

# THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD



DECEMBER 10, 2017

## Living Faith Chapel, Calgary (Solution Center)

### WORD FOR THE WEEK

#### NECESSITY FOR WATCHFULNESS IN EXTENDED FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

We are grateful to our maker for giving us the grace to see another day in the year 2017. It is not by our power that we are alive to see the 344th day of the year. The Lord has made it possible that we are not consumed by the fury of the enemy, even when we did not have the qualification to be considered for protection. As *Lam 3:22* puts it: “*It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not*”.

In continuation of our study on relationships, we shall be considering the topic: “*Necessity for Watchfulness in Extended Family Relationships*.” An extended family is a family that extends beyond the nuclear family, consisting of parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, all living nearby or in the same household.

Relationships have profound effects on us. It affects our thoughts, our emotions, and actions that we take in every situation. Relationships can either move us forward or hinder our progress. Relationships affect who we become in life, and may also affect how long we live and where we end up on the side of eternity. We influence people, people also influence us. Some people are militant/strong willed/domineering and often like their opinions on things to be accepted by others, thereby exerting their influence on others whether that opinion is correct or wrong. Some other people are subtle in their approach to influencing others, while others, by their nature, are easily influenced. It is, however, important to watch out on who we hang out with. We are personally responsible for whatever steps we take in life, regardless of whoever influenced our decisions to take the steps. In other words, whatever anyone advised you to say or do, remember it is an advice and not a command. When advised, take time to process and weigh the potential consequences. Be ready to take responsibility for the outcomes. There are usually three basis of advice or influence exerted by people on others: (a) the knowledge of the advisor, (b) his/her personal interest on the matter, and (c) the extraneous influence using him/her as a tool. There are influences from some relationships that are often difficult to ward off because of their subtleness, our respect for the individuals involved, our attempt not to “ruffle the feathers” and our intent to maintain cordiality/collegiality. Such relationships include spousal, parental, sister/brother, uncle/aunt/cousin, boss/subordinate, and brethren/pastor relationships. In the case of cousin/friend relationship of Amnon with Jozabad (*2 Samuel 13*), Jozabad gave Amnon sinful advice which resulted into untimely death of Amnon, family feud and a series of other negative events. Let us learn from this extended family relationship.

At all times, remember it is your life and you are responsible for the outcome of your actions. When the chips are down, especially if the outcome is negative, whoever advised you to do what you did will say: “it was an advice”. So, own up. Be responsible. Don’t pass the buck. When someone advises you about anything, sit down, reprocess it and advice yourself. Your life depends on it. Your reputation, what you become in life, how you end your life and your eternity depends on how you respond to advice given. Don’t yield to pressure (*Prov 1:10-15; Rom 14:12; Mt 12:36*). Identify genuine friends and listen to them. Resist ungodly influences. Break all saprophytic relationships that only waste your time or only take from you without adding any good value to your life. Remember you have only one life to live and you will give account of how you live your life to God.

#### **Take home points:**

1. Evaluate the historical antecedents and reputation of the person/people you are relating with
2. Assess the merits and the demerits of every advice given in each specific situation
3. Avoid taking hasty and impromptu decision based on face value without praying and thinking through

The Lord will take away from us those that will truncate our destiny in Jesus’ name! He will deliver us from cousins like Jozabad in Jesus’ name! Watch out.

# KNOCK KNOCK

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

- MATTHEW 7:7 NIV

NOTE: If you have been blessed by our Word for the Week or inspired in any way by them, please let us know by sending an email to The Pastor at [pastor@rccglfc.org](mailto:pastor@rccglfc.org)