

God Is Our Refuge



Refuge Quarterly Newsletter



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Our Mission

To be a vibrant, growing, spiritually mature family of faith through God's transforming love of his son Jesus; producing healthy individuals and families and driving positive change for the glory of God.

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Wonder Working Power

There is power, power, wonder-working power, in the blood of the Lamb; There is power, power, wonder-working power, In the precious blood of the Lamb.



In King, M. L. (1968). Chaos or community? by Martin Luther King, Jr., he discusses the concept of power. "Power, properly understood, is the ability to achieve purpose. It is the strength required to bring about social, political or economic changes. In this sense power is not only desirable but necessary in order to implement the demands of love and justice. One of the greatest problems of history is that the concepts of love and power are usually contrasted as polar opposites.

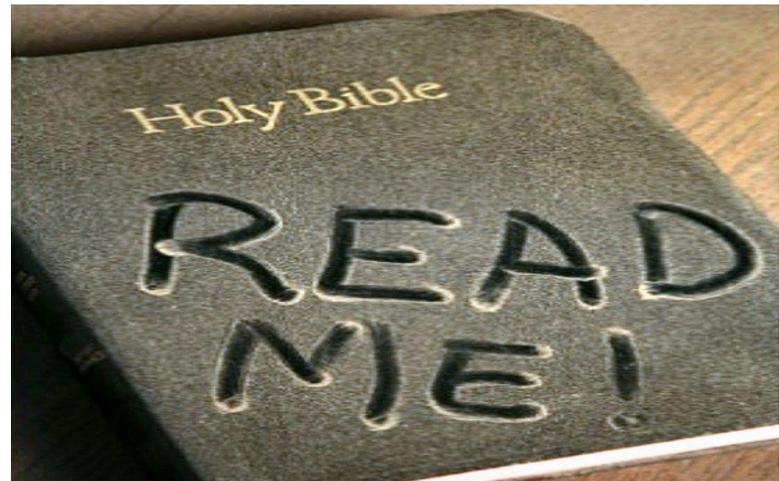
Love is identified with a resignation of power and power with a denial of love. What is needed is a realization that **power without love is reckless and abusive and that love without power is sentimental and anemic**. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.

There is nothing essentially wrong with power. The problem arises when power is unequally distributed. This has led many in the past to seek their goals through love and moral persuasion devoid of power and others to seek their goals through power devoid of love and conscience. It is leading a few extremists today to advocate for the same destructive and conscienceless power that they have justly abhorred in others. It is precisely this collision of immoral power with powerless morality which constitutes the major crisis of our times."

Spiritual power is the divine authority needed to carry out the work God has called us to do. We cannot "harness" the power of the Holy Spirit. This power is not just for preachers, evangelists, or people who work in special ministry; rather, it is available to every believer who willingly surrenders moment by moment in submission and obedience to the Holy Spirit.

We cannot garner the power of the Spirit in order to use God. We experience His power when we surrender to be used by Him. God releases His power through us as we walk in obedience to Him. He releases His power to us through the fruit of the Spirit. God's power and only God's power enables us to exhibit love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, which reveal the character of Christ in us.

Dr. King understood that with great power comes great responsibility. This responsibility includes loving as Christ loved. If we truly want to experience and exercise wonder-working power, we can only know it through the redemptive plan of salvation and the precious blood of the Lamb.



Dusty bibles lead to dirty lives.

REASON #1: Spiritual Growth – Some Christians believe once they get saved, that's it, nothing else is needed. It is important that we grow in our understanding of God's Word. Just as it's important for a baby to move from milk to solid food for physical development, it's equally important for believers to move from the milk of the word, the elementary things, to strong meat. Paul addresses this in 1 Corinthians, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. **2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat:** for you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." (1 Cor. 3:1-2)

REASON #2: Victory Over Sin – The Word of God instructs us on how to live a victorious life that is NOT enslaved to sin. He instructs us to "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Eph. 6:11) If we don't know God's Word, we are open to constant attacks.

REASON #3: Equipped to Serve in Our Spiritual Gifts – If we are unclear about how God operates because we don't study, we place ourselves at a disadvantage by not giving the Holy Spirit much to work with. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

REASON #4: To Share and Defend Our Faith – Has anyone ever asked you why you are a Christian and the best you can tell them is, "I just believe it"? Well, that's great but **WHY** do you believe it? It's important to know **WHAT** you believe and why you believe it, especially when discipling others. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer** to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. (1 Peter 3:15)



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Refuge Family,

I want you to know how humbled and grateful I am to serve you. Your consistent faith in the Lord is very encouraging. The Lord will most certainly bless you all for the sacrifices you have made to support Pastor Settles and this congregation. I am certain the world has presented many traps and diversions to discourage you, but you prevailed because you've put your trust in God. Just as Nehemiah had to stay focused as he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, we too must maintain our focus on Christ as He leads us into our next phase of service.

The promises of God, whether for an individual or a congregation, will come with obstacles and challenges. God's promise is that He will never leave us and that He will lead and guide us to all truth. To experience God's promises, we must continue to trust Him.

There are two known factors that must be exercised to succeed in God's will: prayer and the study of God's Word. As a church, we know these standards must be paramount in our lives. The leadership team, in an effort to see God's favor on our ministry, re-committed ourselves to holding mid-week bible study and consistent corporate prayer for the congregation.

Refuge Church's foundation is in the study of God's Word and Prayer. There are many who can testify about their miraculous encounters as a result of this church and our stand for the Lord. We believe there is a heart stirring revival taking place among us. One thing about a God-driven revival is that it's contagious. We want to expand and grow far beyond our level of our thinking since the time when we first received Christ. This expansion and growth will reflect and positively impact our thinking and actions.

Our greatest desire is for us to become more selfless and more focused on others. We want the Holy Spirit to purge our lips as He did for Isaiah, and we too will say, "Here am I Lord, send me." We want a renewed heart for nurturing and discipling others, that they may know Christ in a way that's livable. We want our refreshed hearts to feel a strong passion to love and touch those who are unchurched.

This refined direction that we're seeking and believing God for requires your support and prayers. We sincerely ask that you stand with us, as we go forward to the next phase that God is so lovingly preparing for Refuge Church. We're asking three things in our prayers for this phase: first, the Lord's favor in the Olney area; second, influence and connection with those who will help build us up spiritually and financially; and third, that our outreach center will be paid in full.

From the Pastor's Desk Continued

Again, we appreciate your tireless effort and the support you give so unselfishly. We believe that with God, nothing shall be impossible. As we enter this last quarter of the year, please plan for completion and success in every endeavor. May the Lord bless you and keep you through His gracious power.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Orlando



Upcoming Events

- **Women's Quarterly Prayer
Sunday, December 8, 2019
8:00 – 9:00 am**
- **Fall Levi Day
Saturday, October 19, 2019
9:00 am – 1:00 pm**



Sunday Morning Family Fun! Beginning the first Sunday in November – get your 'act' together with family members or friends and get on the schedule to do an 'a' or a 'b' selection – a fun holiday song, a poem, a dance, or a mime as part of the Sunday Morning service. Let's have fun together.

Contact Sister Karen for more information or if you have questions.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Increased visibility is in sight! Successful and fun Food Drives in Support of Olney Help were held Saturday, July 27 and Saturday, October 5, from 8:00 am – Noon at the Olney Giant.

Our first **Community Outreach Sunday** was a success! Skip Plate, Outreach Director for Olney Help joined us and shared a few words about the organization, what they do and how we can continue to partner with them to support our Olney community.



Caleb, holding it down for the youth on Saturday, July 27, 2019.

Monetary donations to Olney Help can be made on *Givelify* or write 'Olney Help' on your tithe envelope. All donations will go directly to Olney Help.

Our next Community Outreach Sunday will be March 29, 2020. Stay tuned for our highlighted organization.

Refuge participated with the Olney Chamber of Commerce Community Night, October 14 at Good Counsel High School.

The Olney Lions and The Olney Chamber of Commerce present a Special Night at the Theatre Event for Members.

Discounted \$55.00 ticket includes Pre-Production Reception for **"Singin' in the Rain"**, Saturday, November 9, 2019, at 8:00pm at the Olney Theatre Centre

Contact the church office for more information if you would be interested in attending.



Sunday Morning Prayer 8:45
 Sunday School: 9:00 – 10:00 am
 Service 10:30 – 12:00 pm

Bible Study – Every other Thursday

- October 10 and 24
- November 7 and 21
- December 5 and 19

Sat Morning Prayer – The church is open for prayer from 8-9 am
 Women's Quarterly Prayer – Second Sunday from 8-9 am

- December 8 2019
- March 8, 2020
- June 14, 2020
- September 13, 2020
- December 13, 2020



Leadership Team:

R. Lamont and Kathy Settles, Sr. Pastor
 Orlando and Denise Edwards, Pastor
 Jessie and Deborah Lynch-Butler, Elder
 Gary and Deborah Randolph, Elder
 Raphael and Robin Rice, Deacon/Deaconess

Contact Us

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Serving Our Community; Serving You