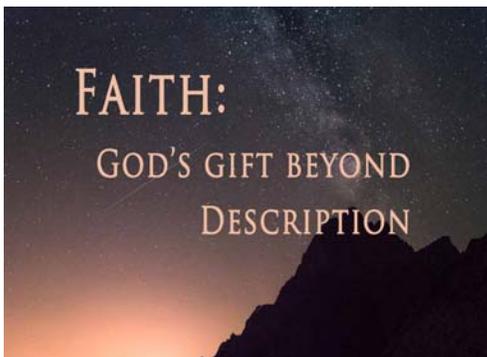


THE CROSS



"A CHURCH WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY AND CHRIST IS LORD OF ALL"



See Page 27 for more Information

**JULY-AUGUST 2021
Volume 25 Issue 4**

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Visit our
Facebook page

Faith

We are going to talk this month about faith .

In the book of Habakkuk chapter 2 and verse 4 and also Romans 1:17 we read that the just shall live by his faith .

This is the foundation for our discussion .

We read so often in scripture that the measure of a persons faith in God determines the outcome of so many situations in their lives.

(Faith on page 16)

As High As The Sky

As High As The Sky attention to national political rhetoric would also recognize the fact that the principal message has been to remind citizens of how 'great' this nation could be; or had been; or should be; or must be; and in general, smidgen of

(The Sky on page 17)

What Is Faith?

Trust in God that propels a person to live as He commands.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
(Hebrews 11:1)

Talking about faith is easy. Babbling about how we should all trust God, waxing eloquent about how belief in Jesus leads to blessing—let's be honest, a person could train a parrot to say such things. This is faith the theoretical concept (or maybe the

(What is Faith on page 15)

Let's Talk About Faith

"Faith"
Let's talk for a moment about faith. Faith is a "gift of God" Ephesians 2:8 say, God saved us by His grace when we believed and we can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."

See God uses His divine spoon to give each of us a "measure of faith" Romans 12:3 say, "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but

(Talk about Faith on page 15)

Memo from GOD

Effective immediately, please be aware that there are changes YOU need to make in YOUR life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill My promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. I know, I already gave you the 10 Commandments. Keep them. But follow these guidelines, also.

1. QUIT WORRYING

Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

2. PUT IT ON THE LIST

Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to Me. And although My to-do-list is long, I am after all ... God. I can take care of anything you put into My hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

3. TRUST ME

Once you've given your burdens to Me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in Me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on My list. Problem with finances? Put it in My list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? For My sake, put it on My list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

4. LEAVE IT ALONE

Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave Me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with Me and forget about them. Just let Me do my job.

5. TALK TO ME

I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please, don't forget to talk to Me - OFTEN! I love YOU! I want to hear your voice. I want you to include Me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with Me. I want to be your dearest friend.

6. HAVE FAITH

I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in Me that I know what I'm doing. Trust Me; you wouldn't want the view from My eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust Me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

7. SHARE

You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.

8. BE PATIENT

I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes Me a little longer than you expect to handle something on My to-do-list? Trust in My timing, for My timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

9. BE KIND

Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for My sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please, know I love each of your differences.

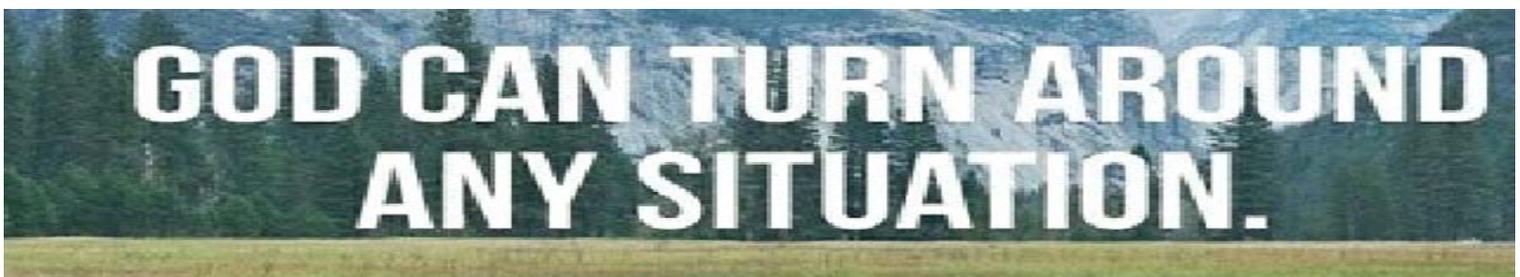
10. LOVE YOURSELF

As much as I love me for one reason of Love. Love Me. heartache when I are very precious you, how can you not love yourself? You were only ... to be loved, and to love in return. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. See you so angry with yourself when things go to me. Don't ever forget that!

Created by I AM, a God. It makes My wrong, You.

With all My heart I love YOU ...

God





From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Members of the Cross,

Sunday, July 4, 2021, worship services will resume in person in the Sanctuary. The opening committee has worked for months to work out the details, and I am grateful for their time, effort, and skill.

The committee has developed steps to follow, keeping safety as a priority: 1. To do all that we can to accommodate everyone and 2. To protect all those attending.

With these goals in mind, there will be one service at 10:00 A.M. The doors will open at 9:45 A.M. to begin temperature check-in. As you enter the building, we request you to sanitize your hands.

If you choose to worship in the Sanctuary, there will be one entrance open, the main doors in the front of the building. The committee and I ask that you follow the guidelines for seating. The pews and floor will be marked to help you do this.

We also kindly request all persons attending to wear a mask over their mouth and nose to prevent the possible spread of illness to the most vulnerable among us. Masks are not required for those under the age of two or for persons unable to remove their masks.

I understand that there has been considerable discussion about masks. Since the scriptures are, of course, silent on the matter, I do not think we need to agree on the substance of the question. It is a matter of personal conscience. However, since some of our more vulnerable brothers and sisters would experience a great deal of anxiety worshipping with a group of people who are not wearing masks, I ask that you consent to wear a mask for their sake (see 1 Corinthians 8-9 for the principle).

Worship Outside: If you prefer to worship outdoors, there will be designated parking and an outside speaker, and you can listen on radio frequency 89:3 F.M. and watch on your phone via zoom, Facebook, or YouTube. During Communion, someone will bring the sacrament to you.

Livestream Worship: Finally, we will continue to live-stream the 10:00 A.M. service so that you can watch from your home. If you are experiencing any signs or symptoms of a new illness, including fatigue, fever, chills, difficulty breathing, cough, or nausea, please make use of the live stream and consider contacting your healthcare provider.

Other Precautions:

Since studies seem inconclusive on whether singing increases the risk for viral spread, and since we want to exercise an abundance of caution at this point in re-opening, if you choose to join the worship and praise team in singing, please keep on your mask.

Please refrain from shaking hands and embracing one another at this time.

I understand that some of these precautions may feel burdensome. They are temporary, and, even so, I hope you will join me in giving thanks to God for bringing us back together again and ask him to provide us with patience and kindness for each other.

Much Love to All.

Faithfully Yours,

Pastor Harvill

Special Note: For now, we will have service in the Sanctuary every other Sunday (First and 3rd) and 2nd and fourth in the parking lot only, along with Live streaming.

Please let us know by phone call, letter, or email what else we can do to help you become comfortable returning to in-person worship.



RETOOLING FOR CHURCH GROWTH 2021

- Renewing
- Reconnecting •Reopening

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you. ~Matthew 6:33*

Growing the Church via Zoom & Virtual Church

Starting Stronger:

RENEWING

*Bible Study— Growing in Christ: Lessons on Assurance—Lessons on Christian Living
‘Living for Christ isn’t easy, but it is possible!’ Learn how with GROWING with CHRIST
Lessons will be emailed & available for you to pick up at the church.*

*We begin the year with Spiritual Renewal
-Prayer & Bible Study*

RECONNECTING

Growing the church by coming back together in love & fellowship

REOPENING

Returning with zeal for Christ and His Kingdom mission

Hear Our Prayers Lord

“Prayer Against the Temptation of Materialism”

Read: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Let us pray, “Father, Materialism and consumerism constantly bombard us. We admit that we have been overtaken by the tidal wave of temptation to buy things that we do not need. Instead of budgeting for items, we have made impulse purchases. We ask You to help us when face the temptation to buy things that we don’t need or perhaps want because someone else has it. We may be tempted by materialism, but we do not have to act upon it and sin against You. Help us see these things clearly, Father. We trust that You provide all of our needs. We ask for You to help us steward our finances and help us to be content with what You have given us. Thank You for Your grace to overcome this temptation and for always providing an escape for us”, its In Jesus’ name we ask and pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

“A Prayer for a God-Loving Friend”

Dear Lord, You are Holy. You are good. We praise You for who You are. We praise You for how You move in our life, in both the good times and the hard times. We pray, Lord that You bring into our life someone who will walk with us through this life, someone who will encourage us through Scripture and prayer. We pray for someone who will keep pointing us to Jesus in all of life’s ups and downs. Lord, we also pray that You work in our heart and our thoughts, that we would become that person for someone else. Help us to overcome our fears and insecurities so that we can magnify You to the world and encourage others in their own personal walk with You. We ask that You work through us today Lord to point others to You through our words and our actions, its In Jesus Name we ask and pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.

“A Prayer of Thankfulness for God’s Provision”

Philippians 4:19-20, says “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” Let’s pray a thankful prayer now for God’s generous provision for our every need.

Heavenly Father, we repent for not trusting You to provide for our every need. You did not withhold even Your Son, and we believe that You do not withhold any good thing from us. We also repent for thinking that somehow Your provision is determined by how much we give financially. We receive Your free grace and gift of salvation as well as Your constant provision for our life. We will choose to be content in all that we have as well as be generous to others when we have more than we need. Thank You for Your love. Help us to be more generous and gracious like You, its In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

“A Prayer for the Holy Spirit to Teach You”

John 14:26 says, “But the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” Amen

Heavenly Father, we Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Not only does He convict us of our sin when we daily fall short, but He is our ever-present Help in time of need who also guides us into all truth. Today we admit that we need help understanding Your Holy written Word. So Holy Spirit, will You give us a hunger to daily read the Bible? May You supernaturally illuminate what we are reading and give us the ability to comprehend what we are studying, not just for head knowledge, but to help us know You in a deeper way so that we give You the worship You deserve, it’s In Jesus’ Name we ask and pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

“A Prayer to Remember God Makes Everything Beautiful”

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Amen

Today, I want to encourage you to remember the words we find in Ecclesiastes 3:11, “He makes all things beautiful.”

See We may feel disappointed, discouraged, or not understand why things have unfolded the way they have in our life. But yet, we serve a God who loves His children. He sees all and He knows all. He is all-powerful and He has not forgotten us, Amen. Let us pray, “Father, We Thank You for Your limitless wisdom. We Thank You for writing our story. Although we may not always understand why things are happening, But You do because You go before us and keep us even our darkest hours. We Thank You for using our moments of sadness as a starting point for a miracle to take place. Help us to embrace Your process for us. Thank You, Lord, that You make all broken things new and beautiful, it’s In Jesus Name we pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

“A Prayer against Anxious Thoughts

Matthew 15:13 says, “He answered, “Every plant that my Heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up.” Amen. Today if you’re in this place of anxious thoughts, worries, and fears feeling too heavy... rest in His truth spoke in Matthew 15:13, surrender what you’re walking through to The Lord, and know He will reveal to you He’s uprooting things from your life that were never meant to be there. Let us pray, Lord You are a good God with good intentions behind all the works of Your hands. Help us see the areas where we’ve allowed lies to be sewn into our life and once they are revealed, help us to hand them over to You and allow You to remove them from our life completely. We ask that once they are removed You would then fill the newly freed spaces with the truths of Your word. In the midst of anxiety, help us always look to You, its In Jesus’ name we ask and pray. Amen, Amen, Amen.

Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy. Psalm 99:9

The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22, 23)

The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

The fruit of LOVE when properly motivated "is pure, far reaching, forgiving. There is no limit to the good that LOVE does. God is LOVE. (I John 4:7)

JOY never fades, it is never destroyed by circumstances, it is unaffected by wealth or poverty, sickness or health. It is found in the presence of God (Psalm 16:11)

PEACE "is a tranquility of mind as a result of a right relationship with God". The PEACE of God in our hearts challenges sin at every turn and deals with it immediately in order to maintain that right relationship. (Ephesians 2:14)

LONG-SUFFERING means steadfastness of the soul under provocation. It means forbearance and patient endurance of ill-treatment, without anger or thought of revenge. (Colossians 3:12, 13)

GENTLENESS is sweet reasonableness, calmness and graciousness. It calms troubled waters, settles turmoil and heals strife. (James 3:17)

GOODNESS does good to others. It is kindness of heart and good deeds. It may not always be a gentle word, but a stern rebuke done for the good of someone else. (Psalm 33:5)

MEEKNESS disarms the stormy, tempestuous person. The qualities of mildness and gentleness in dealing with others. It is not weak. It is a high quality of spiritual strength. (I Timothy 6:11)

FAITH means faithfulness to Christ and His cause. It manifests itself in being a trustworthy steward of God. It is trust and obedience, belief in God's word and promises. (Hebrews 11:1)

TEMPERANCE is power, it is strength, having self-control. It means discipline. It provides balance to the Christian's life. It enables him to praise Him whether in discipline or testing. (Proverbs 11:1) (Information taken in part from World-Wide Keswick publication and Holy Scriptures)

Satan tries to imitate the real thing with an artificial fruit. As you can see, the artificial fruit is very much like the real thing and if we are not careful, we can fall into the trap of expressing limited love, temporary joy, numbness, insensitivity, manipulation, hypocrisy, half-heartedness, false modesty and choosing lesser goals.

THE FRUIT, *The Artificial Fruit,* **The Weed**

LOVE, *limited love*, **hatred**; JOY, *temporary JOY*, **sorrow**; PEACE, *numbness, carelessness*, **anxiety strife**;
PATIENCE, *laziness, insensitivity*, **impatience**; KINDNESS, *manipulation by kindness*, **pride**;
GOODNESS, *hypocrisy*, **evil**; F A I T H F U L N E S S, *h a l f -heartedness*, **infidelity**;
MEEKNESS, *false modesty*, **self-seeking**; SELF-CONTROL, *choosing lesser goals*, **lack of control**
(The Fruit of the Spirit, John W. Sanderson)

Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

July

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Psalms 112-114 | 8. Psalms 137-139 | 16. Proverbs 15-18 | 24. Ecclesiastes 10-12 |
| 2. Psalms 115-118 | 9. Psalms 140-144 | 17. Proverbs 19-21 | 25. Song 1-4 |
| 3. Psalms 119 | 10. Psalms 145-147 | 18. Proverbs 22-24 | 26. Song 5-8 |
| 4. Psalms 120-123 | 11. Psalms 148-150 | 19. Proverbs 25-28 | 27. Isaiah 1-3 |
| 5. Psalms 124-128 | 12. Proverbs 1-3 | 20. Proverbs 29-31 | 28. Isaiah 4-6 |
| 6. Psalms 129-132 | 13. Proverbs 4-7 | 21. Ecclesiastes 1-3 | 29. Isaiah 7-9 |
| 7. Psalms 133-136 | 14. Proverbs 8-11 | 22. Ecclesiastes 4-6 | 30. Isaiah 10-12 |
| | 15. Proverbs 12-14 | 23. Ecclesiastes 7-9 | 31. Isaiah 13-15 |

August

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Isaiah 16-18 | 8. Isaiah 37-39 | 16. Isaiah 61-63 | 24. Jeremiah 21-23 |
| 2. Isaiah 19-21 | 9. Isaiah 40-42 | 17. Isaiah 64-66 | 25. Jeremiah 24-26 |
| 3. Isaiah 22-24 | 10. Isaiah 43-45 | 18. Jeremiah 1-2 | 26. Jeremiah 27-29 |
| 4. Isaiah 25-27 | 11. Isaiah 46-48 | 19. Jeremiah 3-5 | 27. Jeremiah 30-32 |
| 5. Isaiah 28-30 | 12. Isaiah 49-51 | 20. Jeremiah 6-8 | 28. Jeremiah 33-36 |
| 6. Isaiah 31-33 | 13. Isaiah 52-54 | 21. Jeremiah 9-12 | 29. Jeremiah 37-39 |
| 7. Isaiah 34-36 | 14. Isaiah 55-57 | 22. Jeremiah 13-16 | 30. Jeremiah 40-42 |
| | 15. Isaiah 58-60 | 23. Jeremiah 17-20 | 31. Jeremiah 43-46 |

September

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Jeremiah 47-49 | 8. Ezekiel 15-18 | 16. Ezekiel 40-42 | 24. Hosea 5-7 |
| 2. Jeremiah 50-52 | 9. Ezekiel 19-21 | 17. Ezekiel 43-45 | 25. Hosea 8-10 |
| 3. Lamentations 1-5 | 10. Ezekiel 22-24 | 18. Ezekiel 46-48 | 26. Hosea 11-14 |
| 4. Ezekiel 1-3 | 11. Ezekiel 25-27 | 19. Daniel 1-3 | 27. Joel 1-3 |
| 5. Ezekiel 4-7 | 12. Ezekiel 28-30 | 20. Daniel 4-6 | 28. Amos 1-3 |
| 6. Ezekiel 8-11 | 13. Ezekiel 31-33 | 21. Daniel 7-9 | 29. Amos 4-6 |
| 7. Ezekiel 12-14 | 14. Ezekiel 34-36 | 22. Daniel 10-12 | 30. Amos 7-9 |
| | 15. Ezekiel 37-39 | 23. Hosea 1-4 | |

Name of God	Meaning	Application
JEHOVAH	"I AM", The One Who Is The Self-existent One	God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, He is faithful. We need to obey Him.
JEHOVAH- JIREH	The Lord Will Provide	Just as God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, He provided His son Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice. God will meet all our needs.
JEHOVAH- MEKADDISHKEM	The Lord Who Sanctifies	God sets us apart as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, holy unto God, a people of His own. He cleanses our sin and helps us mature.
JEHOVAH-NISSI	The Lord is My Banner	God gives us victory against the flesh, the world and the devil. Our battles are His battles of light against darkness and good against evil.
JEHOVAH –RAPHA	The Lord Who Heals	God has provided the final cure for spiritual, physical, and emotional sickness in Jesus Christ. God can heal us.
JEHOVAH - ROHI	The Lord is My Shepherd	The Lord protects, provides, directs, leads, and cares for His people. God tenderly takes care of us as a strong and patient shepherd.
JEHOVAH – SABAOTH	The Lord of Hosts The Lord of Armies	The Lord of the hosts of heaven will always fulfill His purposes, even when the hosts of His earthly people fail.

There are various names of God, many of which enumerate the various qualities of a Supreme Being. The English word "god" (and its equivalent in other languages) is used by multiple religions as a noun or name to refer to different deities, or specifically to the Supreme Being, as denoted in English by the capitalized and uncapitalized terms "God" and "god". Ancient cognate equivalents for the biblical Hebrew Elohim, one of the most common names of God in the Bible, include proto-Semitic El, biblical Aramaic Elah, and Arabic 'ilah. The personal or proper name for God in many of these languages may either be distinguished from such attributes, or homonymic. For example, in Judaism the tetragrammaton is sometimes related to the ancient Hebrew ehyeh ("I will be"). In the Hebrew Bible (Exodus 3:14), Yahweh, the personal name of God, is revealed directly to Moses. Correlation between various theories and interpretation of the name of "the one God", used to signify a monotheistic or ultimate Supreme Being from which all other divine attributes derive, has been a subject of ecumenical discourse between Eastern and Western scholars for over two centuries. In Christian theology the word is considered a personal and a proper name of God. On the other hand, the names of God in a different tradition are sometimes referred to by symbols. The question whether divine names used by different religions are equivalent has been raised and analyzed.

The Season After Pentecost covers 10-14 Sundays. The liturgical color is red for the Season After Pentecost.

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after the day of Pentecost. This Sunday emphasizes the three-fold manifestation of the Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit/Ghost): three and yet one. White is the appropriate color.

Color: Red is symbolic of loyalty, power, witness, Christian zeal, blood, fire, the work and ministry of the Church, and the Holy Spirit.

Kingdomtide begins on the last Sunday in August and continues until the beginning of Advent.

The emphasis includes evangelism, world missions, and the work for peace and justice in all relationships. During this period, special emphasis is placed on the Kingship of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The observance is wrapped up in the heightened awareness of one of the basic tenets of the Christian faith – the hope of the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

Color: Green is symbolic of freshness of nature, hope, life and growth.

Liturgical Colors

Liturgy or liturgical comes from the Greek word “leitourgia” that means public service. Thus, liturgical refers to the rites or forms prescribed for use in public worship. Colors add brightness, variety, and visual appeal for the worshiper and Christian believer. But beyond this is the wealth of meaning and theological interpretation wrapped up in the colors used during the various seasons. Below are the prevalent colors and their liturgical interpretations.

Purple (violet or lilac) is the color used to denote royalty, praying, fasting, and penitence. It represents a symbol of the majesty of Christ, and Jesus’ humanity, suffering, and fasting. Advent and Lent are seasons when this color is used.

Green is symbolic of the freshness of nature, hope, life, and growth. It is used during The Season After Epiphany and Kingdomtide. Some denominations use green during The Season after Pentecost.

White is symbolic of light, joy, purity, glory, and the bright light of truth. It is used during Christmas/Christmastide, Epiphany (January 6), Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, Maundy Thursday (if Holy Communion is celebrated), Easter/Eastertide, Ascension Day/Sunday, Trinity Sunday, and Christ the King Sunday. It is appropriately used for Consecrations, Baptisms, Marriages, and Holy Communion.

Red is symbolic of loyalty, power, witness, Christian zeal, blood, fire, the work and ministry of the Church, and the Holy Spirit. It is used on Pentecost, for some The Season After Pentecost, and Church anniversaries, dedications, and ordinations. The color red is appropriate for year-round use if there is no other color available.

Black represents grief, sorrow, mourning, or death. It is used on Good Friday and sometimes for funerals. (Some prefer to use white for funerals to celebrate the homegoing of a loved one.)

Gold is the color denoting worth, virtue, glory to God, and Christian might. It was one of the gifts given to the Baby Jesus by the Magi (Wise Men). The Kingship of the Christ Child and the price Jesus paid on Calvary is also represented in this color.

Other Colors

Blue is an alternate liturgical color that is symbolic of hope. It is often used as an alternate color to purple during Advent by some denominations.

Kente Cloth is being used by many African-American congregations as a parament. It is also used on clergy and choir robes or liturgical stoles. Most of the kente cloth contains several of the liturgical colors. Kente Cloth is a strong woven fabric from the West African country of Ghana. Its name comes from the word “kenten” referring to that which cannot be torn under any circumstances. It is woven in narrow four inch strips and stitched together to make the desired width of the fabric. Traditionally, this cloth carried symbolic designs that indicated a proverb or special message. In addition to the meaning wrapped up in the colors, it also represents the commitment of believers not to allow anything to separate them from the love of God and a reminder to hold on to one’s heritage.

Fasting for Health, Healing and a Heart far God's Vision for the Church

Foods to include in your eating plan during the Daniel Fast

All dairy products including milk, cheese, cream, butter, and eggs.

1. The Daniel Fast involves a spiritual commitment to God. "Daniel proposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the Kings delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank." (Daniel 1: 8)

All fruits. These can be fresh, frozen, dried, juiced or canned. Fruits include but are apples, apricots, bananas, blackberries, blueberries, boysenberries, cantaloupe, cherries, cranberries, figs, grapefruit, grapes, guava, honeydew melon, kiwi, lemons, limes, mangoes, nectarines, oranges, papayas, peaches, pears, pineapples, plums, prunes, raisins, raspberries, strawberries, tangelos, tangerines, watermelon

All sweeteners including sugar, raw sugar, date sugar, honey, syrups, molasses, cane juice, date honey, and stevia.

2. Faith is foundational to the Daniel Fast.

"Then I set my face toward my God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting" (Daniel. 9:30 "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17: 21)

All leavened bread including Ezekiel Bread (it contains yeast and honey) and baked goods.

3. Fast and yield yourself to God as a servant.

Daniel said, "as you see fit, deal with your servants" (Daniel 1:13)

All leavening agents including yeast, baking soda and baking powder.

4. Schedule your prayer / And end with thanksgiving. Daniel "kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks" (Daniel 6: 10)

All vegetables. These can be fresh, frozen, dried, juiced or canned. Vegetables include but are artichokes, asparagus, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chili peppers, collard greens, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, ginger root, kale, leeks, lettuce, mushrooms, mustard greens, okra, onions, parsley, potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, scallions, spinach, sprouts, squashes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, turnips, watercress, yams, zucchini, veggie burgers are an option if you are not allergic to soy.

All refined and processed foods products including artificial flavorings, food additives, chemicals, white rice, white flour, and foods that contain artificial preservatives.

5. Begin with confession, (repentance), dedication, and prayer-"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way of everlasting" (Psalm 39: 23-24)

All deep-fried foods including potato chips, French fries, corn chips.

All solid fats including shortening, margarine, lard and foods high in fat.

Remember: The Daniel Fast will lead to spiritual insight. "... to these young men God gave knowledge" (Daniel 1: 17)

All whole grains, including whole wheat, brown rice, millet, quinoa, oats, barley, grits, whole wheat pasta, whole wheat tortillas, rice cakes and popcorn.

Beverages including coffee, tea, herbal teas, carbonated beverages, energy drinks, and alcohol.

Remember, **READ THE LABELS** so you are aware of the ingredients in the package.!

Guidelines for Daniel Fast

Foods We May Eat

After answering hundreds of questions about the Daniel Fast on the blog, I developed these food guidelines. My hope is that it will serve as a more complete list. The original list used by many people was issued in a book about fasting. I know the author tried to do the best he could, but that isn't the same as getting hundreds of questions seeking clarification.

All nuts and seeds, including sunflower seeds, cashews, peanuts, sesame. Also nut butters including peanut butter.

All legumes. These can be canned or dried. Legumes include dried beans, pinto beans, split peas, lentils, black eyed peas, kidney beans, black beans, cannellini beans, white beans.

Be blessed on your fast

Learn more about the Daniel Fast at <http://Daniel-Fast.com>

"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5: 17)

Please make sure to READ THE LABEL when purchasing packaged, canned or bottled foods. They should be sugar-free and chemical-free. Keep this in mind as you review this list of acceptable foods. Look for the list of ingredients on the label (not the nutritional value) to make sure all the ingredients comply with the Daniel Fast Guidelines.

All quality oils including olive, canola, grape seed, peanut, and sesame.

Beverages: spring water, distilled water or other pure waters.

Other: tofu, soy products, vinegar, seasonings, salt, herbs and spices.

Note: Unsweetened plant-based milks and juices can be used in recipes or on cereal, but the only beverage on the Daniel Fast is water.

Foods to avoid on the Daniel Fast

All meat, animal, fish and seafood products including beef, lamb, pork, poultry, fish and shellfish.

10 Practical Guidelines on Fasting
By Charles Ng of Singapore

1. Enter into fasting with a positive faith. If you are determined to seek God diligently by fasting, you have a Scriptural right to expect that God will reward you. In Matthew 6:18, Jesus promises to every believer who fasts correctly: “your father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

2. Do not wait for an emergency to drive you to fast. It is better to begin fasting when you are spiritually up than down. The law of progress in God’s Kingdom is from “strength to strength” (Ps. 84:7), “from faith to faith” (Rom. 1:17), and from “glory to glory” (2Cor. 3:18).

3. Do not set for yourself too long a period of fasting. If you are fasting for the first time, begin by omitting one or two meals. Then, move on to longer periods such as a day or two. It is better to begin with a short period and achieving it than to do a long period of fasting and not achieving it.

4. During your period of fasting, feed on God’s Word, the Bible. Where possible, read a portion of Scripture before each period of prayer. The Psalms are especially helpful.

5. Avoid boastfulness—apart from special periods of prayer, your life should be as normal as possible.

6. Check on your motives each time you fast. Take time to read Isaiah 58.

7. If you are on regular medication or suffer from diabetes or TB, it is wise to obtain medical advice before entering into any fast.

8. As you enter fast, you might suffer discomfort, unpleasant physical symptoms such as dizziness or nausea. Do not be deterred. Go through with the fast as planned. After the first day or two, these unpleasant physical reactions usually subside.

9. Remember that hunger is purely a

matter of habit. If you hold out, the sensation of hunger will go away. Sometimes you can fool your stomach by drinking a glass of water instead of snacking.

10. Guard against constipation. Before and after fasting, choose meals that will help you in this respect such as fresh fruits, fruit juices, dried figs, prunes, apricots, or oatmeal.

Total Fast: Abstaining from solid foods for 24 hours. Taking only water.

Partial fast: Abstaining from solid foods for an extended part of the day, e.g. from 7:00 am until 7:00 PM. Taking only water.

1 Meal Fast: Sacrificing one full meal a day, e.g. Abstaining from lunch.

Daniel Fast: Abstaining from meals and other delicacies. Taking only small portions of fresh vegetables, fruit and juices.

+ PRAY
 COVID-19 RESPONSE

- ▶ **PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE:** Ask God to protect those most vulnerable to the effects of the virus, especially the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.
- ▶ **PRAY FOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS:** Ask God to give our local, state, and national leaders wisdom in how to deal with the virus.
- ▶ **PRAY FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS:** Ask that God would guide and protect them as they care for the sick.
- ▶ **PRAY FOR FAMILIES:** Ask God to comfort and provide for those whose businesses, job stability, and schooling have been affected.
- ▶ **PRAY FOR THE CHURCH:** Ask God to help His people have courage, find ways to serve those in need, and continue proclaiming the Gospel.

A Poem of Praise

Father God, I love You so;
 You care for me even when I don't know.
 I often question Your intent,
 Despite those promises You've already kept.
 I try to make sense of all around,
 yet my eyes focus narrowly on my own.
 You forgive my impatience,
 and my self-righteous thoughts;
 And secured my salvation through Your Son's
 death on the cross.
 He redeemed all my sins and gave me new life;
 an act that cost a most precious price.
 With Your help, dear Lord,
 I will trust in the perfect plan
 that is a gift from Your great hand.
 Thank You for each day's new mercies,
 and the grace that wipes away all my iniquities.
 To You, Adonai, is my praise for always;
 may my last breath be a whisper
 giving You all the glory.

juliesanne.com



Sunday School is a Family Affair

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103
New Members Class meets at the same time.
(For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

Come Grow with US!

Wisdom in Action

Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 56:1-8

Background Scripture:
Leviticus 13-14; Luke 5:12-16; 17:11-19

EXALT!

Declaration: Leviticus 13:45-46; Luke 17:11-19

⁴⁵ “The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ ⁴⁶ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

⁴⁷ “When there is a case of leprous disease in a garment in a garment, whether a woolen or a linen garment, ⁴⁸ in warp or woof of linen or wool, or in a skin or in anything made of skin, ⁴⁹ if the disease is greenish or reddish in the garment, or in the skin or in the warp or in the woof or in any article made of skin, it is a case of leprous disease, and it shall be shown to the priest. ⁵⁰ And the priest shall examine the disease and shut up that which has the disease for seven days. ⁵¹ Then he shall examine the disease on the seventh day. If the disease has spread in the garment, in the warp or the woof, or in the skin, whatever be the use of the skin, the disease is a persistent leprous disease; it is unclean. ⁵² And he shall burn the garment, or the warp or the woof, the wool or the linen, or any article made of the skin that is diseased, for it is a persistent leprous disease. It shall be burned in the fire.

⁵³ “And if the priest examines, and if the disease has not spread in the garment, in the warp or the woof or in any article made of skin, ⁵⁴ then the priest shall command that they wash the thing in which is the disease, and he shall shut it up for another seven days. ⁵⁵ And the priest shall examine the diseased thing after it has been washed. And if the appearance of the diseased area has not changed, though the disease has not spread, it is unclean. You shall burn it in the fire, whether the rot is on the back or the front.

⁵⁶ “But if the priest examines, and if the diseased area has faded after it has been washed, he shall tear it out of the garment or the skin or the warp or the woof.

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” ¹⁴ When he saw them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” and as they went they were cleaned. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleaned? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Affirmation

We sense the need in our lives for increased expressions of gratitude to God.

ENGAGE

People often receive mercy but do not acknowledge the one who extended the mercy. Do you show appreciation? Ten lepers, isolated by their skin diseases, were healed; but only one, who was a foreigner, was saved by his faith and offered thanks.

(Wisdom in Action on page 12)

Pray for all of our children, teens, young adults in this school years that God’s hands will be upon them keeping them from all hurt, harm and danger. Also pray for all of our families, friends, and all of God’s children.

(Wisdom in Action from page 11)

If able, break into small groups and discuss the following questions:

Are there persons treated as outcasts in our communities? If so, what are the reason? What prejudices do we harbor toward certain groups? Are people discriminated against because of conditions beyond their control? Can we imagine the harm done to such persons? What can we do to overcome such divisiveness among us and help to build harmony and peace? Finally, what is the problem of showing gratitude especially, when we have been helped in a major way? What is the importance of expressing thanks?

EDUCATE

Leviticus 13:45-46; Luke 17:11-14: Lepers were required by Jewish law to take several precautionary steps to forewarn others of their condition and to prevent the likelihood of infecting others (Leviticus 13:45-46). The lepers'-shared misery brought them together despite their religious and ethnic differences. In this light, the fact that Jesus finds them on the borderlands between Samaria and Galilee is evocative of their liminal space: They are literally marginalized by their disease and forge their own unclean community on the borderlands. Jesus showed no reservation regarding his proximity to the ceremonially unclean men. His openness is a testimony to those who follow Jesus to extend hospitality and kindness to those who are rejected by society. Note that these lepers had obviously heard of Jesus as a divine healer and believed He could bring them relief. Therefore, in their desperation, they appealed to His mercy and grace. "Jesus' immediate response was not to heal the men but to command an act that required faith (compare 2 Kings 5:10). To be recognized as cleaned, they needed to be certified by a priest..... The men were thus rendered clean and free of disease when they obeyed in faith" (Ibid., p.318).

Luke 17:15-19: At least one of the ten lepers was a Samaritan. Jews ordinarily despised Samaritans (See John 4). The tensions between the Jews and the Samaritans are an undercurrent in the story. "Jews and Samaritans were religious and ethnic cousins, sharing a common ancestry and both loyal to their version/interpretation of the Law of Moses (compare John 4:5-26). But events [caused their separation] starting with the division of Israel into two kingdoms in about 950 BC, and exacerbated by the northern kingdom's exile, those remaining intermarried with people that the conquerors resettled in the land. This mixture of [two] different people [s] and culture [s] resulted in the Samaritans. The Old Testament traces the times line of these events from 2 Kings 17 through Ezra 4 and Nehemiah 4 (compare Luke 9:51-56)" (Ibid., p. 379). Knowing this history, Jesus deliberately showed no favoritism and healed all ten lepers. Unlike the other nine lepers, the Samaritan's heart was filled with praise and thanksgiving for the blessing he received. "First, he delayed his trip to a priest as he came back to Jesus; the man 's burning desire to be declared clean by the priest was trumped by his desire to show gratitude. Second, in his loudest voice he praised God (compare Luke 5:6; 7:16). His words are not recorded, but we can imagine something like our familiar, "To God be the glory, great things he has done! (Ibid., p. 381).

ELEVATE

If able, break into two groups and let group one discuss the following issues:

1. To what extent are we likely to seek God's presence to heal and restore us? How does our faith in God figure into our reliance on God's healing?
2. Do we realize that we should take God's blessings for granted and should not forget to demonstrate thankfulness? When should our thankfulness be demonstrated, before or after God acts in our favor, or at all times?
3. Do we also express gratitude to others who have helped us in our time of need? If not, why not?

Allow group two discuss the following question:

4. Are we to minister to the needs of persons who are regarded as outcast? What type of groups might those be in our time?
5. Do we have problems in understanding and dealing with the necessity of obeying human laws but still seek ways to minister to persons in need?
6. Do we continually find the need to examine ourselves and strive to live free from prejudices and biases against other ethnicities or faiths?

iTHINK

1. Use Bible resources or go online to study the life of a leper in biblical times. Review Leviticus 13 for a fuller understanding of the law's requirements. Ask: what people groups do religious communities tend to treat like lepers today?
2. Challenge believers to think of a time when they bonded with someone unexpectedly because they shared a common view or condition or cause.
3. How do you feel when God blesses a person you don't think deserves it? Talk about ways such experiences can open our hearts to God's vast depth of love for all humanity, whether they are believers or not.
4. Are you the one, or are you one of the nine? Challenge participants to think about ways they take God's blessings for granted. Encourage participants to share reasons why this is so.
5. Give each participant a sheet of paper and ask them to write down 25 things for which they are grateful. After a few moments, invite them to share a few responses. Ask participants to think about the last time they thanked God for each blessing they listed. Explore reasons why believers are sometimes prone to overlook God's blessings and take them for granted.
6. Give each participant a sheet of paper with 52 numbered lines (in two columns). Ask them to create a gratitude sheet that will last for one year. In each blank, write down a blessing they will concentrate on thanking God for this week (e.g., family, spouse, job, home, health, friends, healing, spiritual gifts). They can repeat a particular blessing as many times as they choose.

KEY VERSES

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice;.... Luke 17:15

From The Young People-Adult Quarterly (Ages 18 and up) International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching

Prayer—90 devotions from Our Daily Bread Compiled by Dave Branon

OUR PRAYER AND GOD'S POWER

Read: James 5:13-20

Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

When we pray for others, we become partners with God in His work of salvation, healing, comfort, and justice. God can accomplish those things without us, but in His plan He gives us the privilege of being involved with Him through prayer.

When we intercede for a grandson in trouble, a mother having surgery, a neighbor who needs Christ, or a pastor who needs strength, we asking God to provide for that person what we can't. We are acting as go-betweens, asking God to direct His power in a specific direction.

In his classic book titled prayer, Ole Hallesby described how it works: "This power is so rich and so mobile that all we have to do when we pray is point to the person or thing to which we desire to have [God's] power applied, and He, the Lord of this power, will direct the necessary power to the desire place."

This assumes, of course, that we are praying "according to [God's] will" (1 John 5:14). Prayer is not a magic wand for satisfying our own wishes, but it's an opportunity to work with the Lord in accomplishing His purpose.

James told us "the prayer of the righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16). So let's humbly and earnestly pray for one another. Dave Branon

Prayer Tip: While waiting in line at the bank, at the grocery store, at a ballgame, pray that God will work in the lives of the people around you.

ALWAYS PRAY, AND DON'T GIVE UP

Read: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1

Are you going through one of those times when it seems every attempt to resolve a problem is met with a new difficulty? You thank the Lord at night that it's taken care of but awake to find that something else has gone wrong and the problem remains.

During an experience like that, I was

reading the gospel of Luke and was astounded by the opening words of chapter 18: "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (v. 1). I had read the story of the persistent widow many times but never grasped why Jesus told it (vv. 2-8). Now I connected those opening words with the story. The lesson to His followers was very clear: Always pray, and never give up.

Prayer is not a means of coercing God to do what we want. It is a process of recognizing His power and plan for our lives. In prayer we yield our lives and circumstances to the Lord and trust Him to act in His way.

As we rely on God's grace not only for the outcome of our requests but for the process as well, we can keep coming to the Lord in prayer, trusting His wisdom and care for us.

Our Lord's encouragement to us is clear: Always pray, and don't give up! David McCasland

Prayer Tip: Make a daily appointment with God, add it to your calendar

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

Read: Psalm 6

The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer. Psalm 6:9

During every morning worship service in a small church I attended, the congregation would share prayer requests. After each one, the pastor would say, "Lord, in your mercy," and the people would respond, "Hear our prayer." One Sunday, a four-year-old boy behind me became more intense after each request, until he finally shouted out, "Hear our prayer!" The little boy probably expressed what a lot of us were feeling that morning.

As Christians, we believe that God hears us when we pray, not because we deserve it but because Christ has opened the way for us to talk directly to the Father. We often make our request quietly and confidently, but there are times when we cannot help but cry out to God in heartbreak and anguish.

In Psalm 6 we can almost hear David's sobs as he pleads with God for mercy, help, and healing. Yet, even though he was faced with difficult people and overwhelming circumstances, David

affirmed his trust in God: "The Lord has heard my weeping. The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer" (vv. 8-9).

Today, in that mysterious blend of confidence and crying out, we can bring everything to our loving heavenly Father, saying, "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer!" David McCasland

Prayer Tip: If your church has Facebook group or directory, try systematically praying through it.

HE ALWAYS ANSWERS

Read: Daniel 9:3-23

As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you —Daniel 9:23

Daniel was determined to pray regularly, and it got him thrown into the lions' den (Daniel 6). But have you ever noticed how God answered his prayers?

In Daniel 9, we learn that Daniel had been reading Jeremiah's prophecy that the exile of the Israelites was supposed to end after 70 years. So Daniel prayed that God would not delay the end of the captivity. He confessed Israel's sin and asked for God's intervention.

Then, while Daniel was still praying, God not only sent an answer but He also sent His angel Gabriel to deliver it. Daniel said, "While I was still in prayer, Gabriel ... came to me in swift flight" (v. 21). In other words, before Daniel had even finished his prayer, God heard it and immediately sent Gabriel with the answer (vv. 22-23).

Yet, on another occasion when Daniel prayed, Scripture tells us that the messenger God sent with the answer took three weeks to arrive (10:12-13).

We can learn important lessons from Daniel about how God answers our prayer today. Sometimes God sends the answer immediately. Sometimes the answer is delayed. Either way, He always answers. Dave Branon

Prayer Tip: Pray for your pastor and your pastor's family.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18
"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)
Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

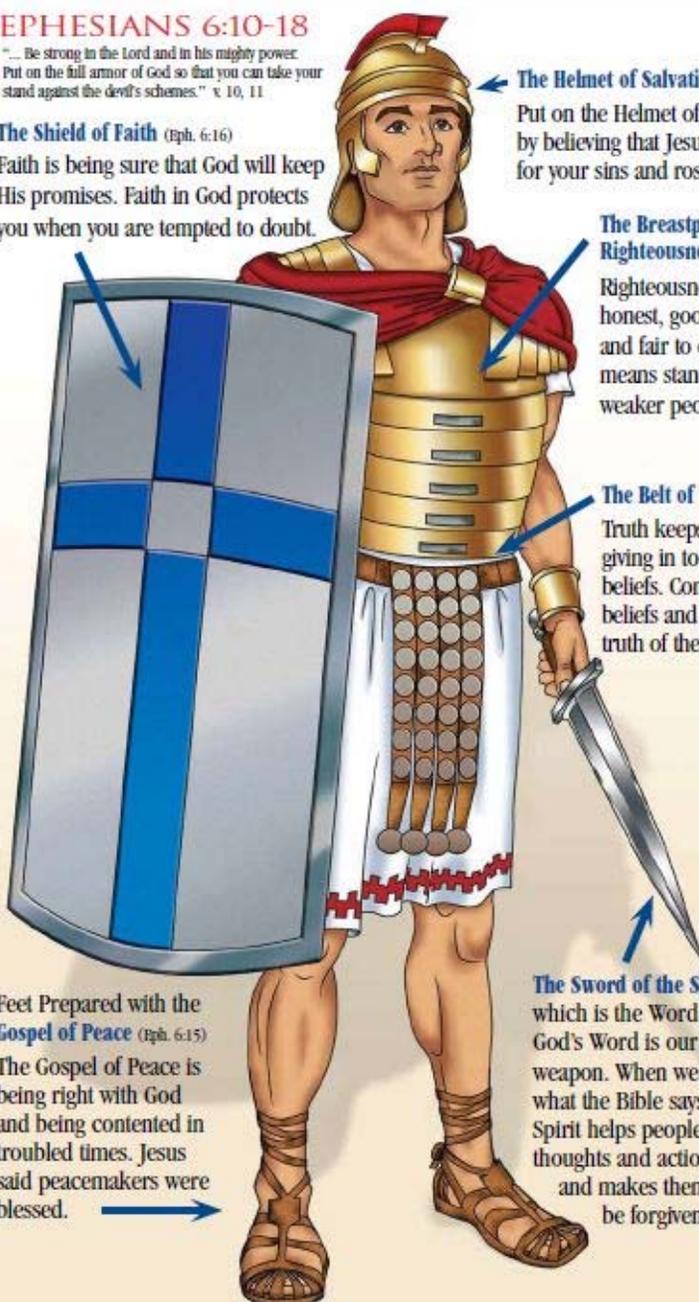
The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)
Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)
Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)
Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)
which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)
The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.



Ephesians 6:10-20 (New King James Version)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^[a] against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak

(What is Faith page 1)

smoke screen). Though this kind of “faith talk” sounds pious and impressive, it’s a long way from biblical faith.

In the Bible, faith isn’t merely a topic for discussion. It’s a way of life, an animating force. In the New Testament, the Greek noun that gets translated “faith” is closely related to the verb that means “to believe.”* (*the noun faith is *pistis* in Greek. The verb believe is *pisteuo*.)

Thus, biblical faith means trusting God—not only inwardly and mentally, but also outwardly and physically. This kind of holy trust doesn’t just nod at God’s Word—it starts putting on its socks and shoes. It culminates in action. Though it begins in the hidden depths of a person’s soul, real faith eventually shows up on the surface of a person’s life.

This is why Hebrews 11, the great “faith chapter” of the New Testament, celebrates all those faith-full Old Testament saints, not in terms of the religious doctrines they claimed to embrace, but in terms of what they did. (If you’ve never read that chapter, or haven’t read it in a while, it deserves seven or eight minutes of your undivided attention. Grab your Bible. Then start reading and try to hang on.)

Notice how active—not passive—faith is. The writer of Hebrews says that it was “by faith” that Abel brought a sacrifice to God and that it was “by faith” that Noah built his famous ark. “By faith” Abraham...did what? Engaged in a robust Bible discussion? Pondered Job’s provocative new memoir? No! “By faith” Abraham packed up his household after a holy, crazy dream and said farewell to his homeland. Do you see? Biblical faith isn’t lemon squares and decaf coffee after choir practice. It’s a holy adventure.

On and on the writer goes, with stories that make our hearts beat faster—or almost stop beating altogether. It was “by faith” that the parents of Moses hid their newborn son from a powerful, paranoid ruler. When that boy grew up, faith flooded his heart too, prompting him to leave his cushy life of privilege. Because of faith Moses chose to endure mistreatment with his fellow Hebrews.

Others giants of Jewish history, because they had a living and vital faith (or, more accurately, because it had them), “conquered kingdoms” and “shut the mouths of loins” (v. 33). Still others experienced the non-so-marketable side of faith: persecution and torture. For every faith-filled believer in history who has “escaped the edge of the sword,” God only knows how many others have been “killed by the sword” (vv. 34, 37).

Faith, the supernatural ability to “see” the invisible, is a primary emphasis of the Bible. It’s mentioned hundreds of times, and any third grader can see why. The original sin, the defiant act that unleashed evil on the world, was unbelief. When Adam and Eve refused to trust God, death took center stage. The whole world broke. Paradise was lost. It took Jesus, trusting God perfectly—and defeating sin and death through His crucifixion and resurrection—to make forgiveness and new life possible.

And if unbelief, a lack of faith, caused all the damage, then belief in Jesus is the only way back. No wonder Jesus was obsessed with seeing genuine faith spring up in the hearts and lives of His followers—always asking questions like, “Why did you doubt?” and “Where is your faith?” Hebrews 11:6 says it most succinctly: “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

The question is unavoidable. Do you have faith? Real, biblical faith? What do you believe—truly, deeply? It’s easy to know. Look at your life—notice the things you do and don’t do. Actions really do speak louder than words.

When it comes to faith, a person’s behavior is the most accurate tell in the world.

(Talk about Faith from page 1)

rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.” Amen.

The question is not, “How do we get faith?” but, “How do we exercise the faith that God has already given us?” All of us have faith in something. We may have faith in our ability to drive our car, or faith in a person whom we trust. Some of us may have faith in our abilities, or in a certain knowledge. But as believers in Jesus, our faith is focused exclusively on the living God—in Jesus Christ. And faith comes by hearing the Word of God Rom. 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” The Bible literally defines faith in Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Amen

Faith also involves believing first, and then seeing. God called Abraham “a father of many nations” long before he had a son. The Bible says that Abraham “in hope believed” Romans 4:18 says, “Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.” This promise would come to pass. He did not wait until he saw the physical evidence before he believed by faith. But eventually, he saw it with his own eyes. God honored his faith. And God is honoring our faith! We will see the Lord fulfill His promises to us!

So let us continue to use the measure of faith God has given to us, Amen, Hallelujah Thank You Jesus! Barbara Perry

(Faith from page 1)

Importantly,
It's not that things always go right for the believer in this world but that the believer sees things differently through eyes of faith because the believer looks at the things which are not seen .

2 Corinthians 4:18

[18] While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Let's look at Matthew chapter 9.

Matthew 9:27-29

[27] And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. [28] And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. [29] Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. ...

Throughout the gospels of Matthew , Mark and Luke we see Jesus over and over touching the lives of people and changing their lives forever through both physical healing and spiritual transformation .

The faith of each individual that God was able to work and perform miracles in each of their lives was a critical component to the outcome of their situation .

Having Faith in God is believing God can change a situation regardless of whether It turns out the way we wish it to or not. We trust that He is working all things together for our good (Romans 8:28). The person of faith is always trusting God for the outcome .

2 Corinthians 5:7 tells us ,
(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Again , faith leads us and becomes our spiritual vision.
When we begin to look at things that are unseen we understand Faith .
But it is not a blind faith because we believe and trust in Christ regardless of what is before us .
We begin to look at what is unseen .
And we believe that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we could ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)

And yet the book of Hebrews takes it even further ,

Hebrews 11:1-2

[1] Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. [2] For by it the elders obtained a good report.

The word substance in this passage means the essential part, something real and something solid .

In other words ,

Faith is the real , solid and essential part of the things we hope for .

Faith is the very evidence of what we have not seen .

The entire chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews gives us a written history of those who died in faith .

Faith teaches us to go forward and to keep our eyes on things above never looking back on this world .

Hebrews 10:38-39

[38] Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. [39] But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

The deeper our faith in God grows the more we will seek to please Him.

Hebrews 11:6

[6] But without faith it is impossible to please him : for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith is an endless subject in scripture because with our Faith there is no end until we meet Christ face to face .
God is the author and the finisher of our faith .

Hebrews 12:2

[2] Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

One day our faith will have an end when we will be done with troubles and trials and we will rest at the feet of our Savior Jesus Christ .

1 Peter 1:6-9

[6] Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though

now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: [7] That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: [8] Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: [9] Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

We will receive the end of our faith .
What a glorious day that will be !

Finally ,

Through prayer , keeping ourselves in the love of God and looking for His mercy we can build up ourselves in Faith .

Jude 1:20-21

[20] But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, [21] Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Lord,

Grant your people the ability today to walk by faith and not by sight .
In a time when there is so much that we see in this present evil world that is troubling to our eyes teach us to lift up our eyes unto your heavenly throne and behold your glory .

Help us to have compassion on some making a difference in their lives.
Help us be righteous leaders in our homes and churches .
Honest toward all and living ministers of the gospel .

As that father cried out for the healing of his son in the book of Mark 9:24..... He said with tears " Lord, I believe ; help thou mine unbelief .
Help us in our unbelief and increase our faith .

In Jesus Name,

Amen .

Greg Adamo

(The Sky from page 1)

deserves to be. Regardless of what your assessment of the assorted points of view might be, would you be surprised to hear from me that this nation has the potential to be much, much greater than it has ever been? In effect, and in my honest, humble opinion, this is a vast country of immense natural potential, but has chosen, over the years, to be satisfied as the quintessential under-achiever.

I know what I mean; and in the next few words, I am going to prove to you, the reader, exactly how the United States of America has behaved in this non achieving manner over the course of its existence.

There are a number of analogies I can use to support my assertion. One example is straight out of the Old Testament, namely Kings 3: 5 through 14; where King Solomon made what seemed like an unreasonable decision but actually became an ingeniously witty way to flush out the truth. Those were the days before DNA technology. Other examples are the thousands of the experiences of the lives of American citizens, particularly African Americans, who could have contributed to the nation's majesty, but were denied the opportunity. There's no denying of the fact that greater things could have come to this country if every single African American had been afforded equal and comparable opportunities to live their lives in peace and liberty as others do.

Of the thousands of individuals who would have made even greater achievements for this country but were rebuffed and impeded every step of the way, the following come to mind: The first African American to earn a PhD from Yale – was denied any kind of university faculty career, he had to scale down to teaching in the public schools;

As part of the numerous massacres and destruction of African American settlements and entities, numerous hotel and real estate entrepreneurs had their properties and the accompanying worth, which could have created the appropriate generational worth for their descendants, destroyed and taken over by the white citizens;

Endowed with the abundant talents of a thousand persons, the life of Paul Robeson was systematically ruined and bankrupted as a deterrent to all who dared;

Most notably, the career of Mohammed Ali was intentionally subverted and restructured thereby denying him the full use of the major part of his prime;

There is the case of Bruce's Beach in the settlement of Manhattan Beach in California where African Americans were systematically pushed out – thereby denying them the inheritance that was due them, to have been passed on as wealth to their descendants;

Too numerous to list here, I should summarize that stalwarts like Hank Aron, Ira Aldridge, Richard Allen, Marian Anderson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Marcus Garvey, William Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglas, Ida B. Wells, Malcolm X, Jane Addams, Claude McKay, Martin Luther King, Paul Laurence Dunbar, George Washington Carver, James Baldwin, Countee Cullen, Kelly Miller, Langton Hughes and several thousand others would and could have added much, much more to the depth of American greatness, if they were accorded the appropriate dignity and liberty in their own nation of citizenship to operate and to live and to function.

In Ella's own words, her career would have gone nowhere except for the timely and genuine support and encouragement she received from the likes of Frank Sinatra and Norma Jeane Mortenson, aka Marilyn Monroe. It is truly a sad commentary to even think that a talent like Ella Jane Fitzpatrick needed the

'backing' and 'mentoring' and the 'endorsement' of other people to allow her to gain national attention. Except for the color of her skin.

The original Queen of Jazz, the one and only Ella was a global phenomenon; from Australia to France and everywhere in between. Performing in front of thousands of transfixed fans and admirers all over the world, she told sad stories of how she would not be allowed in some cases, in the United States of America, to stay in the hotels and establishments where she was the major attraction and the reason for the occasion. In one example, the hotel manager reluctantly booked her into a room somewhere in the building, helped her get to her room, and immediately, unashamedly asked for her autograph. In another case, a particular promoter insisted they were not going to book Ella for a particular event because of the audience; being predominantly Caucasian, until Marilyn Monroe threatened to break her own relationship, before the flood gates were opened for Ella.

You can multiply these few instances by a zillion factor, and you get the picture. Now, think for a second, what the 'greatness' of USA would have been at any of the Olympic games without the addition of athletes of African American heritage. Think of the extent of the Wide World Of Sports – without black athletes. Think of the general arena of world wide music without the contribution of musicians of color. Think of the entire nation of U.S.A. without the quintessential nanny in the homes of the rich and famous. Long before the industry of international Au Pair and Nannies became a profession, millions of white, Caucasian toddlers were brought up by African American women, who had to leave their own toddlers in the care of older siblings. Long before convalescent homes and senior assisted living became a trillion dollar industry in this country, the ubiquitous black care giver was the one on the scene who catered to the dying needs of the same white masters who had lorded on them for all their lives. Now, just imagine if these individuals had been educated, compensated and encouraged to follow paths of self-reliance with financial freedom and equity achievement for themselves as well as that of their descendants. Think of any musical group of the likes of Jimmy Hendrix's Experience or those of Mick Jagger's Rolling Stones who are color blind and enjoy nothing but excellence and grandeur. Think of all the soccer teams of the world and consider the winners of the last world cup – France – and then try to fathom the ingredient that ensured their ultimate success. Multi-racial, multi-cultural and a rainbow of talents, not limited by any racial undertones. That's how much this country could achieve, over and above what it has always done.

Greater than anything the world has ever seen before. Fortunately it is never too late. I have a few thoughts as to how America **can hold on to something** in order to reach the Keep America Great and Build Back Better aspirations by achieving the full potential it is capable of.

Kwame6@att.net

PRAYER

Question: "Is the ACTS formula for prayer a good way to pray?"

Answer: The ACTS formula for prayer has been taught to children and new believers for many years. *ACTS* is an acronym that gives a basic model on how to pray: with Adoration, with Confession, with Thanksgiving, and with Supplication. While prayer formulas can help us learn to pray, they do not necessarily make our prayers more effective or ensure that our prayers will be answered. This model for prayer is loosely based on the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13), except for thanksgiving.

The ACTS model for prayer includes these elements:

Adoration – The *A* in the ACTS model stands for adoration, which means worship—glorying and exalting God. Through adoration, we show our loyalty and admiration of our Father. As we pray, we are called to worship God in adoration. This could be a song of praise to Him, praying a psalm of worship, declaring His attributes, or a myriad of other forms of worship.

Confession – The *C* in the ACTS model stands for confession. The word *confess* means "to agree with." When we confess our sins, we agree with God that we are wrong and that we have sinned against Him by what we have said, thought, or done. God forgives us and restores our fellowship with Him (1 John 1:9).

Thanksgiving – The *T* represents thanksgiving. Philippians 4:6 says, "With thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (ESV). How is thanksgiving different from adoration? The difference is that worship focuses on who God is; thanksgiving focuses on what God has done. We can thank God for many things including His love, salvation, protection, and provision.

Supplication – The *S* stands for supplication, which refers to prayer for our and others' needs. A supplication is a request or petition. We may pray for mercy (Psalm 4:1), leading (Psalm 5:8), wisdom (James 1:5), and much more. Paul encouraged us to make "supplication for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18, ESV), which means to pray diligently for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Is the ACTS formula for prayer biblical? The acronym itself isn't found in the Bible, but it can serve as a guide, especially when we are learning how to pray. Remember, prayer isn't a formula, and each prayer doesn't have to cover every type of prayer. God wants us to talk from our hearts and express ourselves to Him. As we grow in our love for Jesus Christ, we will naturally desire to talk to Him more.

Question: "What is the five-finger prayer?"

Answer: The five-finger prayer is a method to help people remember categories of people to pray for. It is a memory device used as an aid to prayer.

The little finger, or the pinkie, is the smallest finger, and it represents the individual who is praying. We need to pray for ourselves, but in humility we need to remember that we are the least important.

The ring finger this is usually the weakest of our fingers, and it reminds us to pray for the weak and the sick among us.

The middle finger is the tallest finger, and it reminds us to pray for our leaders.

The pointer finger, or the index finger, reminds us to pray for people who point the way—teachers and church leaders.

The thumb is the thickest and strongest digit, and when the hand is at rest, the thumb is the nearest to the rest of the body, reminding us to pray for family and friends—people who are closest to us.

The five-finger prayer has been popularized by Pope Francis. There is nothing specifically Roman Catholic about the five-finger prayer; it is simply one method to help people remember whom to pray for, similar to a prayer list. Since we always have our hands with us, the reminder of those in need of prayer is constant.

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Our Daily Bread

WALKING WITH JESUS

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Hebrews 12:1

Lean food rations, waterproof boots, and a map are some of the essentials carried by hikers on the John Muir Trail. The John Muir Trail is a 211-mile path in the western United States that winds across creeks, around lakes and woods, and up and over mountains, encompassing 47,000 feet of elevation gain. Because traversing this trail take about three weeks, carrying the right amount of supplies is critical. Too much and you'll run out of strength to carry it all; too little and you won't have what you need for the journey.

Finishing well on our journey as believers in Jesus also requires careful consideration of what we bring. In Hebrews 12, we're told to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles." The author compares our lives to a "race marked out for us," one in which we must "not grow weary and lose heart" (Vv. 1, 3). To become overburdened with sin or distracted by things outside of God's purpose for us is to carry an unnecessary weight.

Just as there are packing lists for the John Muir Trail, God has provided directions for following Jesus in the Bible. We can know what habits, dreams, and desires are worth bringing along by examining them in light of the Scriptures. When we travel light, we're able to finish well. Karen Pimpo

What's hindering you in following Jesus? What would it look like to "throw it off"?

Jesus, help me travel lightly according to your wisdom and to finish well.

Visit ChristianUniversity.org/SF104 to learn more about strengthening your walk with God.

Today's Scripture: **Hebrews 12:1-3**

¹ ***Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.***

INSIGHT

The connective word therefore in Hebrews 12:1 reflects back on the author's conviction that what God had revealed about Himself in the past has come to fullness of meaning in His Son (1:1-3). No angel, holy day, temple, or sacrifice can be compared to Jesus. He alone revealed the glory and goodness of His Father by exposing the sin and shame of the world fully and by forgiving it completely (1:4-10:22). "Therefore" the author would go on to urge readers to keep the faith that had already enabled them and many before them to endure hardship as a way of showing their faith in God (10:32-11:40). This was the moment to keep their eyes on Jesus who was leading them in selfless concern for others (12:2; 13:1-4). This was their moment to trust the One who assured them that He'd never leave them or forsake them (Vv. 5-6). Mart Dehaan

ACTIVE FAITH

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress. James 1:27

Sam's father had to flee for his life during a military coup. With

the sudden loss of income, the family could no longer afford the crucial medicine that kept Sam's brother alive. Seething at God, Sam thought, What have we done to deserve this?

A believer in Jesus heard about the family's troubles. Finding he had enough money to cover the medicine, he bought a supply and took it to them. The life-saving gift from a stranger has a profound impact. "This Sunday, we will go to this man's church," his mother declared. Sam's anger began to subside. And eventually, one by one, each member of the family put their faith in Jesus.

When James wrote the necessity of a lifestyle of integrity accompanying a profession of faith in Christ, he singled out the need to care for others. "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food," James wrote. "If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" (2:15-16).

Our actions demonstrate the genuineness of our faith. Significantly, those actions can influence the faith-choices of others. In Sam's case, he became a pastor and church-planter. Eventually he would call the man who helped his family "Papa Mapes." He now knew him as his spiritual father—the one who showed them the love of Jesus. Tim Gustafson

How have you experienced the love of Jesus extended to You? What can you do to help someone in need?

Faithful God, help me to live out my faith in You.
I want the way I serve others to honor You.

Today's Scripture: **James 2:14-26**

¹⁴ ***What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.***

¹⁵ ***But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.***

¹⁶ ***You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteous," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.***

¹⁷ ***In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.***

INSIGHT

James was the half-brother of Jesus (Mark 6:3). While Jesus' siblings were slow in coming to faith, Paul tells us that Jesus appeared to James after the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 1:19). As a result, James and his brothers are listed among the believers in the upper room in Acts 1:14. Following the execution of James the son of Zebedee and the brother of John (Acts 12:2), Christ's brother James would become a leader in the church (V. 17; 15:13-29). Sometimes called "James the Just," he was martyred for his faith around AD 60. Bill Crowder

Words To Live By

A Pain Warrior's Prayer

God make me strong,
give me the strength to keep on.
Give me the peace to accept life's strife,
give me the peace to accept this, my life.
Grant me courage to overcome,
till my goals and plans here are won.
Give my arms and legs the power,
to keep me moving, hour by hour.
Calm this storm within my gut,
and keep me from falling on my butt.
Calm the fires in my chest,
and the thoughts in my mind keeping me from being my best.
Surround me with supports that I can lean on,
but remind me it's You who I can always depend on.
Help get me through the toughest of days,
and watch over me and my loved ones always.
If at times I get too overwhelmed by life's trials,
help me to know my fellow pain warriors are with me all the while.
Despite all this pain and everything I've been through,
please help me see the true me, without suffering, shine through.
During the darkest of times, throughout my walk in this life,
always bring me back into the light.
I may not always like the body I've been given,
but this body is strong and has truly been lived in.
As I go from moment to moment in this battle for good health,
I have many things in my life, and body that gives me much wealth.
Wealth not defined in silver or gold,
But defined by things, people and animals that cannot be bought or sold.
We are pain warriors, and resilient are we,
Because of God's love for us,
And the love we all have for Thee.

Matthew J. A. Simmons

“Daily Confession of Faith”

In Christ I am anointed and a powerful person of God.

I am a joint-heir with Jesus and more than a conqueror.

I am a doer of the Word of God and a channel for His blessings.

If God be for me, who can be against me?

I am blessed coming in and I am blessed going out.

My enemies are fleeing before me.

God has commanded His blessing on my storehouses.

He has opened His Good treasures and I shall lend and not borrow.

I am the head and not the tail.

He has given me power to make wealth.

I dwell in the secret place.

I have His protection and provision.

God is my refuge, my fortress.

I am not afraid of the snare of the fowler.

No Evil shall befall me and no plague shall come nigh my dwelling.

God has given his angels charge over me and they are bearing me up in their hands

lest I dash my foot against a stone, as declared in Psalm 91.

1 Peter 2:9 establishes I am a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

I am a peculiar person called out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:24 states, I have been healed by the stripes of Jesus.

***Cancer, sugar diabetes, heart disease, sickness, afflictions, infections,
or any other disease cannot enter my body.***

I am without spot or blemish, an intercessor,

the righteousness of God, saved, and washed in the Blood of Jesus.

“No weapon formed against me shall prosper, and every tongue which rise against me in judgement You shall condemn.

This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,

and their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.

I am saved from wrath by Him and justified by the blood of the Lamb.

***Lord I pray that those may prosper that love Jerusalem and that peace will be within them
and prosperity in their houses according to Psalms 122:6-9.***

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Spirit Lifters

By Norman Vincent Peale

God Has His Eye on You

Let the following words sink deeply into your consciousness, and the experience of God's protection will be yours.

For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep

you in all your ways. Psalm 91:11

How your spirit will rise as the amazing truth grips you that nothing in this world can hurt you! God is watching over you to keep you in all your ways. His amazing kindness surrounds you always. You go through life with a high-hearted spirit, know God watches over you.

He Makes You Whole

Depression of spirit is often caused by a haunting sense of incompleteness and by unresolved conflicts. Jesus Christ, the skillful Physician, heals the personality as surely as he heals the body and soul. This is described in a wonderful passage:

Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His

garment. And as many as touched Him were made well. Mark 6:56

To experience His healing power, yield yourself to Him willingly. Make the first move, however timidly. He will respond with the miraculous touch that makes you whole in body, mind and spirit. How your spirits will rise as you gain a deep inner sense of wholeness!

Love Life and Have It Good

For anyone who wishes to enjoy life and experience God's goodness—to be happy, respected and, in short, live a full, rich life—read slowly but reflectively and humbly the following verses:

He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 1 Peter 3:10, 11

In these two verses are listed just a few things that put happiness in your heart.

We are told to curd our tongues from speaking evil about anyone. Simply never say anything to hurt anyone. Moreover, we are to refrain from double talk, from shrewd remarks that are designed to advance our interests at someone else's disadvantage. We are to turn our back upon evil and, in every way possible, do good. We are to help people and bring blessings into their lives. We are to seek peace on earth and in our own hearts, and so live that peacefulness may flow from us to others. We are to become an island of peace in a world of turmoil.

Do the simple, honest Christian things and life will be good—and you will love it.

No More Doubt—Only Confidence

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

If we do our part—live right and have faith—God will see that all of your real needs are supplied. God has infinite

riches, enough for all of us. We can receive these through God's law of boundless supply. Live according to His principles, and you will never look in vain for any necessity. How the spirit rises when you develop confidence and know that you will be cared for, that all will be well, that the future is bright with promise.

Victory in the Battle of Life

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesian 6:16, 17

The shield was used to protect the heart; the helmet was to protect the head. So must we protect our hearts and minds against negativism, pessimism, evil thoughts, hate. The mind must be kept clean. Take the sword of God's word and put to flight those enemies of the good life: wrong thinking and wrongdoing. Thus armed, you can win the battle of life.

Nothing Can Defeat You

Spirit goes out of you when you feel overwhelmed and defeated. Get firmly rooted in spiritual understanding; fill your life with faith and goodness. Then nothing can defeat you.

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his

house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

Live by the saying of Jesus Christ and become like that wise man who built his house upon rock—an unshakable house against which the storms beat in vain. You can have an inner serenity, strength and courage that defy all the storms of life. Christ makes you strong. You can be undefeatable!

Joy of Spiritual Fellowship

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20

One effective way to get your spirits lifted is to arrange for periodic times of spiritual fellowship—to think and talk and pray

with a few people who, like yourself, are seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. This practice will bring you one of the most glorious experiences in life. You will be aware that Jesus Christ is in the midst of such a group, and the warmth and uplift this knowledge will bring to your heart is impossible to describe.

Barbara Perry Speaks

Labor to Rest

**¹¹ “Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”
Hebrews 4:11**

Let us pray, “Father, thank You for blotting out all our sins like a thick cloud and for releasing us from condemnation because of past mistakes. Thank You for redeeming us and for Your promise

that You will remember our sins no more. We want to walk freely in Your light, In Jesus’ Name we pray and ask. Amen, Amen, Amen.”

“Strive” or “labor” to enter God’s rest. It sound like a contradiction. God used that word because He knew it would take work to stay seated. It’s easy to stand up and worry over problems and try to fix everything in our own strength. That’s why it says to labor to enter His rest. It take effort. He says work to stay seated.

Work to live from a place of resting in God’s grace and strength, Amen. If we’re trying to break a bad habit, we should be determined and disciplined, but if we’re trying to force it to happen in our own strength, we’re not tapping into God’s grace. We’re not working to get the victory; we are working from the place of His victory.

So I encourage you to stay in peace and let God make things happen that you couldn’t make happen.

Stand Firm

**¹³ Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13**

Let us pray, “Father, thank You for Your promise that You will work out Your plans for our life. Help us to stand firm in our faith in the times when nothing seems to make sense. You have never failed us in the past, and we know You’re not going to fail us in the future, its In

Jesus’ Name we ask and pray, Amen, Amen, Amen.”

In the Scripture, an angel appeared to a teenager named Mary and told her that she was going to be the mother of the Messiah. The Christ. She would have honor and be admired for generations to come. Mary was excited, but Mary didn’t know she would have to watch her son die a painful death.”

See when God gives us a promise, He’ll show us the end but not the middle. What we’re going through today may be

difficult and doesn’t make sense. This is where our faith has to kick in. Are you going to give up and talk yourself out of it? Or, are you going to do as Mary did and say, “God, You didn’t tell me about these dark valleys. But I know You’re still on the throne, and it’s not a surprise to You. I’m not going to live in discouragement, give up on my dreams, or quit believing. I’m going to have faith in the middle.” Amen.

Become a Nathanael

**⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!
John 1:47**

Let us pray, “Father, thank You for challenging us to come up higher and be our best, especially at home. Show us if there is anything we are doing that is keeping us from becoming a person of integrity. We want to change, and we

believe You have the power to change us, its In Jesus’ Name, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.”

One of our personal goals should be that we are so honest, so above board, so full of integrity that Jesus can describe us as He did Nathanael. “That’s not me,” you say. Maybe not yet, but it can be. We can become a person of integrity who does the right thing when no one is watching. It starts in the home.

See when we have integrity, we’re the same in private as we are in public.

We don’t treat people at work nice and kind and come home and be rude and harsh to our family. We should treat our family better than we treat anyone else. Don’t be kinder and more considerate to coworkers than we are to our spouse or children. We don’t have to be perfect, but we have to be real. We can’t change if we don’t acknowledge that we need to change. Ask yourself, “Where is my love and care falling short? If I was standing before God, what attitude would I bring?” Amen.

When You’re Real

¹⁸ But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Yesterday we talked about “Become a Nathanael”, having integrity, treating our family the same way we treat our coworkers. Well today topic: “When You’re Real”.

Let us pray, “Father, thank You for the invitation to drop our masks and deal

openly and honestly with the hidden issues that hold us back. Thank You for the promise that You are transforming us from glory to glory. We believe that You are working right now to lift us to another level, its In Jesus’ Name, Amen, Amen, Amen.”

The enemy would love for us to wear masks, hiding and not dealing with the issues that are holding us back. The enemy also doesn’t want us to become like Nathanael. Paul says that if our face is veiled with masks, we won’t see God’s glory. If we’re wearing a mask of perfection, pretending everything is okay,

or wearing a mask of pride, worried or wearing a mask of shame, its going to keep us from God’s best. We have to take off the masks. Get honest with yourself, and be honest with God. We don’t have to pretend. When we’re real, we’ll see God’s favor, Amen.

Remember God doesn’t change us from shame to glory, or from condemnation to glory, or from pride to glory. He changes us from glory to glory. When we’re not wearing masks, God’s glory is on us. When we’re open, honest, and real, God changes us and takes us to the next level.

THE BEAUTY OF HOLLAND

I AM OFTEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF RASING A CHILD WITH DISABILITY - TO TRY TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT SHARED THAT UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO UNDERSTAND IT, TO IMAGINE HOW IT WOULD FEEL. IT'S LIKE THIS...

WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO HSE A BABY, IT'S LIKE PLANNING A FABULOUS TRIP TO ITALY. YOU BUY A BUNCH OF GUIDEBOOKS AND MAKE YOUR WONDERFUL PLANS. THE COLISEMUM, THE MICHELANGELO DAVID. THE GONDOLAS IN VENICE. YOU LEARN SOME HANDY PHRASES IN ITALLAN. IT'S ALL VERY, VERY EXCITING!

AFTER MONTHS OF EAGER ANTICIPATION, THE DAY FINALLY ARRIVES. YOU PACK YOUR BAGS AND OFF YOU GO. SERVAL HOURS LATER THE PLANE LANDS. THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT COMES IN AND SAYS, "WELCOME TO HOLLAND.

"HOLLAND!!!" YOU SAY, "WHAT DO YOU MEAN HOLLAND! I SIGNED UP FOR ITALY. I'M SUPPORT TO BE IN ITALY! ALL MY LIFE I'VE DREAMED OF GOING TO ITALY."

BUT THERE'S A CHANCE IN THE FLIGHT PLAN. THEY LANDED IN HOLLAND AND YOU MUST STAY. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THEY HAVEN'T TAKEN YOU TO A HORRIBLE, DISGUSTING, FILTHY PLACE, FULL OF PESTILENCE, FAMINE AND DISEASE. IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT PLANE.

SO YOU MUST GO OUT AND BUY NEW GUIDEBOOKS. AND YOU MUST LEARN A WHOLE NEW LANGUAGE. AND YOU WILL MEET A WHOLE NEW GROUP OF PEOPLE YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE MET.

IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT PLACE. IT'S SLOWER-PACED THAN ILALY, LESS FLASHY THAN ITALY. BUT AFTER YOU'RE BEEN THERE AWHILE AND CATCH YOUR BREATH, YOU BEGIN TO LOOK AROUND, AND YOU BEGIN TO NOTICE THAT HOLLAND HAS WINDMILLS, HOLLAND HAS TULIPS. HOLLAND EVEN HAS REM-BRANDTS.

BUT EVERYONE YOU KNOW IS BUSY COMING AND GOING FROM ILTALY, AND THEY'RE BRAGGING ABOUT WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME THEY HAD THERE. AND FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE YOU WILL SAY, "YES, THAT'S WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO. THAT'S WHAT I HAD PLANNED."

AND THE PAIN WILL NEVER, EVER GO AWAY, BECAUSE THE LOSS OF THAT DREAM IS A VERY SIGNIFI-CANT LOSS.

BUT IF YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE MOURING THE FACT YOU DIDN'T GO TO ITALY, YOU MAY NEVER BE FREE TO ENJOY THE VERY SPECIAL, THE VERY LOVELY THINGS ABOUT HOLLAND.

SOURCE UNKNOWN

Joyce Meyer: Promises for your Everyday Life - a Daily Devotional

“Confess Your Faults to People You Trust”

17 For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. Luke 8:17

Why don't we ever talk about our faults and weaknesses? Why don't we want to bring things like that into the open? It's because we're afraid of what people will think. We're afraid of being rejected, misunderstood, or unloved by those we care about or that they might

have a different opinion of us if they really knew all about us.

But confessing our faults is important for emotional healing. The Bible says that all hidden things will eventually be disclosed, so we might as well share our hurts and weaknesses today with people that we trust.

When I finally worked up the courage to share with someone about the abuse from my past, it was incredibly difficult emotionally. But now when I talk about my past, it's as though I'm talking about somebody else's problems. The process of confessing the pain and

weaknesses in my life brought healing and restoration.

Pray and ask God to show you who you can trust, and then commit yourself to a relationship of openness and honesty with them. As you share together, you will bring God's healing to each other.

Prayer starter: Holy Spirit, show me who You've placed in my life that I can share my faults, weaknesses and hurts with. I want to open the door to greater healing in my life and in their.

“Love Yourself So You Can Love Others”

31 And second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. Mark 12:31

It's tough to enjoy life when you don't like yourself. People who haven't learned to accept and get along with themselves tend to have more difficulty accepting and getting along with others.

I personally spent years having a

hard time getting along with people, until I finally realized through the Word of God how my difficulty with other people was actually “rooted” in my difficulties with myself.

The Bible says a good tree will bear good fruit, and a rotten tree will bear rotten fruit. Likewise, the “fruit” of our lives comes from the “root” within us. If you're rooted in shame, guilt, inferiority, rejection, lack of love and acceptance, etc., the fruit of your relationships will suffer.

However, once you have a revelation of God's unconditional love for you and

begin to accept yourself and others, eventually these new roots will produce good fruit, and your relationships will thrive.

What are your roots planted in? Examine your heart today and pray that God will firmly plant you in the soil of His love, so that you can genuinely love yourself and then love others. Make sure you are rooted in Him today.

Prayer Starter: I want to be rooted in Your love for me. Without Your love, I can't love myself or others, so I receive it today.

“God Can Use Your Greatest Trials For Good”

20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Genesis 50:20

God spoke this to my heart awhile ago: “Joyce, you see to the end of your nose (which isn't very far), and you assume that anything that doesn't feel good isn't doesn't feel good isn't good.

But I see from beginning I am The Beginning and The End, and I know many things you don't know.”

We know in part, but God knows all.

In Genesis 50:20, Joseph is speaking to his brothers, who had severely mistreated him. When they threw him into a pit and sold him into slavery, they thought they were working against him, but really, God had a plan to use those trials to promote Joseph to a place of great influence.

Sometimes the very things we think are awful turn out to be a great blessing.

The greatest trial can develop in you the greatest faith. You might be at the bottom of a pit, but God has a plan to promote you in His call on your life. Remember, God can see all, and He will use those trails for your good.

Prayer Starter: God, I can't see 'past my nose,' but I trust You because I know that You see all I believe that You can take my trails and bring good out of them.

“Press On And Enjoy Your Progress”

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

It's true that we all still have a long way to go. I used to get discouraged about how far I had to go, and it seemed like I was reminded of it every day, sometimes every hour. I carried a constant sense of failure, a feeling that I just wasn't who I needed to be, I wasn't doing enough and I needed to try harder. Yet, when I did try harder, I only failed

again.

I've now adopted a new attitude: “I'm not where I need to be, but thank God I'm not where I used to be. I'm OK, and I'm on my way! I now know with all my heart that God isn't angry with me just because I haven't arrived yet. He's pleased that I'm pressing on and staying on the path.

If you and I will just “keep on keeping on,” God will be pleased with our progress. He has promised to light the path before us. We may not know the way, and we may stumble from time to time, but God is faithful. He sees your

progress, He's proud of you, and He's going to help you stay on the right path!

Prayer Starter: God, I won't get discouraged about where I am. You've already brought me so far, and I know that You will continue to light my way.

A Bird's Eye View Of The Bible

Old Testament

There are 39 books in the Old Testament library.
There are four types of writing in the Old Testament:
Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy.

It is helpful to know which kind of literature you are reading before you start: is it poetry, or is it history?

LAW

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

The first five books of the Bible are sometimes called the Law of Moses. They give many of God's laws about how to live.

HISTORY

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

These 12 historical books cover the occupation of the Promised Land, the time of the Judges, Israel's kings, the fall of the two kingdoms and a return to Jerusalem.

POETRY

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs.

Nearly one third of the Old Testament is written in poetry. These five poetical books ask profound questions about evil, pain, love, wisdom and God.

PROPHECY

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

The 17 prophetic books account for almost a quarter of the Bible. They are divided into "Major Prophets" (the first five books) and, "Minor Prophets" (the last 12). The "Minor" ones are shorter, not less important.

New Testament

There are 27 books in the New Testament library.
There are three types of writing in the New Testament:
History, Letters, Prophecy.

Before you study a New Testament book it helps to consider what kind of literature you are reading: is it a letter or is it history?

HISTORY

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

The first four books, called gospels, are not like our modern biographies. But they do give four portraits of Jesus. Acts is part two of Luke, about the early church.

LETTERS

PAUL'S LETTERS

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

We have 13 of Paul's letters. Except for one personal one, Philemon, they were all written to groups of Christians.

OTHER LETTERS

Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude.

We don't know who wrote Hebrews. Tradition states that all the writers of the New Testament, except for John, were martyred.

PROPHECY

Revelation

Written by the apostle John, this book has seven letters to churches and numerous visions about God.





**SUNDAY
4TH
JULY**

10:00 a.m. in the *SACTUARY*
Join us for **IN-PERSON**
Praise & Worship Experience

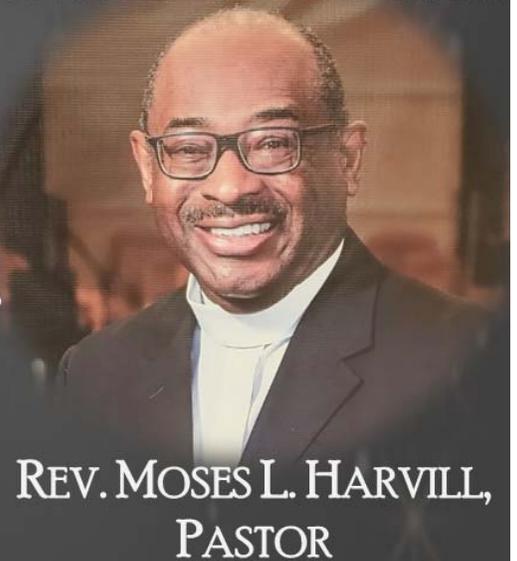
*Masks Required

*Social Distancing

*Following additional CDC Guidelines &
State and Local Protocols

CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
· 440 WEST STREET · MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457 ·
(860) 344-9527

WWW.CROSSSTREETAMEZION.ORG



REV. MOSES L. HARVILL,
PASTOR

IN GOD WE TRUST

Today Scripture: Isaiah 30:1-5, 15-18

“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.” Isaiah 30:15

In the early days of the American Revolutionary War, an expedition was launched against British forces in Quebec. When the expedition passed through Newburyport, Massachusetts, on the way to Canada, they visited the tomb of the renowned evangelist George Whitefield. Whitefield’s coffin was opened and his clerical collar and cuffs were removed. The clothing was cut in pieces and distributed in the mistaken belief that it could somehow give the soldiers success.

The expedition failed. But what the soldiers did demonstrates our human tendency to trust in something less than a relationship with God—money or human strength or even religious traditions—for our ultimate well-being. God cautioned His people against this when invasion from Assyria threatened, and they sought Pharaoh’s help instead of turning from their sins and turning personally to Him: “This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: ‘In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. You said, “No, we will flee on horses.” Therefore you will feel!’” (Isaiah 30:15-16)

Their “expedition” failed as well (just as God said it would) and Assyria overwhelmed Judah. But God also told His people, “The Lord longs to be gracious to you.” Even when we have trusted in lesser things, God still holds out His hands to help us return to Him. “Blessed are all who wait for him!” (V. 18) James Banks

In what other than God are you sometimes tempted to place your trust? How will you rely on Him?

I trust You, God. Please help me to always rely on You because You’re always faithful!

¹ “Woe to the obstinate children,” declares the LORD, “to those who carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin; ² who go down to Egypt without consulting me; who look for help to Pharaoh’s protection, to Egypt’s shade for refuge. ³ But Pharaoh’s protection will be to your shame, Egypt’s shade will bring you disgrace. ⁴ Though they have officials in Zoan and their envoys have arrived in Hanes, ⁵ everyone will be put to shame because of a people useless to them, who bring neither help nor advantage, but only shame and disgrace.

¹⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. ¹⁶ You said, ‘No, we will flee on horses,’ therefore you will flee! You said, ‘We will ride off on swift horses.’ Therefore you pursuers will be swift! ¹⁷ A thousand will flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you will all flee away, till you are like a flagstaff on a mountaintop, like a banner on a hill.”

¹⁸ Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

INSIGHT

Contrast is one of the literary tools many of the prophets utilize in their writings. When actions or ideas are set in contrast to one another, the better/worse or good/bad nature of the two choices is crystalized. This contrast is often identified with the use of the word but. In Isaiah 30, the prophet Isaiah uses this approach to show the folly of Israel’s choices. In verses 1-5, Israel hoped in the protection from an alliance with Egypt, “but” (v.3) that hope would be turned to “shame.” And in verses 15-18, God describes the way of salvation, “but” (v. 15) Israel would choose their own way and find themselves in ruin (vv. 16-18). J. R. Hudberg

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
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Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the “Hope Line” is in operation 24 hours per day. Please call 860-754-4606 if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis, **PLEASE** dial the “Hope Line”. All information will be confidential.

CROSS STREET MINISTRY OF RECOVERY
We can’t but through God, all things are possible. How might we pull on God’s strength to help each other recover?

Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way

For more information contact:
Church office 860-344-9527.or
Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

8:00 a.m. **Church School** (see Zoom Meeting)
 10:00 p.m. **Worship Service**
<https://zoom.us/j/959628798>
 Meeting ID: 959 628 798
 (929) 205-6099, Code: 959628798#

Tell your family and friends from across the Country.
 We can be watched worldwide.

Tuesday

Bible Study

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/562367770>
 (929)205-6099, Code: 562367770#

Wednesday

Day Of Prayer

Prayer Times: 6:00 A.M. 12:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.
 Free Conference Call: 1 (727) 731-4561

Sunday School ZOOM Meetings

8:00 a.m.- Contemporary Sunday School: Adults

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;
 Code: 140827210#
 Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/140827210>

8:30 a.m.- Dr. Long's Sunday School Class

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;
 Code: 734629713#
 Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/734629713>

9:30 a.m.- Beginners Sunday School: Ms. Carolyn Smith

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;

Code: 233007146#
 Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/233007146>

11:00 a.m.- Primary Sunday School: Rev. Earlene Grant

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;
 Code: 614890401#
 Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/614890401>

11:30 a.m.- Juniors Sunday School: Rev. Greg Winborne

Voice Only Call: (929) 205-6099;
 Code: 856361645#
 Web-link for Video Call: <https://zoom.us/j/856361645>

We thank you for your generous giving. Ways you can give:

- Online: crossstreetamezion.org
 1. Realm, (Realm: <https://onrealm.org/TheCross/-/give/TJXKDEVIXE>)
 2. Text 73256 (Thecross)
 3. PayPal,
 4. CASHAPP: \$TheCross440
 5. Mail: P.O. Box 223 Middletown, Ct 06457,

6. Drop off on Sunday 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
 7. Call the office for someone to pick up
 8. Church outside Lockbox

(Note: you can find links on the website; <http://www.crossstreetamezion.org/Give>)

Starting Sunday, July 4, 2021

Worship services will resume in person in the Sanctuary.

There will be one service at 10:00 A.M. The doors will open at 9:45 A.M. to begin temperature check-in. As you enter the building, we request you to sanitize your hands.

If you choose to worship in the Sanctuary, there will be one entrance open, the main doors in the front of the building. The committee and I ask that you follow the guidelines for seating. The pews and floor will be marked to help you do this.

We also kindly request all persons attending to wear a mask over their mouth and nose to prevent the possible spread of illness to the most vulnerable among us. Masks are not required for those under the age of two or for persons unable to remove their masks.

I understand that there has been considerable discussion about masks. Since the scriptures are, of course, silent on the matter, I do not think we need to agree on the substance of the question. It is a matter of personal conscience. However, since some of our more vulnerable brothers and sisters

would experience a great deal of anxiety worshipping with a group of people who are not wearing masks, I ask that you consent to wear a mask for their sake (see 1 Corinthians 8-9 for the principle).

Worship Outside: If you prefer to worship outdoors, there will be designated parking and an outside speaker, and you can listen on radio frequency 89:3 F.M. and watch on your phone via zoom, Facebook, or YouTube. During Communion, someone will bring the sacrament to you.

Livestream Worship: Finally, we will continue to live-stream the 10:00 A.M. service so that you can watch from your home. If you are experiencing any signs or symptoms of a new illness, including fatigue, fever, chills, difficulty breathing, cough, or nausea, please make use of the live stream and consider contacting your healthcare provider.

Other Precautions:

Since studies seem inconclusive on whether singing increases the risk for viral spread, and since we want to exercise an abundance

of caution at this point in re-opening, if you choose to join the worship and praise team in singing, please keep on your mask.

Please refrain from shaking hands and embracing one another at this time.

I understand that some of these precautions may feel burdensome. They are temporary, and, even so, I hope you will join me in giving thanks to God for bringing us back together again and ask him to provide us with patience and kindness for each other.

Much Love to All. Faithfully Yours,
 Pastor Harvill

Special Note: For now, we will have service in the Sanctuary every other Sunday (First and 3rd) and 2nd and fourth in the parking lot only, along with Live streaming.

Please let us know by phone call, letter, or email what else we can do to help you become comfortable returning to in-person worship.

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. It can be found on our website: crossstreetamezion.org & in the front lobby. If you would like a PDF copy sent to you, Email your request to: ken46@snet.net. If you have an article or information (word count 1000 - 1500 or less) for current and future publications the deadline for this information is the Monday after the 2nd Sunday of each Month. **You may submit your information in the following ways:** place the information on a CD (Window format) and leave it in the Cross Street office, E-mail Ken Simmons (Ken46@snet.net), or give it to him. **Praise God!!!**



CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Organized in 1823

440 West Street P.O. Box 223
Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-344-9527 Fax: 860-344-1740

crossstreetchurch@snet.net
www.crossstreetamezion.org

Sunday School — 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,
Pastor

Email: mharvill@snet.net

The Rev. Dr. Terry L. Jones
Presiding Elder

Mrs. D. Diane Proctor
Missionary Supervisor

The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor
Presiding Prelate

Ministerial Staff

- Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner
- Rev. William D. Wilson
- Rev. Ella Frances Perry
- Rev. Karen Nesmith
- Rev. James Battle
- Rev. Myrtle Turner
- Rev. Gregory Winborne
- Rev. Joyce Johnson
- Rev. Earlene Grants
- Sister Felicia Freeman



Retooling For Church Growth In 2021

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteous; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33 KJV

“I am a Christian”
By Maya Angelou

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I’m not shouting “I’m clean livin’.”
I’m whispering “I was lost,
Now I’m found and forgiven.”

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I don’t speak of this with pride.
I’m confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I’m not trying to be strong.
I’m professing that I’m weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I’m not bragging of success.
I’m admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I’m not holier than thou.
I’m just a simple sinner
Who received God’s good grace,
somehow!

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.



Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision and make it plain on
tablets, that he may run who reads it.
Habakkuk 2:2

The Jabez Prayer

And Jabez called on the God of Israel
saying, “**Oh, that You would bless
me indeed, and enlarge my territory,
that Your hand would keep me from
evil, that I may nor cause pain!**” So
God granted him what he requested.
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

“God’s Word

*For the word of God is quick, and power-
ful, and sharper than any two-edged
sword, piercing even to the dividing
asunder of soul and spirit, and of the
joints and marrow, and is a discerner of
the thoughts and intents of the heart”
Hebrews 4:12*

Prayer: Forever, O Lord, your Word is
settled in heaven. I bless you because
you have given me rest according to all
that you have promised to me. Not one
word of all your good promises has ever
failed. In light of this truth, I will walk in
your Word at all times.
I love your Word, Father, it is a lamp
unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
All of your words are pure, O God, and
you are a shield to me. Lord God, your

way is perfect, and your Word is tried.
You are a shield and a mighty buckler to
me as I trust in you.
With your Word you made the heavens,
O Lord. all of your promises are yes in
Christ, unto your glory, O God. You
have spoken through your Word since
ancient times, in order to give light to
those who sit in darkness, and you guide
my feet in the way of peace.
Your Word is quick, alive, and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword.
It pierces even to the dividing asunder of
my soul and spirit, and of my joints and
marrow, and is a discerner of the
thoughts and intents of my heart.
Father, I am thankful for your Word, and
I will endeavor to walk in the light of your
Word all the days of my life.

If you were to die today, do you know where you will spend eternity ???

Doxology

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
Jude 24-25