



PATHS

The Ministry of Evangelist Tom Hayes
tomhayes.org

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• Issue 1



Tom, Cindy & Akaisha

THE POTENTIAL OF A NEW YEAR

We're grateful for new beginnings, new goals, new opportunities, new friends, new paths, new blessings, and new burdens.

THE PLEASURE OF A GREAT START

The meetings thus far have been tremendous. For the new converts, and for the movements toward the Lord – we bless His name!

THE POWER OF A DIVINE WORD

We know the Word of God is “quick and powerful” (Heb. 4:12). Pray as the Word is preached from week to week.

Date	Church	Location	Pastor
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	Liberty Baptist Church	Bowden, GA	Rev. Ken Bowman
Feb. 2-4	Antioch Baptist Church	Bristol, VA	Rev. Brad Davis
Feb. 8-10	Turner's Creek Baptist Church	Yadkinville, NC	Dr. Bobby Russell
Feb. 13-15	Laura Baptist Church	Starke, FL	Rev. Lester Austin
Feb. 18-20	Calvary Baptist Church	Belmont, NC	Rev. Fred Helms
Feb. 22-25	High Point Baptist Church	Gaffney, SC	Rev. Clifford Phillips
Mar. 1	Calvary Baptist Church	Chattanooga, TN	Dr. Steve Roberson
Mar. 6-8 AM	Jackson Bible Church	Jackson, SC	Rev. Allen Cantrell
Mar. 8 PM	Zirconia Baptist Church	Zirconia, NC	Rev. Travis Parker
Mar. 9-11	Liberty Baptist Church	Churchill, TN	Rev. Randy Barron
Mar. 15-18	Providence Road Baptist Church	Maiden, NC	Rev. Charles Worley
Mar. 22-25	Holly Springs Baptist Church	Rutherfordton, NC	Rev. Wade Huntley
Mar. 29-Apr. 1	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Rutherfordton, NC	Rev. Brent Frady
Apr. 5-8	Maple Lawn Baptist Church	Reidsville, NC	Rev. Crawford Bradshaw
Apr. 12-14	Golden Creek Baptist Church	Liberty, SC	Rev. Randy McAlister
Apr. 15-19 AM	Copperas Branch Baptist Church	Lawrenceburg, TN	Rev. Bob Weldon
Apr. 20-24	Mt. Olivet Baptist Church	Tuxedo, NC	Rev. John Saunders
Apr. 26-29	Woodlawn & E. Waynesville	Waynesville, NC	Rev. Davis & Rev. Walls

“Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” (Jer. 33:3).

Christ's Invincible Rule

"And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

My wife left our grandsons with me while she went to the grocery store. As they were playing games, I explained that I would be up in my study if they needed me. I doubt it had been over ten minutes when I heard them running up the steps. With a gray look of fear on their faces, they said they had heard something. Although I did not enjoy much study time, they seemed to find great consolation in my presence and accessibility.

Jesus had promised His disciples that He was going back to the Father (see John 14:2). In the difficult circumstances of the future, they would find comfort in knowing that He was accessible to them. In this setting (Acts 1:1-11), we have the record of His ascension. Everything His followers had witnessed in His death, burial, resurrection spoke of Christ's invincible rule. In His ascension, He assured them that He continued to be the ruling Lord.

First, there is great comfort in:

1. Christ's Invincible Rule Over His Enemies

When Jesus died on the cross, He did not die as a defeated leader. He died as the Powerful Victor, the Mighty Conqueror, the Strong Overcomer. In answer to the foundational prophecy of the Bible (Gen. 3:15), He crushed the head of the tempter. *Jesus ruled over that enemy known as the devil.* He destroyed him "that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14). Death laid hold on Christ's body and it was buried in a tomb. But, on the third day, "God . . . loosed the pains of death" and the Lord of life came forth in resurrection power. *Jesus ruled over that enemy known as death.* Now, we can rejoice and ask the questions, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Cor. 15:55). Hallelujah, Christ arose! And, in triumphant authority, He ascended back to heaven and sat down at the Father's right hand. His ascension, therefore, teaches us that there is comfort in His invincible rule over His enemies.

Again, there is great comfort in:

2. Christ's Invincible Rule Over All Earthlings

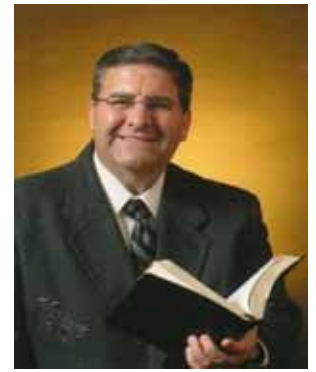
Throughout Christ's earthly sojourn, many sought to malign the Savior. Attempts were made to depict Him as a traitor and a false teacher. He was "hated . . . without a cause" (John 15:25). Yet, no man overcame the Christ! *Jesus ruled over all earthlings in the ministry of His life.* When the people of His old home church, the synagogue of Nazareth, threatened to cast Him over a steep hill, He simply passed "through their midst" and "went His way" (Luke 4:30). *Jesus ruled over all earthlings in the mediatorship of His death.* When Jesus was tried and crucified, the religious leaders thought that they were in charge. But He was in charge of His own death. Concerning His life, He said, "No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself" (John 10:18). In giving His life for sinners, the cross became His throne. In His ascension, then, rising beyond the reach of men, we find comfort in His invincible rule over all earthlings.

There is great comfort, as well, in:

3. Christ's Invincible Rule Over The Elements

We read that, "while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight." The words "taken up" indicate that He was "lifted up" (1:9). *Jesus ruled over the gravitational pull.* Gravity could not hinder His purpose. As Lord over the elements, He simply began to rise, to become airborne. *Jesus ruled over the atmospheric pressures.* The air and the cloud cooperated with His authority. He caught a cloud on earth and went back to heaven because He is Lord both on earth and in heaven. In his Gospel, Luke wrote, "And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven" (Luke 24:51). In the book of Acts, he explained, "And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven . . . He went up" (1:10). Revealing His divine ability to rise above all powers and hindrances, the sovereign Lord gloriously ascended. And His invincible rule over the elements comforts our hearts.

If Jesus overcame the devil; if He overcame death; if He overcame the schemes of men in His death on the cross; if He overcame the elements in ascending back to heaven; then, there are no circumstances in our lives that are too big for Him. There are no obstacles that He cannot overcome. Oh, may our hearts find great comfort in Christ's invincible rule. Amen.



Evang. Tim Fowler

I want to recommend my dear long-time friend, Tim Fowler, to those who are interested in a Bible-preaching evangelist for their conferences and revival meetings. Having pastored for 25 years, Tim brings pastoral experience and rich expository preaching to the pulpit. For further details and information, please call me, or personally contact him at:

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Prayer Requests

- Cindy's parents
- Tom's parents
- Safety in travel
- Revival meetings
- Salvation of souls
- Spirit of revival

