

Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission, P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 - Phone 801-355-6310 January 1, 2009

Happy New Year!



Tom Chavez

Most of my life's course has been good but I've also been led in the wrong direction at times. Not to say that I did not have the choices to make but I lacked the understanding I needed and made decisions based on ignorance. When times got tough I dealt with pain and sorrow with alcohol. Even though I was successful in the world's eyes, I was caving in inside. Having been an airplane mechanic for dozens of years, and homes and cars to show, I was empty inside. Alcohol worked for a while, in that it brought relief from anxiety and the pressures of life, it soon turned on me.

Before long I was on a road to self-destruction. The material things went then the job, Finally family and my health. I ended up in a very difficult place not knowing where to turn. My own limited understanding brought me to a very limited place. **I had to decide to live or die.**

I had heard about the Salt Lake City Mission's program from other people on the street but wasn't sure if it was for me.

I was finally in a place to make a good decision because I only had one of two. I chose life. I entered the Salt Lake City Mission's not knowing if would help or not. All I knew was what I was doing wasn't helping.

After being in the program for a few months my faith in Christ began to grow. I started to gain the understanding I was missing for so long. It has been a difficult road, even with many people's support, but looking back' I can see how far God has brought me.

Today I'm back on track as an airplane mechanic, attending school to reenter the force. I've been sober for 16 months and have a great support system. Most of all I have my relationship with Jesus Christ growing and maturing.

— Tom Chavez

Why We Must Have A Personal Relationship With God?

Jesus declared that: ²¹ "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²²

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. ²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the

winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” Mathew 7:21-27 KJV

Having a personal relationship with Jesus begins the moment we realize our need for Him, admit we are sinners, repent from our sin, and ask Him into our hearts to be our Father - the authority in our lives. God, our heavenly Father, has always desired to hug us and hold us in His loving arms, and have an intimate relationship with us. Before Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden Genesis chapter 3, both he and Eve knew God on an intimate, personal level. They walked with Him in the Garden and talked directly to Him. Due to the sin of man, we became separated from Him. He is perfect, and cannot live among sin. Before Jesus' death on the cross, people had to sacrifice animals when they sinned, for the Bible says that the wages of sin is death.

What a lot of people don't know, realize, or care about is that Jesus gave us the most amazing gift—the opportunity to spend eternity with Him and God the Father if we believe, and trust, in Him. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” Romans 6:23. God sent His Son to take on our sin, to take our death penalty and be executed in our place for us, and then be raised again, proving His victory over sin and death. “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” Romans 8:1. If we receive this gift, we have become acceptable to God and can have a personal intimate relationship with Him.

We need to climb into His lap, in His loving arms and stay there, including Him in our daily lives the same way we would any other member of our family, only He is the most important one! We should pray to Him, read His word, and meditate on His Word in an effort to get to know Him better and be able to do His will. We should pray for wisdom, which is the most valuable asset we could ever have. We should take all of our requests to Him, asking in Jesus' name. Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name” John 15:16. Jesus is the one who loves us enough to give His life for us, and He is the one who bridged the gap between us and God. And God is the one who sent Jesus to do it; they are one in the same, and both deserve all of our honor, praise, and worship.

The Holy Spirit is also God; the “part” who has been given to us as our Counselor. “If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you” John 14:15-17. Jesus said this before He died, and after He died the Holy Spirit became available to all who earnestly seek to receive Him. He is the one who lives in the hearts of believers and never leaves. He counsels us, teaches us truths, and changes our hearts. Without this divine Holy Spirit, we would not have the ability to fight against evil and

temptations. But since we do have Him, we begin to produce the fruit that comes from allowing the Spirit to control our us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control Galatians 5:22-23.

This personal relationship with God the Father is not as hard to find as we might think, and there is no mysterious formula for getting it. As soon as we become children of God, we receive the Holy Spirit who will begin to work on our hearts. We should pray without ceasing, read the Bible, and get in fellowship - join a Bible-believing church; all these things will help us to grow spiritually. Trusting in God to get us through each day and believing that He is our sustainer is the way to have a relationship with Him. Although you may not see changes immediately, you will begin to see them over time, and all the truths will become clear.

Salt Lake City Mission Offers Estate Planning Services

Estate planning is a very easy task to procrastinate on but it is a very, very important task. If you do not have an estate plan in place that protects your family and protects your estate from unnecessary taxation or if your estate plan is out-of-date, we urge you to take action and correct this situation.

For Christians, there is an added dimension to estate planning Christians recognizing that God is the owner of our estate places us in a responsible position as a steward. It is important that we use our estate assets to their fullest potential during our lifetimes for our personal, family, business and for His glory. As a steward, we must also arrange for the most efficient and effective transfer of our assets at death to individuals or charitable interests who will continue to use them to reflect biblical values.

While almost all of the reasons for procrastinating are understandable, none will serve to lessen the reality that the absence of an estate plan can have devastating impact on an estate. A proper estate plan should accomplish the following:

- Express God’s plan of stewardship.**
- Provide for all financial and guardianship needs for all dependents.**
- Transfer the assets God has entrusted you to individual and charitable beneficiaries.**
- Transfer your estate in a tax efficient manner with the least possible amount of heartache, cost or delay.**

To learn more about this confidential service, please visit our website at www.saltlakecitymission.org or call Philip Arena or Brad Jaques 801-355-6310. We do hope that you will find this service a blessing to you and your family.