

Announcements!

Weekly Bible Study We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study, held upstairs each Tuesday evening beginning at 6 pm. We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

Children's Church Children's Church is available upstairs on the 2nd-5th Sundays starting at 11:00 am. Ages 2-10 are welcome to attend. Please sign your children in and out. A snack is served. Please pick up your children promptly after services. ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED. If you are interested in serving in Children's Church, please see Sarita Agee.

Words of Wisdom: A Butterfly...

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no further. So the man decided to help the butterfly, he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If God allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never fly.

I asked for Strength.....
And God gave me Difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for Wisdom.....
And God gave me Problems to solve.

I asked for Prosperity.....
And God gave me Brain and Brawn to work.

I asked for Courage.....
And God gave me Danger to overcome.

I asked for Love.....
And God gave me Troubled people to help.

I asked for Favors.....
And God gave me Opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted.....
I received everything I needed.





Welcome to the
Everlasting Covenant Church



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Follow Us:  "The Everlasting Covenant Church", Birmingham, AL
 "THE_ECC2015"

Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor

July 8, 2018

Vision Statement:



*Enhancing Our Knowledge of Jesus Christ,
Empowering All Believers for Ministry, and
Encouraging Continuous Dedication to the Lord.*

Order of Services

Fellowship | Refreshments – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Services – 11:00 a.m.

Announcements & Recognition of Visitors

Call to Worship: Scripture Reading & Prayer

Tithes and Offerings; Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praise and Worship Selections

Sermon

Invitation to Christ

Benediction

Gifts...

Taken from <https://mintools.com/blog/dysfunction.htm>

A question was posed about the dysfunctional use of spiritual gifts. I hesitate with this because by definition, spiritual gifts are special divine empowerments. For me to say that spiritual gifts can be used dysfunctionally feels like an affront to God, like He can make a mistake, like His ways are not perfect, like His power is not sufficient. When spiritual gifts are truly used, they accomplish what they are supposed to according to His power at work in and through us. Maybe we should ask if dysfunction is present because spiritual gifts are not really being used. Or, perhaps the dysfunction is in the person and not in the use of the gift. Maybe it is our approach to spiritual gifts that is dysfunctional.

Dysfunction Defined:

The Encarta World English Dictionary provides three definitions for the word dysfunctional:

1. relating badly;
2. not performing as expected;
3. affected by disease or impairment

When something is dysfunctional, then, it is not functioning as it should. In what ways might our approach to spiritual gifts be dysfunctional? The next three posts will attempt to answer that question. (Subscribe to receive e-mail notice of new posts.)

Effects of Dysfunction: Dysfunction affects interpersonal relationships, performance, and even our health. The effects spill over onto other people. So, in the Body of Christ, we will begin to see disunity, ineffectiveness, and a lack of growth because of a dysfunctional approach to spiritual gifts. The effects of dysfunction are the opposite of God's desires for the Church.

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. (Eph. 4:11-15) Hence, a dysfunctional approach to spiritual gifts does not glorify God.

Dysfunction Broken: As with any kind of dysfunction, we can change when we apply the following to our situation:

Truth - "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (Jn. 8:32)

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5)

Grace - "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age." (Titus 2:11-12)

Power - "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." (2 Pet. 1:3)

Sermon Notes

Scripture: _____

Subject: _____

Notes: _____
