

Chicago Bears Chapel
Sunday, November 5, 2006
Rev. Manny Mill

**Make the Word your very life so you will experience
the hope that will never disappoint**

"Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." (*Deut. 32:46-47; Romans 5:1-5*)

What I want you to know

Play the game of life with permanent, joyful perseverance, knowing and believing that God has given us in Jesus Christ, the eternal, permanent hope that will never disappoint us.

What I want you to do

1. Become a player in God's permanent game of life to which He has personally invited you. Know that Jesus Christ, your permanent winning Coach has purchased for you (through His one time death on the Cross and shedding of His redemptive Blood) all that you need and. Therefore, He has given you everything you need, including resurrecting power when Christ rose from the dead (with great abundance of Grace), which is truly sufficient for you to play the game of life correctly. He has promised you to never leave you nor forsake you. Furthermore, He has promised to be with you until the end of the life game as well as the end of the season (Eph. 2:1-10; Heb. 13:5; Mat. 28:20, 2 Cor. 12:9).
2. Take the field of life with joyful perseverance and confidence knowing that your Hope for the outcome will never disappoint you. (Romans 5:1-5)
3. Take your God-given position on the field of life and play for and with the team, making sure that you always put your team first (Jer. 29:11-14; Phil. 2:1-10).
4. Play your God-given position in life with fresh passion by doing your very best knowing that the Holy Spirit, who is also God, will do the rest. Therefore, together in *Koinonia* (*BELONGING TOGETHER IN MUTUAL PARTNERSHIP*) you will become victorious by becoming a **NIKE** (see point 6) Christian by overcoming all the obstacles. (Ps. 40:8; Eph. 2:10; Eph. 1:18-22; Rev. 3:5)
5. Give all the glory to God in all your success and in all your apparent failures. In other words make Jesus Christ look good through you. Thus, the trademark of your joy will be permanent, unspeakable, and transferable to others. God's dynamics of Glory and Joy: The more genuine Glory one renders to God by feasting, listening, and taking to heart God's Word (obeying the Word who became Jesus in the Flesh), the more fresh joy God will unleash into us. (John 1:14; I Cor. 10:33; Isa. 66:2 & 5; Rev. 1:3)
6. Remember we are the overcomers! The word **NIKE** is the Greek word for overcomer, victor, and conqueror. We are super-conquerors. One of the things that our faith conquers is the system of evil dominated by lust and pride, sensuality, addiction, covetousness and egotism. We are not sensual in practice. We are not covetous in practice. Greed is good in the world and sensuality is good in the world, and addictions and egotism is really good. But to us, those must be sins. This society is running in a mad dash for every sexual fulfillment with materialistic passion, coveting and clinging to everything they can see, turning beauty into self-indulgence. In the midst of it all, doing everything they can to elevate their self-esteem. That's the world and that's sin. But we have overcome the world so that we see that for what it is. Our passion is that which honors God and our self-assessment is that of humility. And when we see something beautiful, we give Him praise for it. (Romans 8:37)