

## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

(Tuesday – 02/02/09 – Pastor Pete Norris)

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. **Ephesians 2:19**

We are no longer strangers and foreigners. No more! We are part of the family and household of God, and in this verse He pronounces a benediction on us. He tells us to stop bringing up our past because we are no longer strangers and foreigners, but members of His family. We have access to Him and His home, and we are to “come home” confidently and boldly at all times and in all places and under all circumstances. If we approach God like a foreigner, we approach Him in unbelief, timidly crying and begging; “I hope you don’t run me out. Please let me in.” And God will stare at us incredulously, wondering, what’s wrong with us?

What would you think if one of your children came to your house like that? Wouldn’t you think it ludicrous if you were in your house and one of your kids came up to the front door and started ringing the doorbell? You’d say, “What’s wrong with you? You know you don’t have to ring the doorbell. You live here. You’re not one of the neighbors who live in another house. You’re not a stranger from across town. You’re not a foreigner who is just visiting from another country. You are my child, my flesh and blood!”

So God is standing there with His arms folded, saying, “What are you doing ringing the bell when Jesus died to give you the key? You can come in and out and find green pastures whenever you want. You’re one of my kids now. My Spirit dwells in your spirit, and I have drawn you near to me, to live in my house forever.”

“I know,” you say, “but you don’t know what I’ve been going through.” You are into your conditions again and have forgotten your position! If you ever get a grip on your position-that you are of the household of God, living in His miracle-producing, peace-inducing presence-you’re going to break through your conditions! You’re no more a stranger! You’re no more a foreigner! You are a fellow citizen with the saints of the household of God. God’s workmanship has placed you in His house!

Live in His house  
Pastor Pete