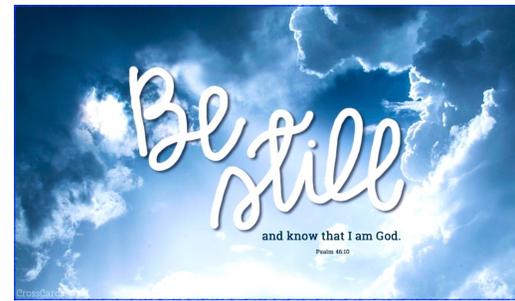




We are honored and blessed to have you worshipping with us today and we extend our warmest welcome. Our service is modeled after the New Testament pattern of worship. If you have questions or concerns please express them to us. We are all here to serve.

**Let's Pray!** **Health** - Zandra, Ebony, Donna, Francisco and Wanda, Peaches, Prince, Leola and Larry, Thom and Mary Elizabeth, Irma, TC, Sylvia and Patrick, Carol's mother Loretta, Darla. Heather (Blake Brass' mother). **Surgery/Recovery** - Lenard, Lorena, Jullian's arm, Ricky and Albert Young (Lorena's brothers). **Also** - The well being of Kevin Williams and family. Shannon's well being. Paul Brass' well being.

- Today's Services**
- Singing
  - Opening Prayer
  - Singing
  - Preaching
  - Invitation Song
  - Communion Song
  - Communion
  - Offering
  - Announcements
  - Closing Song
  - Closing Prayer



Become an Ambassador

**Spiritual Uplifting**  
April 22 and April 25  
Be Thankful Jesus loves us

**God's Plan of Salvation**

Hear	Romans 10:17
Believe	Mark 16:15-16
Repent	Luke 13:3-5
Confess	Matthew 10:32-33
Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Live Faithfully	Revelation 2:10

**Mini Gospel Meeting**  
April 29th-30th  
7:00 PM  
God's Work Our Hands

**Schedule of Services**

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Class	7:00 PM

**Test Your Bible Knowledge**  
Saturday May 11th  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
growing in CHRIST



## A God Who Never Sleeps!

by Rodney Nulph

A song that is found in many of our different hymn books has a line that goes something like this, “There’s an all-seeing eye watching you, everyday mind the course you pursue.” The ever-present eye of God is an irrefutable fact. The Psalmist rhetorically asked, “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?” (Psalm 139:7). “He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep” (Psalm 121:3b-4). While God’s omniscience and omnipresence are known facts, sometimes we may forget these attributes of God, especially when we find ourselves in difficult times. The prophet Habakkuk seemed to have forgotten about the awesome fact that God is everywhere all the time, and His power never wanes, nor does He sleep! Habakkuk felt as though God was not hearing his pleas and may have even forgotten about the heinous sins that Judah was committing (Habakkuk 1:2-4). In this interesting dialogue between the prophet and God, God reminded Habakkuk that although it may seem that He was not active, such is **never** the case! God answered Habakkuk (1:5-11) and powerfully reminded him that He sees all, knows all and will vindicate the righteous and bring vengeance upon the unrighteous. Just exactly Who is this God Who never sleeps?

**He is amazing.** “Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: **for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you**” (Habakkuk 1:5). Mankind simply cannot always see the continuous activity of God. When life’s burdens press down, we far too often



forget that God is still there and is still at work. Even as Habakkuk’s faith was faltering because he felt as though God was not listening, God was busy fashioning the events on earth to complete His very plans. These plans were so amazing that Habakkuk would be “utterly astounded” (NKJV). We must always remember that God does **not** settle all of His accounts on Friday! There is

never a time when God is not in control of everything this world can possibly muster up. He is amazing!

**He is authoritative.** “For, lo, **I raise up** the Chaldeans...” (Habakkuk 1:6a). God was the authority and power behind this destruction. The Chaldeans (i.e. Babylonians), surely thought they were the authority and that they were determining the fate of Judah, but such was not the case! We, like Habakkuk, sometimes forget that it is God Almighty that rules among the nations, or as the Psalmist would pen, “he is the governor among the nations” (Psalm 22:28). There is no power except that which comes from God (Romans 13:1). Jesus reminded Pontius Pilate, “...Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above...” (John 19:11). God is authoritative!

**He is able.** “Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction” (Habakkuk 1:12). Like Habakkuk, we must recount and remember that the God we serve is more than able to handle the world He created. God does not need our input or “wisdom”! Job was quickly reminded of that fact when he questioned God (Job 38-41). I love how Paul penned it. “Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly

abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20). God is able because He is “strong and mighty” (Psalm 24:8), because power belongs to Him (Psalm 62:11) and He is abundant in strength (Psalm 147:5). Whether man recognizes it or not, God is able!

How often do we fail to recognize that no matter what this life brings, God is bigger? Our humanity, like Habakkuk’s humanity, sometimes forgets the amazing nature of God; we sometimes fail to call to mind the authoritative power of God, and we sometimes even go so far as to forget the ability of the God we serve. Dear reader, there is simply **nothing** too big for God! May we face life’s struggles with confidence because our **God never sleeps!**

## The Bird and the Squirrel

by Ed Benesh

Every Monday through Friday, twice a day, almost without fail, my youngest son and I make the short trek of about five miles from our house to his school and then back again. Each day, we see the same businesses and even some of the same vehicles as they travel with the same regularity the path that we do. One landmark that we pass is a rather large cemetery in which there are several large trees. Unless there are groundskeepers about or funeral arrangements being made, we usually see an array of animals moving amongst these trees gathering what we imagine is a hardy breakfast.

Most abundant are the squirrels and a host of birds, taking advantage of the well-groomed garden-like atmosphere of the cemetery. This morning, however, we had the chance, while we sat on the street in front of this place waiting for traffic to clear, to witness and unusual

phenomenon. A squirrel, minding his own business and seemingly bent on gathering his day’s ration of squirrelly food, found himself under the claws of a bird of prey, who seemingly had a different, meaty breakfast in mind. The bird swooped, grabbed, rolled, twisted, flew off, dove once more, grabbed, missed, twisted, flew off, only to dive over and over in an attempt to make the squirrel its meal.

There was one major problem in this bird’s plan that was readily perceptible to my son and me but obviously not to the bird. The squirrel was about the same size if not bigger than the bird. There was just no way that this bird, with its diminutive size, was ever going to get that squirrel off the ground, no matter how hungry it was or how big it perceived itself.

Ever find yourself in a position like this bird? Have you ever bitten off more than you can chew and ended up paying the price? Most of us have. It is great to think big and shoot for the stars, especially when it comes to spiritual matters when we have given it all over to God to do the impossible. Yet, we must understand that God will work within the natural order of things, which means He will take his time, often bringing the triumphs and victories to us slowly, one bite at a time. He made a king out of the lowly shepherd boy David, but it took years, even after his anointing, through many odd and twisted paths.

Many times, we, like Abraham, who decided to seek a “son of promise” through the handmaiden Hagar, run ahead of God and bite off more than for which we bargained. That never ends well and almost always brings sorrow and mourning. Today, let God lead you, and be patient enough to walk His timeline. He will show you the way.

