

SERVING IN WORSHIP

January 4, 2026

Call to Worship:

Matthew 11:7-11

Barry Cary

Song Leader:

Mark Claypool

First Prayer:

Doug Driver

Presentation/Lord's Table:

Barry Cary

Servers:

Larry Miller ***Austin Miller

Speaker:

Johnny Felker

Prayer and Announcements:

Dwight Mullett

Usher:

Walter Culbreth

EVENING WORSHIP:

Call to Worship:

Mark 6: 53-56

Mark Claypool

Song Leader:

Various

First Prayer:

Stanton See

Invitation:

Johnny Felker

Lord's Table:

Mark Pittman

Closing Prayer & Announcements:

Dwight Mullett

Usher:

Walter Culbreth

Prayer List:

Deborah Grigsby continues to deal with depression. She has several doctors' appointments coming up.

Elaine Duggin had a CT scan Friday, and meet with the oncologist on Tuesday to go over the results. Unfortunately **Fred** has had a few black outs this week. He will see a doctor in February. At this point his only option is surgery.

Betty Dennis had another rough week. She continues to feel weak and has no energy. This week she had a bout of the flu. She has been at home resting and will return to church as soon as she can.

Polly Golden, Delbra Crowell's aunt, will remain in Rehab until at least January 6th, at which time she will be reassessed. Delbra and the staff think Polly needs to stay a bit longer, so it remains to be seen what the higher ups decide.

Shula Whitt, Sandy Scott's aunt, has returned home from the hospital, and is presently taking care of the wound dressing herself.

Kelly Smith, Doug Driver's brother, has been in the hospital for several days. He continues to be in great pain. Doctors are still trying to decide exactly what his diagnosis should be. Cancer has been discovered in some areas but its origin has not been determined.

Keep in Your Prayers:

Susie Cannizzaro, Bonnie Pomfrett, Carolyn Lowder
Ronan Chatfield, & James Patterson & Tom Knighton

Birthdays This Week:

9th: Heather Blanton

ELDERS: Johnny Felker & Doug Driver
DEACONS: Ralph Brown & Mark Claypool

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214 (615) 883-3118
www.perryheights.faithweb.com

*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24*

January 4, 2026

The Growth of the Christian

*"But grow in the grace and the knowledge of
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ " — (2 Peter 2:18).*

Peter points out that being a Christian is not just a one-time decision made, and then it is over. Being a Christian involves a lifetime of growth. The Christian is a child of God and a part of the family of God. The family analogy gives us the picture of brothers and sisters, children and parents. God is the Father. As the Father, He provides for us as His children. We are children of God because we have voluntarily submitted ourselves to Him and have been baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27). By being baptized into Christ, we have been "born again" into the family of God or the church (John 3:3-5). The ones that have been "born again" by the word of God (1 Peter 1:23) are new converts or "babes in Christ." Peter continues to speak of the laying aside of old dispositions, attitudes, and actions of sin. Peter then states that we should "as newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow" (1 Peter 2:1-2). As a babe's desire is to grow, the Christian's growth is desired and expected by God.

Passages Stressing How and Why to Grow

•*The Nurturing for the New Convert.* The newborn babe, if they are not nurtured, will die spiritually. Everyone surely understands the tragedy of a baby that is born in this physical life being left alone, uncared for, and deserted. The nurturing of the disciples is something Jesus is concerned about as He tells the disciples to teach those they baptize to observe all things (Matthew 28:19-20).

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him." I John 4: 9 (NIV)

Preacher's Pen points

The Incarnation of God #2 The Witness of John



Jesus pointed to the testimony of John the Baptizer to support His claim to be God in the flesh (Jn. 5:31-35).

John testified that Jesus was the p__-e_____L_____ of the OT.

...He said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the L_____', as Isaiah the prophet said. (John 1:19-24)

"This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He e_____ before me.' (John 1:30)

"It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not w_____ to untie." (John 1:26-27)

John testified that Jesus was the a_____s_____ for a world lost in sin.

The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him, and *said, "Behold, the L_____ of G_____ who takes away the sin of the world! (Jn. 1:29)

John testified that Jesus was the d_____ - p_____ p_____ for His future witnesses.

"And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who b_____ in the H_____ S_____.' (Jn. 1:33)

John testified that Jesus was the C_____ of the OT Scriptures, the very S_____ of God.

John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing, unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the C_____', but, 'I have been sent before Him.' (John 3:27-28)

"And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the S_____ of G_____." (John 1:34).

John's credentials and character as a prophet are impeccable. Jesus Himself pointed to his testimony as positive proof of His claims, that we "may be saved" (Jn. 5:34). Are you willing to walk in John's light?

continued from page 1

Disciples, who follow the instruction of Jesus in the great commission, will not let this happen.

•*The Grounding that is Needed.* The teaching of God's word is vital in the grounding of newborn babes/new converts. Speaking to Christians, the Hebrew writer tells them they should have grown. "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to them that are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

•*The Need to Stand Against the World and its Forces.* Paul writes to the Ephesians about the need to grow. Paul states, "...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ" (Ephesians 4:14-15).

It is apparent in the scriptures that Jesus and the apostles taught that Christians should grow. Without growth and maturity, Christians will wander aimlessly through life and will fall prey to the snares of the devil. As a child of God grows, they will not be tossed about in the world of darkness. The trials and temptations will come to man, but a Christian will endure with a developed and mature faith (2 Timothy 4:8). Jesus came and gave His life to save man. Spiritual growth and development are essential for Christians to not grow weary and fall away. Indeed, we can understand why growing in faith is imperative if we endure to the end. (Market Street Messenger, August 29, 2021)

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that come through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." (Phil. 1: 9-11) NIV