

“Perfect Love Casts Out Fear”

When I was a child, I had all kinds of fears. I was afraid of the “Twilight Zone” theme music. I was afraid to sleep alone. Clowns gave me the creeps but the granddaddy of all of my fears was the fat man in the red suit. I was terrified of him and unfortunately for me, in that day you didn’t go stand in line to see him. Oh no! He went in stores and approached you. It was awful. I had to stay alert everywhere I went and even then, he would sometimes catch me by surprise. More than once I remember grabbing my Mother’s legs and hiding my face in the folds of her skirt. (I guess I thought if I couldn’t see him, he couldn’t see me.) The good news is I out grew that fear. The bad news is my poor Mother never got to have that sweet picture of me sitting on his lap for the family album.



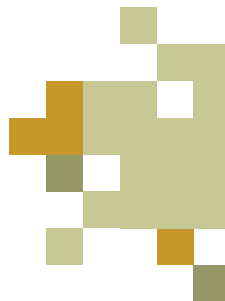
Turns out I passed that being scared of Santa gene down to my daughter. When she was little, she didn’t care for him either but fortunately for her, times had changed. He no longer roamed the stores. He was confined to his throne and the responsibility fell on the kids to go see him. To her credit, she always tried. We would stand in line for a while but as she got closer and closer, her courage would wane and we would get out of line. I understood her fear so I never pushed. I felt that eventually she would overcome the fear, hopefully in time for her Santa picture to make the family album.

The day finally arrived. She was now in Kindergarten and she was officially a big girl. With this new role she felt she could jump the Santa hurdle. My parents took her to see him. They waited in line, not knowing if she would tough it out or not. Finally, it was her turn. She froze. He asked if she would like to come closer and sit on his lap. She replied, “No. I’ll just stand here and shout to you.” And that’s exactly what she did. She was too afraid to get close to him but she knew it was important for him to know her wish list. So she stood at a distance and shouted her requests. It was a step in the right direction for the next year I got the coveted Santa picture for our family album.

Staci’s story declares a very strong truth. Facing fear is the first step in overcoming it. Joyce Meyer defines FEAR as false evident appearing real. If we take a minute to look at the evidence, we may see there’s nothing to fear. King David didn’t deny he was sometimes afraid but he faced his fear by reminding himself, “What time I am afraid I will trust in God.” (Psalm 56:3) However, God eliminates fear by this promise, “Fear not, for I am with you” (Isaiah 43:5).

My childhood fears probably seem very silly to you. Your fears may seem equally silly to me but saying they are silly will not make them go away. Learning the Word of God and claiming it for our lives and situations will. For His promise holds true that “perfect love casts out fear.” (I John 4:18). That’s something we can count on; the fact that He loves us and that His love is perfect!! What else do we need?

~ Donna English



Westwood Hills Church of God

We Care about You!

LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR
HEARTS, SINCE AS MEMBERS OF ONE BODY YOU
WERE CALLED TO PEACE. AND BE THANKFUL.
COLOSSIANS 3:15

Welcome Home to Westwood Hills!

Today is February 22, 2009.

We are located at:

1520 NW 34th Street Gainesville, Fl. 32605

Office: (352) 378-5190 Fax: (352) 371-6782

Or visit us on the Web at: www.westwoodhillsministries.org

Prayer Requests and Praise Testimonies may be sent by phone, in person,

Or e-mailed to: prayerrequests@westwoodhillsministries.org

Pastor's Blog Page: <http://ebobkuschel.wordpress.com>

Welcome to the Westwood Hills Church of God!

God is moving in our Church and changing lives through the power of the Word and the Holy Spirit and my desire is for you to experience it for yourself. At Westwood Hills, you can always count on being loved and having the opportunity to worship and praise the Lord, because at Westwood Hills, it's always ALL ABOUT HIM!

E . Bob Kuschel, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor



Last Sunday's Giving

Benevolence	5.00
Missions Williams	110.00
Children's Ministry	25.00
Debt Reduction	40.00
Youth Ranch	10.00
Youth Ministries	7.00
Missions Fund	22.00
Guatemala 2009	75.00
General Fund	219.91
Tithes	2076.00
Total.....	2589.91

20 families brought their tithes to Westwood Hills last week.

Church "Matters"

Today: Join us for movie night at 6:00 pm

We will be showing the much heralded film

" Fireproof. "

Every Sunday at 9:40 am there is a

Pre-service Prayer Meeting in room #105.

Everyone is invited to participate in this

God Is Good To Me

Please Keep In Prayer:

Pastor Kuschel & Family

Gloria Broglia

Jim Windham

Gloria Brown

Mary Windham

Juanita Fillyaw

Naisa Jourdan

Olive Garden



Happy Birthday

Sandy Kuschel 2/24

Mary Windham 2/28