

And I will frankly say that I do not believe this to be as prevalent as it was in those early days of the church, but don't miss his main point - ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit is vital. Whether ministry is in word, or deed, or signs and wonders, it is all by the Holy Spirit of God. There are many that minister in the Word of God by their own power, but they are not ministering in deed with holy lives. Both word and deed ministry can only be done in the power of the Spirit. Missionary John Hyde wrote in a letter to his sister Sarah from India in 1893, "Should not we who say, 'I believe in the Holy Ghost' be the last by our unbelief to fail in our prayers and work to seek such blessing as has never yet been seen in our earth?" Our inability to minister without the power of the Holy Spirit should bind us to our prayer closets in earnest prayer for the filling of the Holy Spirit (Eph.5:18).

Mistake #3: The Unreached Peoples Are Not As Important. Paul says plainly in verse 20, "I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation." This is not a strategic growth plan that Paul has; it is a disclosure of his compassion for the unreached peoples of the earth. We recently heard the statistics in missions conference that much of the world's population is still unreached and that the church is making little of that by their giving and work. Paul is the opposite: he declares, "I'm going where they have never heard the saving Gospel and the name of Jesus." What about us?

May the Love of the Brethren/Sisters, the Power of the Holy Spirit, and the Compassion for the Unreached Peoples guide our ministry at FBC into the future.

- Pastor Rusty

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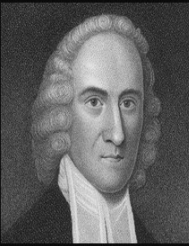
**Please note we now have "mailboxes" in the Conference Room for your convenience.**

**WHAT'S GOING ON FOR FBCBR:**  
 9/5 Women's Book Club (Rescheduled)  
 9/15 Business Meeting (Postponed from 9/8)  
 9/20 Art Connection  
 9/21 Equipping Men Bible Study (Bi-Weekly)  
 9/28 SALT & Kid's Carnival  
 10/5 Range Day (Outside)  
 10/9 Fall Break (No Wed. Activities)  
 10/19 Women's Movie Night  
 10/26 SALT

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**Are you musical? Come join the fun at  
 Worship Choir/Handbell Choir  
 Do you have detail-oriented skills? How  
 about the new volunteer position of  
 Nursery Coordinator?  
 What about the nursery ministry? We are  
 in great need of nursery workers! Can you  
 serve at least once monthly?**

Jonathan Edwards



A true and faithful Christian does not make holy living an accidental thing. It is his great concern. As the business of the soldier is to fight, so the business of the Christian is to be like Christ.

AZ QUOTES



**Mending Ministry Mistakes (Romans 15)**

It would be no exaggeration to state that the Apostle Paul is one of the greatest missionaries, Gospel preachers, and churchmen in all of church history. He was there in the beginning of the church, and he worked as if he could spread the Gospel to all the earth and to bring an end to the church age and hasten the second coming of Christ. When he, within the Scriptures, writes on church ministry, my mind and pen take note.

When writing to the Romans, Paul notes a few things in chapter 15 that are vital to Gospel ministry today. I am choosing to enumerate them as mistakes that he addresses:

Mistake #1: Our Differences Divide Us. Paul makes it very clear in Romans 15:1-7 that wherever we may be spiritually, we have the obligation to bear with the weak, to help those who are different than we are. Of course, this is speaking of brothers and sisters in Christ who differ on their beliefs of holy days and celebrations, but it could be translated into a variety of differences in our days from music to methodology, from blue jeans to baptism. Paul closes this section saying, "Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." What did I know, and how did I act, and what perfections did I possess when Jesus Christ received me by grace into the family of God? Receive others as Jesus received you.

Mistake #2: I Can Do This on My Own. Paul secondly said that he ministered "in word and in deed," and he goes on to write that he ministered "with signs and wonders in the power of the Holy Spirit." Of course, there are different views about the signs and wonders..... [Continued]

