:29)
13. Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thye tranquillity." (Daniel 4:27)
14. C. (Daniel 4:33)
15. Pride. (Daniel 4:37)

**ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S "WHO AM I?"**

**"I am the Blind Man."**

# JUST FOR FUN!

Please don't be discouraged if you don't know some of the answers, just challenge yourself to learn. All answers will be published in the next newsletter.

1. True or False? The man had been blind from birth.
2. The man was: A. a musician B. a priest C. a beggar D. a merchant
3. True or False? A group of Pharisees asked who had sinned for the man to suffer blindness.
4. Who did Jesus say sinned to cause the man to be born blind? A. the man himself B. his parents. C. neither D. both
5. True or False? The man was born blind so the works of God could be revealed through him.
6. Jesus said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world."
7. Jesus cured the man with: A. water from the River Jordan. B. only a touch. C. water from the pool of Siloam. D. Spit, clay, and water from the pool of Siloam.
8. True or False? This is the only case in which the Bible says Jesus cured a blind man in this manner.
9. To what group of people did the neighbors take the man after they saw he was healed?
10. True or False? The man's parents were afraid to tell the truth about their son's healing, because anyone who confessed Jesus would be put out of the synagogue.
11. "He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was \_\_\_\_\_, now I see."
12. True or False? The man declared that Jesus is of God.
13. For his confession of Christ, the man was: A. forgiven by the Pharisees. B. honored by his conviction. C. put out of synagogue. D. thrown into prison
14. True or False? After this happened, Jesus found the man and told him that He is the Son of God.
15. The man told Jesus: "Lord, I \_\_\_\_\_. And he worshipped him."

## NEXT MONTHS TRIVIA?

**"NEXT MONTH WE WILL CONTINUE WITH BIBLE TRIVIA, BUT WE WILL MOVE FROM ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS, TO ASKING ASSORTED QUESTIONS ABOUT SEVERAL PEOPLE AND HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE. SOME QUESTIONS WILL BE MORE CHALLENGING THAN OTHERS, BUT IT WILL GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO SEARCH FOR THE ANSWERS, AND BY SEARCHING YOU WILL BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH WHERE TO FIND THINGS IN YOUR BIBLE. SOME MONTHS WE MAY INSERT A CROSSWORD OR WORD-FIND PUZZLE JUST TO CHANGE THINGS UP."**

## Easy Chicken Pot Pie

- 1 - 10 3/4 oz. can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1 - 15 oz. can mixed vegetables, drained.
- 2 - 5 oz. cans cooked chicken, or 1 1/2 cup cut up chicken.
- 1 - 10 oz. can refrigerated buttermilk biscuits.

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix soup, vegetables, and chicken in a 9 inch square baking dish until well blended. Top with biscuits and bake 20 to 25 minutes, until bubbly around the edge and biscuits are lightly browned. Serves: 4



### Kansas City Church of God Ministries Website

AARON McCLAIN  
WEBHOST

1-573-759-6925

[www.kansascitychurchofgod.org](http://www.kansascitychurchofgod.org)

SEE THE KANSAS CITY  
NEWSLETTER  
IN **COLOR** AT THE WEBSITE.

The Live Friday Night Bible Studies are now available to download, or listen to online. We will continue to add new ones as we complete them, so keep checking the site. You can find them at the KC website by clicking on the link to the KC page, then click the link to the audio bible studies.

**LISTEN TO AND DOWNLOAD  
AUDIO SERMONS**

## THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

*We will begin listing all requests for one month unless there is a reason to keep them on longer. Please write down the prayer requests each month, or cut this page out to use as a reference. It is very important that we are kept informed of the progress of the people put on this list. If we have removed someone's name by mistake, please let us know and we will put them back on the list.*

1. Pray that God will continue to bless His flocks.
2. Pray for all of God's ministers.
3. Aiden Alder. Leukemia. Last report said that Aiden's immune system was none existent and he was having trouble with infections.
4. Marlene Brown. Still having back problems. Some of her vertebra are growing together. She is going to try a treatment on her back & therapy to work through a hopefully get past the pain.
5. Sherman Robertson. Hip & Leg pain. Pray that God will grant him complete healing.
6. Leland Strommen. Has Prostate Cancer. Pray for Alice also for strength.
7. Alan & Cathy Perry & family. Need strength & guidance. Cathy has been having trouble with ear infections.
8. Bailee Woods: Young girl with Leukemia. They have given her a transfusion using her sisters bone marrow. She has had some set backs, but is slowly improving.
9. Bill Hitchcock family. Bill recently passed away.
10. Carol Rust. Her yearly test results were troubling.
11. Barbara Farris. Stephen Hicks Aunt. She is going in to have a knee replacement on Feb. 14th. Pray for success with the surgery and a quick recovery.
12. Teresa Hicks. Sprint, her employer is scheduled to lay off 4000 people sometime between now and April.
13. Norm & Helen Curran. Norm had to place his wife Helen in a Nursing facility and needs our prayers for strength and support.
14. Leland & Lori Thompson: Friends of Aaron McClain. Leland is suffering from seizures and Lori is having several health issues.

*"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16*  
*"Thank You for Your Prayers!"*

### **Praises to God.**

*If God has answered your prayers, let us know so we can give God praise.*

1. David Easton - Recovering from his stroke. David is still making progress, but is trying to stay ahead of the bill collectors due to his time down.

**“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.” John 20:29**

**Commentary by Tom Shadoin**

Over the decades most of us have heard sermons and sermonettes about tithing. And usually sooner rather than later we're taken to the book of Malachi chapter 3. Over the decades I have heard so many stories of the blessings God has as He promised **POURED** out on those- me included- who have obeyed His instructions in this matter. But as good as those teachings are I want to look at tithing from another angle or aspect that I have never heard taught about before.

If as God promises He will provide for and **BLESS** those who **DO** tithe, does that not also provide just one more proof that He does exist? Too many times we've heard the plaintive complaint that we can't prove that God exists. But if God's **LAWS** are proven to exist and **WORK**- like tithing does- therein lies proof the **LAWGIVER** exists! For those who really want to finally find whether the God they wonder about is real, here it seems to me is an ironclad method to find out once and for all. And many, many of the famous as well as not so famous have put Him to this test. James Cashways Penney (founder of JC Penney's) in fact began to tithe at age 16.

In fact the God of the Universe challenges us to put Him to the test in His Word: Malachi 3: 10: Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it.

Simple enough. Prove Him. Tithe for a few weeks or months and see what happens. You will not be disappointed! This by the way is not the so-called "prosperity gospel" or some get rich quick scheme. God Almighty is not a cash register. But He will supply your needs, and over time, if you stick with it He will also supply many other blessings besides. Tithing, I should point out means giving 10% and not giving what you can or when you can. There are no halfway measures with God. It's His way or nothing. And since He owns the business (so to speak), He sets the rules, so no complaining if you give less than a tithe and He does not respond.

I always remember the stories I heard, two of them in fact, about ministers who were stationed in the Phillipines. One related the story about a sermon he gave to poor Filipino farmers about tithing. After the sermon one came up to him.

"Pastor, he said, if I tithe from my field and livestock and God doesn't provide for me and my family, we will starve."

"You tithe as God commands," the pastor told him, "and if God doesn't take care of your family, I will."  
We in the congregation all chuckled as the pastor finished the story saying,

"And **BOY** was I glad God prospered that family!"

Another pastor told the story of the Filipino farmer who showed up at his door one afternoon and handed the pastor a fish.

"Here, he said, "is my tithe."

Noticing that the farmer had no other fish with him, the pastor asked where the other nine fish were.

"I'm going back to catch them right now!" the farmer said confidently walking away. Brethren, that is the confidence- the faith- we need to have also! For without faith it is impossible to please Him. Heb. 11:6.

It is beyond the scope of this article to go into all of the **WAYS** God can and will "open up the windows of heaven" to give us the blessing we are not even able to receive. Perhaps a second article on that subject may be in order. Many of us "old timers" out here- me included- can tell our stories and the first hand stories we've heard from others about the miraculous blessings we have received by obeying God's command on tithing.

But, I repeat my original premise in this article. God **CHALLENGES** us to prove Him, and I would say His very existence, by following his command to tithe. Our Savior also repeats this command in Matt. 23:23. Like others have done including myself, **TRY IT!** You will never regret it and you will never look back! END

(Continued from Page 4) some who will be offended by this, but yet they still won't understand why they are miserable in life, or why they feel so tired all of the time.

We need to begin preparing for the Sabbath on the afternoon and evening before, slowly shifting our mind-set from one filled with all our worldly problems and concerns to one that is focused on God. As our body rests on the Sabbath from our everyday labors, we should fill our thoughts with meditating on God's Word.

There are some who like to go to service and then rush off after it's over to get back home, or to keep some plans they had made for that afternoon. What other plans should we have then to be focusing on God on His Feast Day, the Sabbath?

The Sabbath should be a day of refreshment for us. We don't have to face any of our weekly problems on that day, and we can be among other believers in a positive atmosphere.

Jesus in Matthew 5:19 told His disciples that, ***"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."***

And in James 2:10, it says, ***"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."***

To disregard even one of His commands, which includes keeping the Sabbath, means that we don't consider everything that He says as being of importance. Instead we're telling Him that we will decide what we choose to believe and do.

Those of us who are parents don't like it when our children disobey us, or when they choose to do whatever they want instead of what we have told them to do. If we don't like it, then why would we even begin to think that God would approve of us disobeying Him?

His commandments are there for our good. If we want God to bless us, then we need to obey all of His commands not just the ones we want.

It's not me, but His Word that says that the weekly Sabbath is a Feast Day. Let us keep the Feasts as He commands, not as we choose.

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