

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Divine Aspirations

Did you have **childhood aspirations** of what you wanted to become?

- Musician, Scientist, Athlete, Singer, Police Officer...
- Soldier, Firefighter, Doctor, Nurse, Teacher...
- Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, Friend...

Some of you worked long & hard, and **did it**

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Do we have aspirations of what we want to become **as Christians**?

- Or are we **forgiven & redeemed**, and **that's enough**?
- If we **aim at nothing**, we're sure to hit it

Are there things **God wants us to aspire to** as His people?

- **Beginning** with the end in mind

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Matthew 18:3, And He said: "Truly I tell you, **unless you change and become like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

"Your kingdom **come**. Your will **be done on earth** as it is in heaven." (**Matt. 6:10**)

Do we think that is figurative?

- Or have we **grown up too much** want so much?
- Have **church traditions** squelched such high ideals?

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Matthew 16:19, "I will give you **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**; whatever you **bind** on earth

will be bound in heaven, and whatever you **loose** on earth will be loosed in heaven."

"Bind" = To **lock**, make tightly bound, or constrict by an act of the will

"Loose" = To **release**, break asunder, shatter to minute fragments

This is directly tied together with **His promise** to **"Build His church"**

- That **hell WILL NOT prevail against!**

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Is that still true?

I think **hell is working hard** to prevail against **HIS Church** right now!

- If you allow this to appear as political...
- Your vision is **WAY Too small!**

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II Corinthians 10:3-6, "For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh**. For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down **arguments** and every high thing that exalts itself **against the knowledge of God**, bringing every thought into captivity to **the obedience of Christ**, and being ready to punish all disobedience when **your obedience** is fulfilled."

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What were **Christ's weapons of obedience** against the assaults of hell?

- "It is written!"
- "It is written!"
- "It is written!"

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What are **our weapons of obedience**?

Ephesians 6:10-17, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **Put on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For **we do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and **having done all, to stand.**

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on **the breastplate of righteousness**, and having shod **your feet** with the preparation of **the gospel of peace**; above all, taking **the shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take **the helmet of salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is **the Word of God**"

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We will not have **God given aspirations** as Christians unless...

- We know **who God IS**
- What **He HAS said**
- That **we are His**

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"**Arguments** and every high thing that exalts itself **against the knowledge of God**"

- Are fiery darts **fired at us** from all sides in these times
- We need to know **who** we are, **what** we are & **why** we are
- To **stand as Christ did**
- To not be lured into the devil's game

"Has God indeed said?"

- He even misquoted scripture to Christ

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What are the aspirations **God wants us to want**?

- Aspirations **we can't have** without each other
- And **what are the keys**?

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Our supreme aspirations are in **Ephesians 4:11-16**

Vs. 13, "Till we all come to the **unity of the faith** and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of **the fullness of Christ**"

Vs. 16, "From whom **the whole body**, joined and knit together by what **every joint supplies**, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, **causes growth of the body** for the building up of itself **in love.**" (**Colossians 2:19**)

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The keys are **John 13:34-35** & **Acts 2:42-47**

- If our aspirations aren't for **more than ourselves...**
- They are **NOT** enough!
- **Proverbs 18:1**

Philippians 2:3-5, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **regard one another as more important than yourselves**; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**"

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I Corinthians 1:2, 12-13 & 12:12-27

Our ultimate expression is **among** the churches of our community!

(Please read the September **CONNECTION POINT**)