



Message from the First Lady Sis. Ellen P. Barney

It is time again to celebrate new seasons, Spring and then Summer. Spring reminds us of the new beginnings, a time for a change. However, for some, Summer is a time of fun and relaxation. Indeed, God allows changes to occur in His infinite wisdom, as evidenced through all four seasons of the year.

We recognize from birth to death that change is inevitable. Nothing on earth is changeless. Only the LORD can maintain that attribute, ***For I am the LORD, I do not change*** (Malachi 3:6), which assures us of His endless mercy. And we, as believers, experience eternity only in heaven—wherein we encounter its changeless beauty and joys in fullness. But until then, we must deal with the changes that life brings.

As saints, we must not wrestle with this thing called "to change"—holding on to the known, disowning the unknown. The Lord will take us through the changing process. First, however, we must partner with Him by surrendering totally to His will. As John the Baptist says beautifully, *I must decrease, He must increase* (John 3:30). Wow! Humility is hard, especially for most. But God uses brokenness and pain to bring us to that place called humility. In the economy of spirituality, one's life must embrace its challenges. Although taxing, it is an essential requirement for living a Christ-centered life. And to be used mightily and powerfully for Christ, we *must* allow the Holy Spirit's sanctification process to change us from one degree of grace to the next. After which, we will glory in Christ's changeless presence!

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I also want to encourage you to take the time to read this short Spring/Summer edition of the Becoming Whole Women in Christ (BWWC) Newsletter. Please contact the BWWC ministry leader listed on this edition's last page if you are interested in submitting articles. Enjoy our Spring/Summer edition.

Faith!

Sis. Chanel Trussell

Yes, we know Hebrews 11:1 by heart. So let's look at that Scripture in a few translations:

"Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen" (KJV, emphasis mine).

"Now faith is the **certainty** of things hoped for, a **proof** of things not seen" (NASB, emphasis mine).

"Now faith is **confidence** in what we hope for and **assurance** about what we do not see" (NIV, emphasis mine).



What kind of faith do we have? Do we put our faith in the creation or in the Creator? We have *creation* faith that our cars will get us back and forth to work each morning without breaking down. We didn't see the process of our car being built, but the car is evidence of things not seen. We get in the car and mindlessly put the key in the ignition or push the start button and have confidence in what we hope for – that it will start and get us to our destination. Therefore, we exercise faith by getting behind the wheel, with our minds filled with many other things, not really thinking about how we are driving down the highway. When we eat food, some of us just dig in! We don't always see the hands that prepared the food, but we have confidence that the food will not make us ill. Therefore, we exercise faith by lifting the fork or spoon to our mouths and having our fill!

What about our faith in God? Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." What a promise! Why, then, is it so difficult to put our faith in God, our Creator? Why do we pace the floor worrying about our children, marriage, jobs, and diagnosis? The Lord's Word even challenges us with this question in Luke 12:25-26, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?" To exercise faith in our very capable Creator, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we must "cast our *cares* (worries, anxieties) on Him, because he cares for *us*" (1 Peter 5:7, italics mine).

Life is filled with opportunities to worry, but we have a Savior that can help us. We must put our faith in Him and in *Him alone*! Yes, this is hard, but it is the act of our will – we can *choose* to try to solve it on our own or we can give it to the Master and trust and believe Romans 8:28. We can *choose* to live our lives our way (by the flesh) or His way (by the Spirit). For when we live a life of integrity, we can have faith that "...the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

What will you *choose*? Faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ or faith in _____ (insert your choice)? The Scriptures present this question very clearly: "Choose this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15a), and then declare "**But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord**" (Joshua 24:15b).



Morsels of Wisdom

from God's Word

Do all things without complaining or arguments; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding firmly the word of life, so that on the day of Christ I can take pride because I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

Philippians 2:14-16

Pray. Wait. Trust

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New Antioch Baptist Church of Randallstown's Women's Ministry is designed to boost the spiritual, emotional, and physical awakening of women of all ages and life stages. We are especially committed to the salvation and progress of our youth, relationship seekers, and women who have lost their way.

To contribute articles, email: chanel_trussell@yahoo.com
Praying for lots of submissions for the next newsletter.

NABCOR Women's Ministries

Intercessory Prayer
Ministers' Wives' Fellowship
Women Connected in Christ Ministry
Diamonds in the Rough Ministry
D.R.I.V.E.N. Ministry

S.W.E.E.T. Ministry
Wholesome Warriors
Bodies of Clay Dance Ministry
Aerobics' Ministry
Newsletter Ministry

Card Ministry
Women's Fellowship
Comfort Ministry
Grief Support Ministry

