

# Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 231-2784

## Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

## Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

**Evangelist:** Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available  
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ  
9203 Thixton Lane  
Louisville, KY 40291



## OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

**"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24**

*DECEMBER 4, 2005*

### WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Often times when we were younger, an older, wiser person would pose a thought provoking question that we knew good and well we didn't have the answer to. So rather than guess, we would simply concede the superior knowledge of the inquirer and let them tell us the solution. A similar circumstance is recorded between Ezekiel the prophet and God almighty when assessing a valley filled with dry bones.

*Ezekiel 37:3 And He said to me, "Son*

*of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."*

You see the vision represented the hopeless state of the Jews as they were dispersed throughout the provinces of the Chaldean empire. If Ezekiel had responded with human reasoning He might have replied to the Lord by saying something like "You've got to kidding" to both the symbol and the reality.

So God, in a most dramatic way, allows Ezekiel to be a participant in the answer to the question.

*Ezekiel 37:4-6 Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! 5 'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6 "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."'"*

So Ezekiel heeds the Lord command and as he speaks the valley is filled with the noise of rattling and clanking of bone on bone and of muscle and skin layering over them. But these corpses are nothing without the animating force that only God can provide.

*Ezekiel 37:10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into*

*them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.*

How many times have we allowed human reasoning to get in the way of God's power? How often have we looked at a situation and said "that can't work?" Think of the instances in scripture where things seemed impossible yet the Lord shows us to think beyond this secular wisdom.

- Sarah and Elizabeth conceiving children (Gen 18:14 & Lk 1:36)
- A camel going through the eye of a needle (Mt 19:24)
- Men walk on water (Mt 14:25)
- The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up (Mt 11:5)

So the next time you start thinking, "I'm a nobody, how can God use a person like me?" Just keep in mind that the Lord has breathed life into us and He has assured us

*"...With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).*

- Bruce Dehut

# Two Wolves

*Oh, so true!!! An old Indian is teaching his grandson about life.*

*"A fight is going on inside me" he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves.*

*"One is evil - he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.*

*"The other is good - he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.*

*"This same fight is going on inside you - and inside every other person, too."*

*The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"*

*Replied the Grandfather, "The one you feed."*

No truer words could have been spoken by this wise ancient Indian. I can't attest to the authenticity of the story by I do know the principle can be found in the writings of the apostle Paul.

*Galatians 5:19-25 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness,*

*lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Paul goes a step beyond of not just feeding the right wolf but of executing the competition. Granted this would definitely be the best way to achieve our purpose of living a spirit filled life but most of us allow the evil wolf to linger near by. Often times the scraps from our table fall accidentally into the waiting jaws of the wolf but there are other occasions when we throw the carnivorous beast a huge juicy steak. We may not be able to put a bullet into the creature but at least we can stop providing nourishment and starve it death.

My prayer is that each one of us heeds the warning and every time a work of the flesh rears its ugly head we either lop it off or send it packing in the opposite direction still hungry.

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**SERMON NOTES**

## TO CHEW ON

- **The best thing to spend on your children is your time.**
- **The preacher was talking about the relationship between fact and faith. "That you are sitting before me in this church," he said, "is fact. That I am standing here, speaking from this pulpit, is fact. That I believe anyone is listening to me is faith."**
- **When you flee temptation do not leave a forwarding address.**
- **A lot of kneeling keeps you in good standing with God.**

**A pessimist is someone who looks at the land of milk and honey and sees only calories and cholesterol.**