

# The Grapevine

Columbus West  
Church Of God  
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## COWARD

The enemy, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion seeking who he will devour. This thought seems to paralyze many of us today. We walk around saying that we are “overcomers.” We are “more than conquerors.” And yet, how many of us still struggle with the guilt of our past? How many of us still remain a victim of our past? You know, the enemy comes and says, “Really, you know, you’re no better today than you were yesterday. You’re still a liar. You’re still a *coward*. You still are afraid to talk about the

Lord. If you really believed...” Oh, I know it’s true because I’ve had the same thoughts myself.

I want to tell you something today, **“God didn’t give us a cowardly spirit but a spirit of power, love, and good judgment.” 2 Timothy 1:7.** The question that we have is, *“Is it possible to keep from fearing if we live for Christ in this world, a world that is so evil and abusive?”* how can we keep from being apprehensive is we witness for Christ day by day? How can we keep from being a coward when the world thinks that believing in Christ is to be kept in the church and not in the world? How can we stand up for Christ when people mock and poke fun at anyone who lives for Christ?

This verse tells us how: **we let God equip us.** God’s equipment does not include fear. The fact is clearly stated: God does not give us the spirit of fear; God gives us the spirit of love and power, and of a sound mind. The word *spirit* means our spirit. The Holy Spirit/God’s Spirit

actually injects power, love and a sound mind into our spirit. Think about that...we get a shot of God in our spirit. The God of the universe, the Creator of life, the Sustainer of the universe, our Redeemer, gives us a shot of His power, a shot of His love, a shot of His mind. Wow!!! What then do we have to fear??? Oh, I know the enemy’s roar is loud. I know that he makes a lot of noise. I know that the battle may seem hot. However, Greater is He (the shot) that’s in you than the he that’s in the world.

You have no-thing to fear. So, stop running from your shadow. Stop letting the enemy back you into a corner. You have the power of God in you, around you, and flowing out of you. Use it and stomp out the enemy. Tell the devil that he has no power over you. You are the head and not the tail. The first and not the last. You are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. I say it again, you have no-thing to fear.

Pastor Rob

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# Meet John Sampson

Growing up my childhood was fun. We went fishing, camping and hunting. Though over time my thoughts and mind went cold and hard. Friends were people who hit you when you were hurting, they were undependable. I had that one so called friend that kept hitting me during gym class then would run away, until he got a little to brave and I caught him. I then grabbed his arm and twisted it until I heard something snap. For the most part of my life, I was a loner.

I turned to sports to help, but they were just games, not life or death, as most coaches and people thought they were. So, playing sport was not fun for me. I got to the point where I was angry. I couldn't see anyone in the busy high school hallways, but I saw the person who had made me angry. Luckily, I damaged objects instead of hurting people.

This was me. the point when I started dating Regina. The first thing my sister told her was that at the first sign of tears that she needed to walk away. Not to run because that would draw his attention because he was about to hurt or break something. The military drove this anger even more inward and made my hatred even uglier. Then my second son was born, and he had a seizure disorder and fragile x syndrome. Shortly thereafter I would be out of the military.

Once out, my wife started attending church. This left me home alone for a while with the boys. After a few months, I started to join her out of curiosity and a bit of selfishness, I suppose. The church had these two older ladies who would hug when you came in and would not take no for an answer. It was hard to handle at first, but then the church felt peaceful, as did the church. But things got worse with my youngest. The seizures got worse, and I found myself mad at God. It didn't make any since. I was the guilty one. I was the sinner. I was the hater. And here was this innocent, young child going through all of this. It really hurt and fueled my anger.

However, I kept going to church. The messages became more clear. Though it was in a song that my mean, hateful, heart broke. The message in the song showed me God cared. He cared about me, He cared about all of His children. Within the year I would be helping set up and tear down after services. After some time, I gave my heart to the Lord and was baptized. Like many, I was still trying to set the terms. I told God that I would never work with kids or make speeches in front of people.

This is where I found that God must have a sense of humor. The church we were attending would soon close down, but it led us to a new church. I would find myself involved in a puppet ministry working around children. Later, I was asked and became involved in a Prison ministry. During my time with the Prison ministry, I had to give talks in public in front of the inmates as well as the C.O.'s. the encouragement I find from my *crazy* wife and from the church has been life changing. By the way, never tell God what you are NOT willing to do. Those things that you tell Him you *won't* do...may be the very thing He calls you to do.

John Sampson

# Meet Regina Sampson



I'm Regina Sampson, my husband is John and we have been blessed with two wonderful sons. Matthew our oldest who lives in Iowa. He is married to a wonderful woman named Jamie and they have three children, Jaiden, Gianna, and Caleb. Our other son is one that many of you know, Peter. John and I met in high school and married right after I graduated. He was in the army for nine years. We lived in Washington state where Matthew was born and in Germany where Peter was born.

Growing up I was raised in the Catholic church. We didn't go that often until my sister Teresa started taking me with her. I learned the bible because my Mother read a chapter from the big family Bible every day after dinner. That has really helped in my later life trying to keep up with Pastor Rob and Pastor Watts.

We didn't go to church when John was in the Army but once we settled back home, I wanted to get the kids in church. We started at one church but it eventually closed and so we started looking over again.

One day there was a Vacation Bible School practically in John's parents backyard. We checked it out and they were so welcoming. They even accepted Peter with his challenges so that was it for us. We started going to church there and met Pastor Watts and Karen. Their son Pastor Jay was the pastor of the congregation. We were both led to Christ by them. We stayed with them until Pastor Jay went to Peru and the congregation got so small that we were meeting at Pastor Watts' home. Inevitably, the church closed as well.

Our family floundered for a while. The Lord led us to CW Church, where we have grown and continue to grow. It has been a rich blessing to meet all of you and we look forward to God's direction and growth at CW Church.

Regina Sampson

## 1 PETER 3:12-15

THE LORD'S EYES ARE ON THOSE WHO DO WHAT HE APPROVES. HIS EARS HEAR THEIR PRAYER. THE LORD CONFRONTS THOSE WHO DO EVIL. WHO WILL HARM YOU IF YOU ARE DEVOTED TO DOING WHAT IS GOOD? BUT EVEN IF YOU SUFFER FOR DOING WHAT GOD APPROVES, YOU ARE BLESSED. DON'T BE AFRAID OF THOSE WHO WANT TO HARM YOU. DON'T GET UPSET. BUT DEDICATE YOUR LIVES TO CHRIST AS LORD. ALWAYS BE READY TO DEFEND YOUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD WHEN ANYONE ASKS YOU TO EXPLAIN IT. HOWEVER, MAKE YOUR DEFENSE WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT.

# Security v. Anxiety

Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. John 6:27

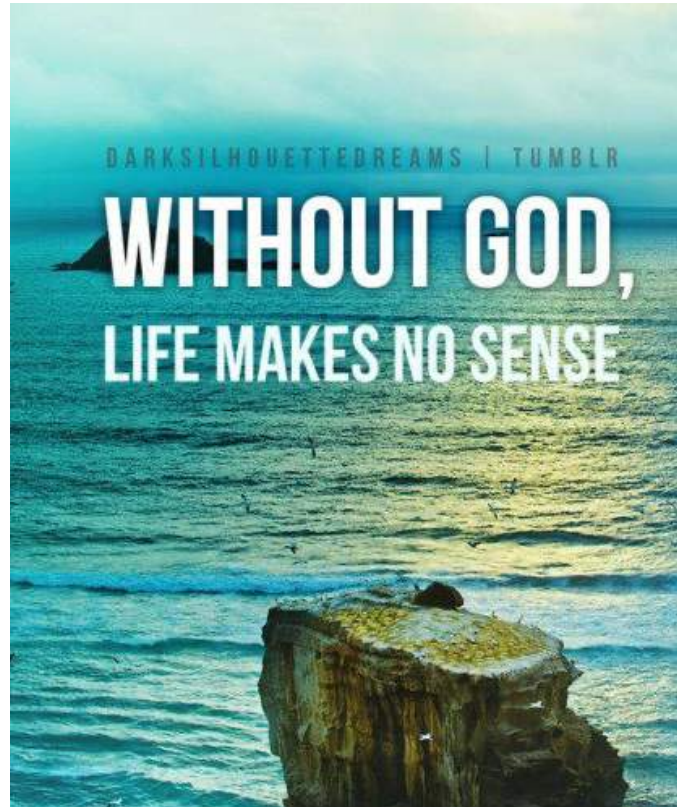
The character trait for April is Security. There are many in our world today who have problems with anxiety. With the Word of God, Worshiping with other believers and being on our knees in prayer.

This month we'll be looking at how to *Be Assured of Eternal Life*. There are many who struggle with this. This doesn't mean that we can go out and live like we want after accepting Christ, but it does mean that *Eternal Life is Assured*.

Over the past two years we've been running around in fear. We've been looking to all different avenues for protection. However, when we have *Security* in the Lord, we can *Rely on Him for Protection*. We have to remember that He is our Banner. He knows the Sparrow of the air and takes care of that little bird. How much more will He take care of you?

Do you know that the Lord has *Provided* all you need for your life? When He created this world, place Adam and Eve in the Garden, everything was provided for them. Now, that didn't mean that they didn't have things to do in the Garden. But they could *Rest in His Provision*, and so can you.

The last thing to share about *Security* is that we can *Replace Fear with Trust*. It is hard to *Trust* people and things of this world. Especially when we know that they'll all be passing away. But we serve a God who will never leave us nor forsake us. With that promise...why doubt? Why look anywhere else? Why *Fear*? After all He defeated the enemy over 2,000 years ago. You don't have to fear him, you are more than a conquer through Jesus who gives you strength. These are just a few of the definitions that we'll be looking at this month with *Security*. So, don't be anxious, be *Secure* in the Lord.



Make sure you join us on April 10<sup>th</sup> as we line the streets of Jerusalem and shout, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord."

That's right, the Praise Team will be leading us in an all-music Praise and Worship Service. Imagine being a part of the crowds the day that Jesus road into Jerusalem. Well, we will be joining with all the Heaven's in worship that morning.

It is going to be an extra-special time of worship. Make plans to join us in-person, and if you can't join us in-person, make sure you join us online on our FaceBook page.

The celebration stats at 10:30 a.m. Don't be late!!!!

# Opportunities for Worship & Fellowship

We would love to have you join us this month for some awesome opportunities for worship. Not only are we hosting the All-Music Service on the 10<sup>th</sup>, but on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be live streaming our *Foot Washing and Communion Service*. Of course, everyone is invited to come in person, but if you're unable to attend this awesome time of remembering our Savior, we would encourage you to participate at home. This great service will begin at 7 p.m. Then on Resurrection Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be live streaming two worship services. The first one will be at 7:30 a.m. Pastor Watts will be bringing the message in this special, Sunrise Service. The Praise Team will be leading us in song and worship. Of course, everyone is invited to come and celebrate with us, in-person. However, if you're unable to attend in-person, we'd love to have you join online on FaceBook.

Then at 10:30 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be gathering for the celebration of Christ being alive and seated at the Righthand of His Father. The Praise Team will be bringing some special music, Pastor Rob will be sharing, and we'll be heading into the Throne Room of Grace together.

So, mark your calendars and be a part of these special times of worship. The week leading up to Resurrection Sunday, the Home Churches and Ladies Bible Study will be meeting as well. Make sure that you make yourself available all week, or you just might miss your blessing from the Lord.



Are you a part of a Home Church? No? There is a great opportunity this month to meet everyone who is a part of the Home Churches, eat great food, and have some awesome fellowship.

On Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., the Home Churches are gathering together in the Multi-Purpose Room for a dinner and family games. This is a great opportunity to meet the new people who are attending the Home Churches. It is also a great opportunity to strengthen our relationships in the Body of Christ.

Mark your calendar and come as our guest. This is the first one of 4 for this year. The next one will be in July and it's going to be a Pool Party. Let's celebrate together the blessings of the Lord and have some fun together.



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Hope to see you soon.