

**Crossville Church
of Christ**

P.O. Box 211

Crossville, TN 38557

Phone

484-5297 or 484-2960

Fax 707-0025

Bible Call

707-5523 or 707-5532

Elders:

Frank Bohannon
Eddie Brown
Bill Foland
Al Griffin
Jonathan Loveday
Larry McDuffee
Clyde Randolph

Deacons:

Jim Bell
Kyle Fairman
Jimmy Harris
David Kerley
Doug Loveday
Greg Maxwell
Brian McLaughlin
Mark Roberts
Roger Smith
Jon Tatum
Jason Wyatt
Jerry Wood

Minister:

Barry Kennedy

Missionaries:

Don Iverson
Jim Waldron
(India)

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study	9 AM
Sunday Worship	10 AM
	6 PM
Wednesday	6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays	11AM
----------	------

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays	10 AM
----------	-------

Joyful Generation

(Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

COMPASS

**Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation**

www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org

Email: mainstchurch@volfirst.net

crossville_elders@volfirst.net



March 27, 2011



**“As we have therefore
opportunity, let us do good
unto all men, especially
unto them who are of the
household of faith”
(Galatians 6:10).**

POTENTIAL

Barry Kennedy

“You have great potential.” Who wouldn’t like to hear these words? After all, to be told we have potential is a compliment, right? To answer that question one should consider the definition of the word potential. Encarta defines potential as: “Possible but as yet not actual.” With that definition one might assume this is an insult more than a compliment. “You have potential” could be interpreted, “You could be something but you are not.” God sees what we can be and makes the way of achieving it possible. Therefore, God sees our POTENTIAL. Do we see the potential each one of us possesses?

POTENTIAL TO FAIL. Within every one of us is the ability to choose. Having the ability to choose means we have the ability to make the wrong choice. Therefore, we have the potential to fail. History proves this to be a reality. Adam and Eve were given a choice in the garden (Genesis 1-3). Just think, the Garden of Eden (a perfect place), Adam and Eve, (perfect people) everything that God could give them was at their disposal, with just one negative command. Just one potential to fail and you guessed it, they lived up to their potential (Genesis 3:6). The reality is, if Adam and Eve had not eaten of the tree someone else would. The reality is that we all have the potential to fail.

POTENTIAL TO SUCCEED. When God made man, He created him in His own image (Genesis 1:26). Even after man failed, God still offered success to his crown of creation (Genesis 3:15; John 3:16). Of course, success is not totally in our hands. When one leaves God out of the equation, there can be no real success, but with God success is not only possible, it is promised. Paul made this point to the church in Philippi when he wrote, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Philippians 4:13). Of course, one must evaluate what constitutes true success. Does wealth constitute true success? No, any determined hard worker, as well as a common thief, could amass financial gain. Is a happy marriage the mark of true success? It may seem to be less common for there to be very many happily ever afters in today’s society, but that still does not sum up true success. True success is not measured in this life, but in the life to come. Solomon summed up the purpose of man’s life when he wrote, *“Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Jesus also confirmed this truth when He warned against covetousness, *“for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth”* (Luke 12:15). Jesus continued with the parable of a rich farmer which concluded with the admonition to be *“...rich toward God”* (Luke 12:21). Therefore, true success is an eternal life with the Lord. That potential to succeed is available to every man who is willing to obey Him. *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”* (Hebrews 5:8-9).

POTENTIAL TO REPENT. The potential to repent has to be one of the greatest gifts God has made available, especially if one considers the potential every man has to fail. God is patient with man, offering him time to repent. *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2Peter 3:9). We may make mistakes (potential to fail), but God gives us the opportunity to repent (potential to succeed). When one realizes that sin is against God, it produces sorrow that has no equal. *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death”* (2Corinthians 7:10).

Are we ready to live up to our potential? Are we willing to be another statistic in the world of failures, or will we repent and take our place in the success category?

“AID” OR “ADDITION” — WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE”

Wayne Jackson

A kindly gentleman replies: “Because musical instruments are not authorized by the New Testament, hence, they are additions to the divine pattern which prescribes Christian worship.” But the intrigued visitor probes further: “Why then do you use song books? Aren’t these also additions?” “No, the brother replies, “our song books are merely aids; there’s a difference between an addition and an aid.”

Conversations like the previous take place on numerous occasions. There is much confusion in discerning the difference between an “addition” and an “aid.” What is the difference? This is a great question, and we focus briefly on it in this week’s Penpoint.

How is an “addition” distinguished from an “aid”? An addition occurs when a particular action has been altered, or the fundamental composition or substance of a thing has been changed. An aid alters nothing; it merely facilitates the implementation of the action or substance, without changing anything. Perhaps several examples will help us focus on this.

Aids vs. Additions. A cane may aid one in taking a walk, but with or without this device, one is just walking. But if one walks for a while, and then rides a bicycle, he is no longer just walking; something has been added to his mode of travel. Now, he’s both walking and riding.

A mother sends her son to the market to buy a loaf of bread. He brings the bread home in a bag. The bag is merely an aid. Should he purchase a candy bar as well, he has disregarded the instruction of his mother by an addition.

A man takes his automobile to the service center for an oil change. The attendant may use a wrench and funnel to aid in his replacement of the oil. There is no problem with that. But we all understand that if he changes the spark plugs as well, he has augmented the original instructions.

Jesus taught that the communion supper is to consist of bread and fruit of the vine. A table, plates, and cups facilitate (aid) the implementation of those commands. But to garnish the bread with peanut butter, and “punch up” the fruit of the vine with ginger ale, is to be guilty of addition.

Christians are obligated to preach the gospel everywhere to the extent of their ability. In order to accomplish this, it is acceptable to use aids (e.g., tracts, television, the world wide web, or a building). But if one combines something with that gospel (as the Judaizers did in the first century when they taught that circumcision, an element of the Mosaic law, is also necessary to receive salvation – Acts 15:1), that is an offense.

When the church commences the praise portion of its service, the saints may “sing,” for such is enjoined by God (Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16). Christians may employ song books, a projection screen, or a tuning fork (to determine the appropriate “pitch”). Still, though, in the final analysis, they would be singing only.

On the other hand, if the church sings to the accompaniment of an organ, piano, etc., those thus participating have added something to what the Lord authorized. There now are two types of music – vocal and instrumental. The nature of the original command has been supplemented.

Additions are wrong. And so, the serious Bible student must conclude that the use of a mere aid only accommodates obedience to God’s will. Such expediencies may fluctuate from time-to-time and from place-to-place.

On the other hand, those who respect the authority of the sacred Scriptures will not tamper with the divine prescriptions for worship by the clutterment of additions. They will not add to sacred instruction, for to do so is to invite the wrath of God ultimately.

One needs to remember what happened to those who put God’s Ark of the Covenant on a “new” cart (2 Sam. 6:3), instead of transporting the sacred chest as the law had required (Ex. 25:12-14). David later admitted that this addition was “not according to the [divine] ordinance” (1 Chron. 15:13). It pays to know the difference between an “aid” and an “addition.”

To many, such matters perhaps seem rather trivial. This is because they have never fathomed the concept of the necessity of absolute obedience to the sovereign Creator.