



United Church of God an International Association

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 409

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Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

This week is *BT* week at the home office and we recorded three new programs, bringing the number of *Beyond Today* programs to 399. Next month we will record our 400th program! The titles of the programs recorded yesterday were: "Called, Chosen and Faithful" by Darris McNeely, "Easter: The Rest of the Story" by Steve Myers, and "The Biblical Way for Raising Happy Children" by Gary Petty.



Gary Petty records a *Beyond Today* program.

Today, writer, filmmaker and biblical historian Tim Mahoney gave *Beyond Today* interviews in our studio in three separate segments. These will be featured soon on our website. He is known for his series *Patterns of Evidence* in which he features the dates for the Exodus that go back 250 years before the popularly-accepted dates.



Darris McNeely interviews Tim Mahoney.

"Last but not least" spiritual gift

It happens to all of us. We hear a great inspiring point in a sermon, read a *Beyond Today* article that hits home, or find a spiritual gem in our personal Bible study. Or, facing a trial or uncomfortable time, we may resolve to spend more time in prayer, seeking God. Or on the physical side, we may want to drop a few pounds, or eat more nutritional food and exercise to improve our health. Whatever the situation, we may think to ourselves, "I will change and integrate that into my life immediately!"

We may have some short-term success. But then life happens. We get overwhelmed at work, at school, with family issues. Or distracted. Or whatever. Whether we want it to or not, our resolve wanes. This often happens after the first of the year when people make sincere resolutions to make positive changes but then fail to follow through longterm.

Sometimes the situation is even more serious. Under unusual stress, we may find ourselves overindulging in food, especially sweets. A similar situation can arise in this day and age when men and women wear immodest clothing or act publicly in an inappropriate, even ungodly manner, arousing emotions and desires that only lead to trouble. Sometimes we can allow ourselves to think inappropriate thoughts, letting them linger without immediately asking God to remove and replace such thinking.

We may think, "I shouldn't be doing this." But then temptation appears with all its enticements. It becomes all too easy to say or think, "I'm tired/overwhelmed/busy. I'll deal with this tomorrow." We can then find *ourselves* to be our main challenge.

One fruit of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5 is the solution. That fruit is *self-control*.

Interestingly, the spiritual gift of self-control--a fruit of the Spirit of God working within us--appears as the crowning last attribute that Paul mentions in Galatians 5:23. Without this powerful gift of self-control, we cannot fully appreciate or deploy all of the other fruit of the Spirit!

Sometimes we can confuse self-control with willpower. Willpower represents the human virtue that seeks to counter negative habits or decisions with the strength of human commitment. This is indeed useful, but it is not what Paul was speaking of.

The Greek word for self-control that Paul was inspired to write is transliterated *egkrateia*. The English word temperance comes from its Latin equivalent. In biblical usage, the Greek word *egkrateia* is spiritually expressed in the virtue and character of one who masters their desires and passions, especially sensual appetites.

We are but physical beings, subject to physical limitation and mental bandwidth. We can--and should--put forth self-effort to embrace spiritual growth, to improve our relationships and to develop our God-given abilities. But *self-effort* can sometimes masquerade as spiritual *self-control*.

The real self-control--*egkrateia*--comes from the Holy Spirit living and working in us! It is a gift from God that we are to use and exercise!

Here's a critical point: this quality of spiritual self-control plays a major role in overcoming and the building of holy character that will last for all eternity! As expressed in the first chapters of Revelation, the outcome of spiritual self-control being exercised and deployed enables us to become *conquerors* in this present evil age! As Jesus says: "To the one who conquers [KJV 'overcomes'] I will grant to eat of the tree of life" (Revelation 2:8, English Standard Version).

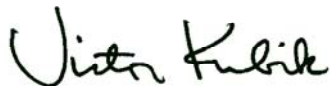
This mastery of wrong desire, of abstaining from practices that lead to harm, begins in the changing of our minds under the direct and powerful influence of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1-2). It reflects the process of us becoming more like God Himself.

When we ask for this spiritual gift of self-control, we will find that God will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Coupled with the belief that God will do what He says (James 1:5-6), this spiritual self-control in action will help us step back from situations that can lead to sin. It helps us break the bonds of addiction. It improves our lives. It literally helps wrong desire to *vanish*. We "take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5, ESV).

After listing nine varieties of fruit that come from the Holy Spirit working in us, Paul writes: "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified [put to death] the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24, ESV). This reflects the capstone of active self-control in our day-to-day lives.

This concludes our present study of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Now, as we all move forward, let us follow Paul's advice: "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit" (verse 25). May the Almighty God grant you grace, peace and power to live these marvelous words and produce abundant spiritual fruit!

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

Death of Herb Teitgen



Herb Teitgen

Herbert Teitgen died on February 2, at his home in Moorhead, Minnesota. Herb served as pastor for the United Church of God congregations in Bismarck, Fargo and Minot, North Dakota, and Winnipeg, Manitoba. Herb suffered from pulmonary fibrosis for the last few years, but actively and faithfully served his congregations in spite of his health issues. Herb was baptized in 1964 while attending the Radio Church of God. He served as an elder since 1984 both in the Worldwide Church of God and United Church of God and has served as a pastor since 1986. Herb's wife, Anne, died in 2002. He is survived by a son, Robert, a daughter, Carla Erickson, and a twin brother, Fred.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, February 28, at 11 a.m. at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 5718 36th St S, Fargo, North Dakota. Messages of condolence may be left for the family at the following website: <https://www.wrightfuneral.com/obituary/herbert-h-teitgen/>

Inside United Podcast



Scott Ashley - What Does the Bible Teach About Grace?

Scott Ashley joins Victor Kubik in the studio to detail the thoughts and ideas that went into writing the booklet, "What Does the Bible Teach About Grace?"

<https://www.ucg.org/inside-united-podcast/inside-united-podcast-148-scott-ashley-what-does-the-bible-teach-about-grace>

Listen to past episodes or read the transcripts:

<https://www.ucg.org/inside-united-podcast>

Job Opening - Web Developer

The United Church of God has announced an opening for a Web Developer. The position will require the following:

- Custom programming and Web application development for Church websites.
- Testing, maintenance and troubleshooting of existing Church sites.
- Contributing ideas and efforts towards internal projects and working as part of a team to find solutions for various problems.
- Plus, other duties as assigned.

Required skills for this position include:

- A solid understanding of PHP, AJAX, HTML, Javascript, and CSS, or knowledge of other programming languages and a willingness to learn.
- Familiarity with source control systems such as Git.
- Ability to communicate technical ideas to business users and other teams (design, QA).
- Ability to both collaborate with team members and to work independently.
- Eager to embrace current and emerging Web technologies.

The following experience would give an applicant preference:


- Knowledge of SEO coding best practices.
- Proficient in Drupal, including custom module development, key contributed modules and core API.
- Two-plus years of Drupal hands-on development experience.
- Experience integrating open source and third-party applications into existing systems.

A bachelor's degree (B.A.) is preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Strong language, logic and communication skills, and algebra/geometry level math skills are required. Those applying for consideration and invited for an interview must supply a resume of their education and/or experience.

Potential employees must be baptized members (in good standing) of the United Church of God. Applicants must be biblically literate and possess a thorough working knowledge of the doctrines, beliefs and practices of the United Church of God.

For an employment application or for more information, please contact human_resources@ucg.org.

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