



CROSSIN' THE GULF
MINISTRIES CHURCH

April 2023

Not Without You

Hello, Partners and Friends, grace, peace and **favor** to you. The Lord impressed it on my heart to add 'favor' to my normal greeting. It's His desire for us; to have favor with God and man. Take hold of it.

We rolled into 2023 with encouragement from The Lord that 2023 would be a Year of Momentum. The Lord wants us to go through this year strong and without weariness. The past few months, Pastor Jordan and I have been learning more and more about the divine connections The Lord makes between people. In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth about unity in the Spirit of the Lord, unity for the profit of ALL, and being placed in the Body of Christ for His purpose.

We were all created with a plan. A large part of the plan of The Lord for us is people. Even Jesus needs people. As you read through the chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians, we find in verse 21 Paul writes that even the head cannot say to the feet, "I have no need of you." Who is the head of the Body of Christ? Jesus. Even Jesus needs people. We are so divinely called to be part of a natural family as well as a spiritual family (the Church). I am reminded of the words of We the Kingdom's song *Family* – 'Some days I'm thankful and others I'm angry, some days I'm singing the blues, sometimes I wish that the pictures were different, but thank God I don't get to choose.' Exactly.

I want you to take a few minutes and think about your family. Think about the people who have been divinely put into your life. If there have been hurts, ask for and give forgiveness. Our family and the divine connections God made for us are part of our lifeline. While you may think I am being dramatic, I am not. Why do you think the devil fights family and other relationships so much? During COVID emerged the phrase **Better Together**. I love that phrase, and it's not new. People have always been better when we learn to push past our differences and appreciate each other and work together.

²³And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, ²⁴while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. ²⁶If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.' (1 Corinthians 12:23-26 NLT)

The value of a thing is measured by what a person pays for it. Our Heavenly Father paid a great price for each person walking the face of the planet and those who have yet to walk the earth. Whether someone has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior yet or not, he or she is worthy of the love and blood of Jesus. A gift isn't a gift because it is received. A gift is a gift because it is given. Jesus gave His life for people, all people. We must see people and their value with that mindset. It's that same mindset we need to use when we think about our relationship with others.

I recognize that not everyone is sweet. Not everyone should have a divine connection to us. However, those relationships God has given, we need to honor, prize and protect.

Being connected to others is like having an IV that runs both directions. Sometimes one person needs more support and other times the other person does. It's that joining together that causes us to accomplish much, and have someone to celebrate the victories with along the way! So, how do we do this?

1. Recognize the preciousness of each person and our connection to them (1 Corinth 12:1-26)
2. Don't compare yourself to others (2 Corinth 10:12-13)
3. Don't think more highly of yourself than you should, think realistically about yourself (Romans 12:2-3 NLT, TPT)

And, what God has joined together, let no man split apart (ref. Mark 10:9 NLT).

Ministry / Personal Updates – the first issue of our ministry newsletter “*Victory Walk*” went out last month via email. If you did not get yours, please reach out to Tim at admin@crossinthegulf.org. We will email those out every 2 months, so look out in May for our next issue. Also, if you'd like to start receiving your Monthly Partner Letter by email, you can let Tim know.

We will leave you with this, your Heavenly Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus! Don't hesitate to reach out to us via email or our website for prayers or questions. We are here to serve.

With His Love,

Pastors Jordan & Melissa Mack

Psalm 23, **Psalm 91**, Isaiah 54:17, Ephesians 3:14-21, Exodus 3:21, Numbers 6:24-26, Ephesians 1:15-21

Has this letter BLESSED you? Pass this Partner letter on to a family member or friend and be a BLESSING to them.