



BCK Ministry and Worship Center

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Our Perfect Example

By Pastors Brad and Cathy Westover

Hebrews 12:2

“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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” NKJV

Jesus is the supreme example of faith in God, endurance and perseverance. We should always keep our eyes on Him as our example. There is no question that we are in a time of testing in so many areas. The writer of Hebrews leaves us with the perception that they, too, were a community weary of persecution, struggling to stay strong, weakening to a point of giving up, and turning away from the faith. Have you been there lately? I think many of us have. Just as the author of Hebrews encourages the church to look to Jesus, as your pastors, we are giving you the same encouragement, **LOOK TO HIM!**

He is the ultimate example of faithfulness and endurance in the face of suffering. It is at this time of the year that we look at how the Savior suffered for our redemption—when we look at the physical pain, the emotional duress and the shame He endured for us. As His tribulation ended and He now sits at the right hand of the Father, so shall our tribulation and trials end! **THE ATTACK OF THE ENEMY DOES NOT LAST FOREVER!** We, too, can look at the joy set before us. God alone can take everything in our lives that seems like the wheels are coming off of and turn them into avenues of blessings! It is because He is God!

We must finish our race just as our perfect example did. We must fix our eyes on Him and look away from all distractions. He endured the cross, despising (disregarding) all the shame. Crucifixion was a shameful, humiliating and horrible way to die. He chose to endure—to finish in spite of the cost. Imagine how He felt when all the sins of the world were placed on Him and His very own Father turned away.

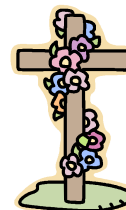
What have you endured? What shame have you had to bear? Have you been ridiculed, beat, and taunted? Do you love the Father enough to follow the example of Jesus? Do you look to the joy set before us if we finish the race?

The joy set before us...this statement really sounds like "religion ease" doesn't it? I can assure you that we have all been in a spiritual battle that just seems like when everything has gone wrong, you find one more thing gets thrown on the pile. Regardless how tough the battle is, none of us have ever endured what Jesus endured. But He didn't quit! He didn't give up! He set the perfect example before us to follow. We must keep our eyes on our great reward, our future hope. We can't focus on our present situation or circumstances. We must keep our eyes on the spiritual, invisible realities. We will share His reward when we finish the race set before us, keep our eyes on the prize and persevere in times of suffering just as Jesus did.

God Bless each and every one of you during this awesome time of the year when we celebrate the powerful resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In His Service Until He Comes—and He Is Coming!

Pastors Brad and Cathy



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March

Calendar of Events

- 1—Habitat for Humanity "Bowl-a-thon"
- 2—Youth Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
- 2,3,4—"Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames" 7:00, Spring Meadow Family Worship Center
- 6—Adult Basketball Night, 7:00-9:00
- 9—Board of Director's Meeting, 6:00
- 10—Women's Bible Study, 6:30-8:00
- 16—Palm Sunday
- 16—End of Fast
- 20—Adult Basketball Night, 7:00-9:00
- 21—Good Friday Communion Service
- 23—Easter Sunday
- 24—Women's Bible Study, 6:30-8:00



Amazing Love

What a painful ordeal it must have been. Being crucified. I'm not going to attempt to describe it. I'm not going to give details about what I think it must have been like. I'm not even going to try to imagine the physical and emotional pain that Jesus must have gone through on that Friday so long ago. You've seen the movie. You've read the description in God's Word.

But perhaps the most excruciating part of the whole crucifixion took place when Jesus summoned up the strength to utter these words, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" At that moment in time, is it possible that God really abandoned His Son, Jesus?

A beautiful song, *Amazing Love*, puts it this way: "I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken. I'm accepted, You were condemned. I'm alive again, Your Spirit lives within me, because You died and rose again."

Can you imagine the feeling of helplessness and sorrow that must have accompanied Jesus' question to His Father? Being forsaken by God—it's almost too much to comprehend. What utter desolation of the soul!

But, even more amazing than the fact that Jesus was forsaken by God is the fact that we will never be forsaken by God. In many places throughout the Bible, we are promised that "I (God) will *never* leave you or forsake you." (Joshua 1:5, 1 Chronicles 28:20, Deuteronomy 31:6 and 8, Hebrews 13:5) We, as sons and daughters of God, will never experience a day, an hour, or even a second of being forsaken by God. Any time we call to Him—from birth to death—He'll be there for us, ready to forgive, ready to bless, always listening and waiting. From our first breath until our last, we will never have to feel the pain and helplessness of being deserted by our Heavenly Father.

Jesus was forsaken so that we never would be. That is truly amazing love.



A Merry Heart

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."





Sessions from the Worship Directors' Studio

By Dan and Kim Gargon

As we begin the 21 day fast, and we gather together to worship during it, the question that I feel I'm being asked by the Spirit of God, is this: "ARE YOU HUNGRY AND THIRSTY?" The answer in my personal life is a resounding "Yes!" And I sense that many of us would also give that answer. The more complicated questions that most certainly follow this one are-"DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU ARE HUNGRY?" and "WHAT ARE YOU HUNGRY FOR?" I Feel that God wants, at this time to realign our understanding of why we are hungry and what we should be hungry for. As Americans we have so many choices as to what we can ingest. This could include food, but also anything else that we do to bring us a sense of satisfaction.

It's very easy to be hungry and thirsty and to not know why or what to choose. For example, when I'm hungry or thirsty for something, but I just don't know why or what for, I usually just try what ever is in the fridge or the snack cupboard. This is never satisfying to me. It just contributes to the size of my pot-belly and not my nutrition. It might just be that spiritually we know that we are famished, but we just don't know why, or what for and so many of us are rummaging through the cupboards in the kitchen of our lives looking for something that can satisfy our unquenchable hunger or thirst.

Here are a couple of scriptures that deal with this subject and maybe as we read them we might find the answer that we seek. These are not in any particular order of importance. Nor is this every scripture that might apply. Also, I am not going to comment upon them. I'll just let the Spirit lead each one of us into the truth.

Deuteronomy 8:3

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Nehemiah 9:15

In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst you brought them water from the rock; you told them to go in and take possession of the land you had sworn with uplifted hand to give them.

Proverbs 16:26

The laborer's appetite works for him; his hunger drives him on.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Luke 6:21

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied...



If you Feel led it might be helpful to take a blank sheet of paper and a pen, say a prayer asking for Holy Spirit to reveal to you what He wants you to know, and then write down any thoughts that might come concerning each one of these scriptures.

IN HIS LOVE!



Rewards

By Mitzie Simmons

I've been praying about a situation in my life. Don't you find it frustrating when you are talking to GOD about one thing and HE begins to discuss something that seems to be off the wall? Like praying about a parking place at Wal-Mart and God starts talking about increasing your tithe another 10 or 20%. Or how about praying for healing when GOD starts talking about your (oops) *my* eating habits. Maybe you're praying for a cost of living raise at work when GOD says "I am your inheritance and your portion; I am your shield and exceeding great reward". (See Genesis 15:1 and Psalm 16:5.)

So as I said, I'm talking to God about this problem/situation going on in my life when GOD starts talking to me about rewards. He reminds me that where my heart is, that is where my reward dwells – will be. I remind GOD of how I think this "problem" should be handled – I must admit that both of my solutions are various degrees of flesh—my flesh. Ugh! Each time I bring this situation to HIS throne, HIS only solution is, "Where is my reward?" Sometimes I really am not happy when GOD starts "digging" around in my heart. Doesn't HE have a unique way of showing us what is really in our heart? So I begin meditating on "rewards".

The Word of God says that we can have rewards here on earth and we can have rewards in heaven. That wherever our reward is, that is where our hearts are. So what are the rewards we have here on earth? The Bible says that if we do our good deeds as a show to those around us of our "righteousness" we have our reward of that good deed right here and now. AND the reward is corrupt (tainted, dishonored, ruined and degraded) and available for thieves to steal. But if we do our good deeds in secret for only our Heavenly Father to see, our reward will be openly given by our Heavenly Father, and our treasures cannot become corrupted. They are clean, spotless, unblemished, shining, faultless and secure. (See Matthew 6: 1-4 and 6:19 -21)

By this time we are into our BCK Corporate Fast 2008 ©Our focus is "Going deeper in our relationship with GOD". May I encourage you to begin to meditate on some of these scriptures? Take some time over the next few days of fasting to hear GOD's challenge for you personally. When the thought enters your mind that someone you know "really needs to hear this teaching" I challenge you to sit down and listen again to what the Spirit of GOD is speaking to you. Be bold enough to say, "Holy Spirit, How does this apply to my life?" Take a risk get real with your Inheritance and your Portion. Watch how quickly GOD steps into becoming your Shield and EXCEEDING great reward. What greater treasure could a person want? What a shining, secure reward! What a warm "dwelling place" for your heart!



"Click" on God

Confused about who you might want to vote for in the upcoming Presidential Election? This site might help you sort through some of the mudslinging and political rhetoric and that seem to accompany every political election:
www.godtube.com/election

When you get to this site, you'll be able to click on each Presidential candidate's picture to see what they're saying about important issues. You'll also be able to read a brief synopsis about each candidate that highlights their experience and background.

Being an informed voter is easy when you "click" on God!





Are You Afraid?

By Christian Education Director, Michal Makin

Since the beginning of the New Year, I have noticed that more and more of my fellow church folk walk around in fear, holding fast to it as if it were a pacifier or their favorite blanky. It seems to me that they almost find comfort in being afraid. Maybe it's not that MORE of my Christian kin are strolling around fearful, but that I have just been blind to their plight and haven't noticed before. Could this be? Maybe it's both, but either way, my heart has been awakened to this gigantic problem. Yes. It is a problem because the Bible, God's Words, our Sword, says "FEAR NOT" more times than it says anything else. It also says in Romans 8:14-16, "because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

See? It says that the spirit of fear turns you into a slave. If you have asked Christ to be your Lord and Savior then that means you are given the Spirit of sonship. You are adopted and you can call God "Daddy." That is awesome. Automatically then, shouldn't we assume that all our needs will be met by our heavenly Father even better than our dads here on Earth? That's what it says in Matthew 6: "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Stop being afraid. Don't worry. Be happy. I know that maybe it is a little cliché but that is exactly what God is telling you.

When you begin to worry or start to be fearful, stop yourself. Take that thought captive. Speak out loud and tell Satan to get away from you. Memorize Phillipians 4:8 and say it out loud. Sing a worship song. Then you can have something to instantly begin to think of to keep the worry warts away.

Most of all, seek after Jesus and pray that God will help you to throw away your "spirit of fear" blanky. Spend time with Jesus and look toward Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to begin to reveal your "sonship" or "daughtership" to you. Then do it again. Then again...and again...and again. Do you get the picture? Bad habits are easy to develop, similar to how weeds grow. First you have to break the bad habit – in this case, worrying or being fearful. Only you can make the choice to stop this fear thought process. This is like pulling the life sucking weeds out of the ground and pitching them. After that, the plants and seeds of love and righteousness can grow healthy and big. Focus on Jesus. That is my advice. It's also what the Bible says to do.

Morning by morning I wake up to find
the power and comfort of God's hand in mine.
Season by season I watch him amazed,
in awe of the mystery of his perfect ways. .

All I have need of his hand will provide. He's always been faithful to me. .

I can't remember a trial or a pain
He did not recycle to bring me gain.
I can't remember one single regret
in serving God only and trusting his hand. .

All I have need of his hand will provide. He's always been faithful to me. .

This is my anthem, this is my song,
the theme of the stories I've heard for so long.
God has been faithful, he will be again.
His loving compassion, it knows no end. .

All I have need of his hand will provide. He's always been faithful to me. .

Sara Groves



Dancing with Him

By Noreen Beauregard

God is so good, isn't He? It amazes me to think about the journey He has taken me on over the years. You start in one place, and never can you imagine how far God will take you! I remember the first time a lady handed me a flag over 12 years ago. I thought, "What am I suppose to do with this?" This lady told me that God told her to give me the flag and she said, "Just let the Holy Spirit flow through you and the Holy Spirit knows what to do." So I figured who was I to argue with what God told her? So I closed my eyes and prayed for the Holy Spirit to help me. Well, the Holy Spirit grabbed a hold of me that day and I haven't let go since. God just keeps showing me more and more about the Flags and Dance. I've asked God several times though – why me? I don't even look like a dancer is supposed to look – are you sure, God, that I'm the right person to be doing this? He always answers me the same – "Keep moving forward in what I've showed you I want you to do." God is not the least bit concerned about my insecurities, so, until God tells me to stop, I'm going to keep on dancing and keep on flagging!

What has God told you to do? Are you doing it? Are you feeling tired or ill equipped?

I want to encourage you to do what God has called you to do and He will equip you with all that you need. You don't need to be perfect to be effective for God's purposes. Don't give up! Just keep putting Him first and let Him lead the dance through life and it will be great! God is so good all the time! All the time, God is good!

Real Youth

Who do I influence . . . Is the influence I show right or wrong?

Have you ever asked yourself those questions? Up until recently I didn't think much about it until this past Sunday. I all but fell to my knees when I found out that one of the young ladies that came to church on a regular basis is now pregnant at the ripe age of 15. A month ago there was another young lady that attended youth a few times on Thursday nights that gave birth to a beautiful little girl. I can't describe the devastation and sadness that I feel for these young ladies. I came to find out that one of the young ladies was a victim of date rape. All this has left me questioning many things in my life. One of them is the influence we carry. Words cannot describe all that I feel. I'm sure that sounds selfish, what about them? What about the parents? What about what they are going through? And, you're right, but, through this I started looking at how I influence those around me. Our influence starts in the home. Who sees us more as our natural selves more than our family—our children? What mark are you leaving on their precious lives? My sons have seen me upset, angry, happy and even devastated, not knowing in what direction I am going. Dylan has seen things and gone through more than any kid should. I know there are kids that have seen and gone through worse, but I don't like what we put Dylan through at a young age. That is our own personal feeling because we know we made poor decisions that affected him too. Our kids learn from us first and foremost. It's not the responsibility of the teachers in school or at our church to raise our kids. Our kids learn more about behavior, manners, how to treat others, how to react to situations—good or bad—in the home from the time that they are born. When Dylan is away from us I need to ask what is influencing him. What kind of friends does he hang out with? When he spends a night at their house what does he see, hear, and what kind of influence does it have on him? Kyle is not exempt. He is learning and growing every day. We have to ask what kind of influence he is receiving with our families? What does he see and hear? Is the daycare he attends adequate? Is it a safe environment? What is he learning? I could go on and on. God's word tells us to raise our kids up in the ways of the Lord and they will never depart from them. Once our children become teenagers and then young adults, we are not the only influence that affects their lives. We can't always be there to protect and shield them from harm. But, as parents, we can raise them to know God's word, to read a scripture with them and ask them what it means to them. Have a family fun night and get to know their friends and their families. Listen to what their body language is telling us along with their words—instead of saying sit down and shut up. How well do we know our youth? How are we influencing them? Do we know what is influencing them?

From one parent to another, let the mark of Jesus be the influence you have left on your son or daughter.

Patrick & Dustyn Wirick