

---

---

# KOINONIA

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship (Koinonia) of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”*  
2 Corinthians 13:14

---

NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

April 2024



Matthew 26:34 Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

This passage from the Gospel of Matthew is where Peter proclaims that even if all the others fall away, he never will. Then, responding to Jesus’ words, Peter doubles down and declares that he is even willing to die. I wonder if we have overlooked Jesus’ reasons for telling the apostles that they will fall away?

Having first heard this account as a kid in Sunday School, my earliest impression was that Jesus wanted them to feel guilty about deserting him in his most critical hour. By warning them ahead of time, they would feel even worse when their inevitable failure came, especially once they realized all that Jesus had done for them and the world. Maybe that greater sorrow for their own depravity would strengthen their resolve to follow Jesus? We know that Peter would “weep bitterly” when he realized he had denied Jesus as predicted. We know too that Peter would boldly proclaim the gospel after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension.

Yet there is a clue in Jesus’ warning. In verse 32, Jesus said, “But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Jesus knew that his closest friends would desert him. In fact, he wanted them to know that he knew that they would do this, and that he wasn’t done with them! Paul says in Romans 5:8, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” How true were these words to Peter? While Peter was denying and abandoning his Lord, Jesus was going to the cross to pay for his sins!

Though Jesus’ warning would have brought defensiveness, then guilt, shame and regret, these words would one day bring assurance that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Like the apostles, Jesus knows even the smallest details and specifics of when, where, how, and why we will mess up in the future, down to the background noises like a rooster crowing. Yet, he is not done with us either.



---

## WEDNESDAY PRAYER TIME



1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month  
Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
7:00 pm

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month for a time to pray for: one another; our church family; the mission, purpose, staff, and leaders of Norwin Alliance Church; the church universal; our community; our nation; and the world. If you have a specific prayer request, please join us for this time of prayer, or if you cannot attend, please contact the church office with your prayer request. We pray that this special time of monthly prayer together will help us see what God wants us to do as a church and build unity in and through our church members.

*“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”*

- Matthew 18:19-20

---



**VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA**

Former evangelist Billy Graham had a testimony of God's love as he preached the 'Biblical message of the Good News of God's salvation, which comes by grace alone through faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning death on the cross for our sins. Biblical salvation is far deeper, because it gets at the root of man's problem---the problem of sin.'

Billy Graham's son, Franklin often refers to his father and has returned to several countries where his father held crusades in the past. It is interesting when Franklin mentions a college or university where his father had spoken and was 'always true to the Gospel. His reply was: The Bible says....and share God's truth.'

And down to another generation is Will Graham, who travels to many countries and shares the Gospel as did his grandfather Billy Graham; and now Franklin and Will. It is exciting to know a family continues as a messenger/preacher of the Word of God; and it is into the third generation. We need to uphold them in prayer!!!

(Basic information was found in Decision magazine, February 2024.)

Quote from Franklin Graham in Turning Point: In reference to Psalms 86:5: 'Our frail, mortal bodies will one day be instantly changed by His power into new, immortal bodies like that of Christ. We will have redeemed souls and redeemed bodies, living in a new Heaven and a new Earth. Praise God!!'

And Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

"We live in a world where many people have turned their backs on the Lord and do not live according to His ways. But the Word of God is the only absolute truth we have and it was "written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15: 4)

As we remind ourselves of the Billy Graham Evangelism Association and the many different ways of reaching out to every age of people 1. PRAYER . Filling a shoebox for children every year. After storms, volunteers help to rebuild homes; Chaplains minister in teaching the Word of God; etc. just a very few assistances. Think of the way God wants you to help!!

Personal Summit  
Part 2

By nature, I'm not a gambler and crawling up the side of a rock, I'll pass. We all face mountains we are not in the mood for. Mountains of suffering, unsaved family, loss of loved ones. It is not easy staring at unbelievable circumstances. Prayers go up, months roll into years. Yet Scripture comforts. I Thessalonians 5:16-18, *"Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* Matthew 17:20 KJV, *"And Jesus said unto them, 'Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto the mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."* Psalm 30:5, *"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."*

Seemingly overnight I awoke clothed in a crimson-colored garment of praise, the collar adorned with glistening pearls of hope, joy and the peace that passes understanding. Sipping my morning coffee, I noticed something. Well now, it seems that I have lost track of that pesky mountain. If you find it, please return it to the sender, the father of lies.

Blessings,  
Deborah D.

