

Shadrach Youth Ministry

Don & Karin Litchfield
Administrators, 260-447-8732
dklitchfield6@verizon.net
www.shadrachyouth.org

2536 E. Fairfax Ave.
Ft. Wayne IN 46806
260-447-8732

Other Staff:
Reimar & Marcia Schultze, 765-452-1638
Michael & Carla Hubbard, 616-846-5419
Nicky & Jenn Farmer, 765-626-0223

Got Any “Dormant-C” in Storage?

Dormant-C. Sounds like a pesticide. Actually, it’s the “pest”! What it needs is a strong and effective pesticide to eradicate and exterminate it.

Most of the time, we’re all pretty good people: we’re kind and considerate; helpful and encouraging; filled with praise and thanksgiving. Some might even think that we’re pretty good Christians! And then... it happens! Some situation arises, and we lose it. Like, our carnality spills all over the floor, permeates the air, and immediately changes the atmosphere around us. And we wonder: What was that!? Dormant-C—Carnality. We thought we had a handle on the “old man” in that area of our lives. Worse yet is realizing that our reaction is maybe something “new,” an emotional response that we didn’t know existed in our hearts—but there it is—all out in the open for everyone to see.

“Dormant” is an adjective describing something lying asleep; in a state of rest or inactivity: like a volcano—but not erupting. But there’s a unique quality about something being dormant: once dormant—asleep, inactive—*not always dormant*. Something wakes up, becomes active, reveals a life that we did not know existed. Isn’t that like our carnality? We seem to be getting along just dandy: relationships going well, handling life with seeming ease and victory... then something within us gets triggered, and boom—the volcano ERUPTS!!! What was hidden is now *not* hidden. What we thought was long gone, or maybe even nonexistent, is a reality. It’s in our face, and sadly, in other people’s faces as well. That’s the pest—dormant carnality. And the pest needs a pesticide—the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is perfectly aware of all our carnality, including dormant. Nothing is hidden from Him—nothing! And it is His supreme assignment to ferret out any and all remnants of our carnality. Think about it: the Holy Spirit knows absolutely every aspect, characteristic, personality trait of the whole of our carnality—even that which is dormant, hidden deep within us that we may know nothing about. He knows that as long as it is there, the potential of eruption is there. Jesus went to the cross not only to take the penalty for our sins, but to also remove our sin nature—carnality. That’s what the Holy Spirit is working to accomplish in our lives right now.

The apostle Paul asks, “...*what communion has light with darkness?*” (2 Cor. 6:14). There is none. This word “darkness” means to hide, to conceal—and that is carnality. It does not want to be exposed. It wants to stay hidden so that it can remain alive. Now, the word “light” has quite a different meaning: to expose, reveal—and that is the work of the Holy Spirit. He will expose and reveal what’s in our hearts. He knows that there will be no true fellowship until the hidden carnality is exposed and eradicated; for that darkness cannot commune with a holy God.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply,
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”

So the next time your inner volcano erupts, spewing your carnality all over the countryside, remember that it may be just the work of the Holy Spirit Who has devised a specific trial—a fiery trial—in order to expose that hidden and dormant carnality so that we might confess it and permit Him to cleanse it from us. Let us welcome the Holy Spirit and His glorious work of grace in our hearts and lives, and then we can say as Job: “*But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold*” (Job 23:10). —Don

Something Jesus gave me:

Our cup is only as big as a thimble compared to God's ocean of blessings. Jesus wants to break all of the rusty crud off of us. If it does not get broken off, then we are "too big" for the cup. When Jesus breaks off the crud we get smaller. If we allow Him to break us down enough, then we will be small enough to fit into the thimble of His blessings. —Nathaniel

A Word from Pastor Schultze... Go for Excellence!

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment; so that ye may approve the things that are excellent..." (Philippians 1:9–10).

There are many doors that love can open that otherwise remain shut. One of the great mysteries of the kingdom of God is that love can open the doors to greater knowledge and discernment. Who ever thought that to know more about God, one must love God more and more?

The Pharisees attempted to gain more of the knowledge of God by study. Indeed, study must not be scoffed at, for Paul said to Timothy, *"Study to show thyself approved unto God"* (2 Tim. 2:15). But study without growing in love will give us a distorted picture of God and His ways. He who studies and loves the Lord God with all his heart, soul, and mind, will be by far the best scholar. The more we love something, the more that something will reveal itself to us.

Discernment is also a fruit of loving God more and more. The more we love Him, the sharper the lines will

become between good and evil, and between what is pleasing or grievous to the Holy Spirit. In fact, more love to God will soon get us dissatisfied with merely distinguishing the good from the bad. As we go deeper into love, we will soon fine tune our discernment to see the clear line even between the good and the excellent.

The shallow Christian will say, "Oh, there is nothing wrong with that. The Bible does not forbid it." But the lover of God will say, "If it does not pass the test of excellence, if it does not put a smile upon the Savior's face, I will not do it." Dear one, only do that which is well-pleasing in God's sight. Love God more and more, and His inner light will become ever brighter in both the knowledge of Him and in discerning even between that which is His acceptable and His perfect will. The way of love is the way to excellence! —from *Abiding in Christ*



In this chapter, what really seemed applicable to me was a quote (of sorts) by George Mueller saying how he "sought to get his heart into a state where it had no will of its own in regard to the particular matter he was praying over." There are many big decisions coming up for me and I found this section to be encouraging, that I am not just totally wasting my time when I am waiting for God to show me the path to take, that He has His plans for me and they are better than any plans I could make and that when I do have decisions to make, He will be there to help me and show me what to do. It has been very encouraging as well to have other godly people in my life, to whose advice I can listen to and whose experiences I can learn from. I believe God has really been working on my learning to trust His will for my life and to be patient in waiting for Him, as well as having joy even during very difficult times in my life. The portion about how joy comes from obedience is something I have really been considering a lot recently. May God use it to help me! —Amanda Slatten

Book Report: I recently finished reading a book called Wang Ping's Sacrifice. It is a very encouraging book of stories about Christians in China. God used His people in jail to save other cell members. He made a door get jammed so that a brother could hide a booklet with information about other believers while the guards worked on the door. People in prison cells were baptized with water from the toilet tank. God used His people to bring others to trust Him. I recommend that you read this book if you have time. Let's give ourselves to God, so He can use us.

Servanthood Report: I helped pack scripture booklets at World Missionary Press. —Rachel

For my servanthood project, I did something I think rather unconventional. Marilyn Buddenhagen's mother is living with them, and she used to play the accordion. So, we visited the Buddenhagens and I played the accordion for her for several hours. She is developing senility at her age, but upon listening to the music, her face lit up and she had many stories to tell. —Adam

Shadrach Retreat '09 – Vancleve, KY – June 7–13

Be in prayer for the Shadrach Retreat coming up in June. Information will be sent out shortly to those eligible to attend this year's event. Remember to pray for one another as well as the staff and that God will have His divine will fulfilled in and through us all this year! We appreciate each and every one of you and are thankful that you have chosen to be a part of the Shadrach Ministry!

You are all invited to Andrew and Morgan's wedding the morning of June 7th! Contact us for more details!