



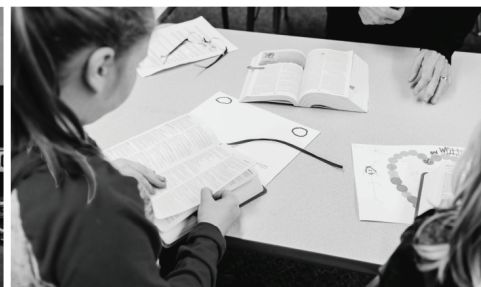
# Reach GATHER GROW

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First Edition, July 2019

Published by:  
**The River Church**  
8393 E. Holly Rd.  
Holly, MI 48442

Scriptures are taken from the Bible,  
English Standard Version (ESV)



THE RIVER CHURCH

Printed in the United States of America







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# PREFACE

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Matthew 28:19-20 is referred to as the Great Commission. It is the last two verses of the book of Matthew. Jesus has already risen from the dead, and He gets the disciples together for some final words. It is a coach's last pep talk as the players enter the arena for a big game. He says, ***“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

It is these verses that are the basis for who we are as the Church: The Church exists to glorify God by reaching the world, gathering with the saints, and growing in the Word.

This mission seems quite clear from Jesus' words:

***“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,”*** (glorify God by reaching the world)

***“baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”*** (glorify God by gathering with the saints)

***“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”*** (glorify God by growing in the Word).

This process is not a straight line with an ending point. It is more like a spiral as we reach, gather, grow we should then want to be reaching more of the world, gathering, growing, and so on.

*Reach Gather Grow* consists of four study guides for personal or group study and twenty-four devotions covering the mission of the Church. These help remind the believer to focus on essentials and listen for their calling by God.



CHAPTER 1  
DR. RANDY T. JOHNSON  
GROWTH PASTOR

A common trivia question is, “How long was The Hundred Year War?” Facial responses to an apparent idiotic question are priceless. Actually, the conflict between France and England lasted 116 years (1337-1453).

When you hear the word “war,” what do you think about?

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There is a war that has lasted a lot longer than 116 years. Over 10,000 years ago a war began when an angel tried to overcome his Creator. Satan was not satisfied with being a lead angel; he wanted to be over God Himself (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28). His pride took him down (1 Timothy 3:6), and he took others with him. About one-third of the angels partnered with him and were also kicked out of Heaven.

As in most wars, Satan looked for allies. So, from the start of time, there has been a war over the very souls of men and women. He went after Adam and Eve. Satan won the initial battle as Adam and Eve sinned and in essence signed a treaty with him. Therefore, we were all born under that treaty aligning us with Satan. We are born into a war as an ally with Satan. To be an ally of Satan makes us an opponent or enemy of God.

Romans 5:1 says, ***“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

Is everyone at peace with God?

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This verse implies initial “war with God.” How can one have peace with God?

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What is the opposite of peace with God? Is it war with God or peace with Satan?

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Read Saul's conversion in Acts 9:1-8, ***“But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ And he said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.”***

Who does Saul think he is persecuting?

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Who does the Lord say Saul is persecuting?

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Does the Lord take hurting his children personally?

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Does this passage imply a war?

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Matthew 25:31-40 brings another perspective, ***“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”***

When did they see Jesus hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or in prison (this passage is before the crucifixion)?

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Who do the people think the Lord is describing?

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Does the Lord take helping his children personally?

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Does this passage imply “two sides” as in a war?

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Proverbs 16:7 gives a bonus, ***“When a man’s ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”***

Who comes to mind as an “enemy” when you read this verse?

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Have you asked your ally (the Lord) to help?

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# GARETH VOLZ

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## REACH, TESTIMONY 1

**Gareth Volz** | *Senior 55+ Director*

**M**y salvation experience is not very exciting compared to that of people who God delivered from a life of “horrific” sin. God granted me the privilege to be born into a household where both my parents were Christians who loved the Lord. My earliest memories are of my mother and father reading me Bible stories and praying with me daily.

Until the age of six, my family lived on the first level of my grandparents’ house in Detroit, and my grandparents lived on the upper level. My grandparents loved the Lord, and I adored them. On Easter Sunday in 1953 after lunch, I was upstairs spending time with them, and my grandmother asked me what I learned in Sunday school that day. I related to her the flannel graph lesson we had been taught about Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. She asked me if I understood why Jesus died on the cross, and I said it was to save people who had sinned. When she explained that I was a sinner, I was shocked (I was five at the time). That Sunday afternoon in 1953, I asked Jesus to forgive my sins and be my Savior. For the next few years, I had a real hunger for the Lord. I memorized Scripture, went to every church youth event I could, and had a real desire to serve the Lord. I was baptized at the age of 12.

But when I went to college, I began to drift away from the Lord. I still went to church, I even taught a children’s Sunday School class, but my friends, sports, girls, and having fun diminished the time I spent with the Lord. Like the children of Israel, I got my focus off the Lord, spent less time in prayer and the Word, and in effect, wandered in the wilderness of the world. But even in my unfaithfulness, Jesus did not

leave me to myself. He needed to humble me so that I would realize again that He was what I needed. The Christian girl I was engaged to broke it off, and I was devastated. I came running back to the Lord, and I asked Him to help me. I told Him I was sorry for putting other things before Him and asked His forgiveness. I also asked Him to direct my life and let me serve Him. Three years later I met the most beautiful girl in the world, who has been my wife for 44 years. God also opened the door for me to leave public education and serve Him in Christian schools for 28 years, as well as in different church ministries. I have been a blessed man, and my desire to serve and live for Jesus grows each day as I walk with Him.

# TIM WOELKERS

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## REACH, TESTIMONY 2

**Tim Woelkers** | *New Life Camp Director*

**H**ello, my name is Tim Woelkers. I am the Camp Director at New Life Camp. It is in Rose City and hosts summer camp for children and students, plus both the women's and men's retreats.

As I write this, we are coming up on my favorite day of the year - opening day of baseball season! Opening day signifies a fresh start and the promise of a new season. I got my fresh start, salvation, at a very young age. My parents helped confirm my decision when I was seven years old, and I was baptized.

I am blessed to have grown up in the Church and even attended a Christian school. The education I received from school, church, and family was focused not only on academics but a foundation in Christ. I took this opportunity for granted as it was easy to make the right decisions and be lazy in my faith. The Lord was preparing me for a new season in my life.

Going away to a state college was an eye-opening experience. I was in an environment where no one cared if I was a Christian. My choices were my own, and it was now going to take work to maintain my relationship with Christ. Roommates and friends would not care if I made the wrong decisions and those temptations were at the door literally every day. I wish I would have been more aggressive in my faith, but I laid low and stayed in the background not damaging my Christian reputation but not advancing the Kingdom of God either.

As so often happens, I am in another new season of life and find myself in a similar environment as a member of the local fire department. I

## REACH TESTIMONY 2

ask the Lord frequently to give me opportunities to represent Him. I often fail to be bold in my faith, but I believe that He is still teaching and using me as much as I will let Him. I pray that your fresh start or new season in your life will be filled with excitement and boldness for Christ.

# CASEY MAXWELL

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## REACH, TESTIMONY 3

Casey Maxwell | *Graphic Designer*

I did not grow up in a Christian home. We went to my grandparent's small Baptist church on Christmas and Easter. When I was a sophomore in high school, I dated a guy who went to church with his family, so I went with them regularly. When my boyfriend and I broke up, I kept going to church because I loved it so much. The next couple of years though, God felt distant, like I could not reach Him. I would hear other Christians talk about how intimately they knew Him, and I wanted that desperately. I thought, "If I do this or that, then I will start to feel closer to God and actually know Him."

When I was a freshman in college, I was involved in a women's group on campus, and our leader asked me if I have ever heard of the "bridge analogy." She explained to me that our sin causes a divide between God and us, and Christ is the only way to bridge that gap (through His sacrifice of Himself on the cross). It started to make sense why I did not feel close to God, but even a year after that I thought I could bridge the gap myself.

My sophomore year of college, I hit a breaking point. I had struggled with anxiety starting at the end of middle school that steadily increased each year. The weight of my fear (and sin) got so heavy that I had regular panic attacks, was sleeping on and off, eating less, and eventually was put on anti-anxiety medication. I felt like I was falling apart, and that no one could rescue me from my own thoughts.

One night (after waking up from a panic attack), I got on my knees and asked God to rescue me from myself, my sin, and brokenness. It was so relieving to finally admit that I could not carry that weight and that I needed Christ to save me from that.

### REACH TESTIMONY 3

After I made that decision (seven years ago), God's voice has become so clear to me (through studying His Word and prayer). When He wants me to take steps of obedience, I am willing to because I know Him and that He knows what is best for me. I finally understand where I stand with Him because of Christ (having nothing to do with my own merit, what a gift!): I am His daughter, forgiven, beloved, cherished, secure, free, and worthy because of who He is and His sacrifice.



# MARY JANE JOHNS

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## REACH, TESTIMONY 4

Mary Jane Johns | *Worship Leader*

I was just five years old when I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. Even at an impressionable young age, I wanted to please Him. I believe He has placed His stamp on my heart in loving and serving Him. As I grew up, my family was at church every Sunday morning, evening, and Wednesday night. I loved every minute of it. Being part of a great big crazy family with seven kids was super fun – even adventurous! My parents were both only children, so they wanted a large family. We are all two years apart and felt very much wanted and loved. There was always music being played, sporting events to attend, and games to play. I always had a friend for the game time. The Strader kids were tight!

When I was 11 years old, my world was forever changed. It was shaken to the very core. My dad went to be with Jesus at the age of 47. He had several complications from Diabetes, and his organs failed. We were devastated beyond comprehension. The barometer of our home would never be the same. I watched as my mom struggled with finances for the first time, we switched schools, her health failed, and things were downright rough. Often times I would look into my mom and dad's room and see her down on her knees with her Bible opened. She was quite a warrior. Even as she felt the heavy weight of grief, she was still crying out to God and seeking His heart.

Philippians 1:21-27 talks about living for Christ. No matter how much we long to go to Heaven to escape the perils of this dingy Earth, living for Jesus is huge. My parents both knew they would not go through life void of physical pain and suffering. It is like God put His

stamp of approval on them as if to say, “You are my chosen ones.” They claimed these verses as their own. In fact, my mom had the verse **“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”** (Philippians 1:21) engraved on my dad’s tombstone.

I am incredibly grateful for the time I had with my sweet parents. However, I am so immensely rich because of their love for Jesus. The lessons I learned as a small child left a deep impression on my heart. God’s precious grace, redemption, and love for me prompt me to be a better person. **“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”** will forever be engraved upon my heart because I am a follower of Jesus.

# BEN KIRKMAN

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## REACH, TESTIMONY 5

**Ben Kirkman** | *Associate Operations Pastor & Facilities Director*

**“H**ave I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Oftentimes when facing the challenges of life, I am encouraged to continue following Christ by looking back on how He has worked in my life. Sometimes the journey gets bumpy, and sometimes we struggle to make sense of what God is doing. How wonderful it is to know that we can trust in the promises of God and rest in His continual faithfulness.

In the summer of 1983, I was born to Gary and Becky Kirkman. I was raised on a small family farm in Corunna, Michigan. My parents were faithful followers of Christ; they taught me the importance of developing a personal relationship with Him. Jesus became my Lord and Savior when I was a young child. I have no stories of wild rebellion or running from Christ, and for that, I am very thankful. Jesus got ahold of me at an early age, and He spared me from a lot of pain and regrets.

As a teenager, I started to plan out my life: I was going to be an architect; I was going to design houses; I was going to make a lot of money. About the time I had completely figured out my future, God revealed that He had other plans for me. He started working on me about surrendering my plans to Him. I ended up surrendering, and He quickly sent me down a path that was not the one I had planned. God put a passion in my heart to become a pastor, a passion from which I could not shake or run. After high school, I went all the way to California for college to train to become a pastor. During my junior

year of college, I married my high school sweetheart, Maggie Savoie. We both graduated from college in 2005 ready for whatever God had for us.

After graduation, we had what seemed to be the perfect job opportunity back in Michigan, very close to both of our families. We packed up everything that we owned and made the long trip to Michigan. Upon arriving in Michigan, the entire job opportunity fell through. We were devastated, we could not figure out what God was doing. We were confident that God was faithful; we knew He had a plan and that He was at work. We began praying for Him to show us what was next. That very same day, I received a call from a pastor in Colorado, offering me a position as an assistant pastor. We knew God was working, so we accepted the position and quickly moved to Colorado.

While we were in Colorado pastoring from 2005-2017, God worked in so many ways and taught us so many valuable lessons. God blessed my wife and me with four healthy children that all love Jesus. God gave us a wonderful church family that genuinely loved God and others. In 2017, God began to call us back to Michigan. We wrestled with what God was doing, but we surrendered and moved back, not fully knowing why or what we were supposed to be doing. We just went. Knowing that God had been faithful and always will be faithful made it possible for us to leave.

Shortly after arriving in Michigan, God showed us once again that He is in control, and He provided me with an opportunity to work at The River Church as the Director of Facilities. I can see Him molding me and shaping me into what He wants me to be, even now in my new role at The River. I look forward to what God has in store for my family as we continue to follow our ever-faithful God.

***“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is Good.”*** 1 Chronicles 16:34

# TYLER FENTON

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## REACH, TESTIMONY 6

**Tyler Fenton**

I grew up in church my whole life. My Mom was raised Baptist, and my Dad was raised Catholic. So that crazy combination created me. I could say several “a baptist and a Catholic walked into the room” jokes, but I will refrain myself. I remember going to Sunday School every week at a small Methodist Church in Oxford where I heard that “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so” and all the churchy children songs. I gave my heart to Jesus when I was six years old. Shortly after that, every Wednesday our family would go to Burger King, and I was determined now to make this my mission field. I would stop kids from going down the slide in the play place and ask them, “Do you know Jesus? Do you want to go to Heaven one day?” One kid asked me what was in Heaven? I told him a lot of ice cream, and I prayed with him. So at a very young age, I had the heart for evangelism.

I wish I could say after I was saved, my life was amazing, and my relationship with Jesus took me on this incredible spiritual journey. But that is not my story. If you could give my life a theme or title, it would be “Tyler - simply never good enough.” Whether it was being cut from the seventh-grade basketball tryouts or meeting with a counselor every week since the fifth grade to help deal with depression, I never felt worthy of anything. I felt like a living, breathing mistake. Yeah, God saved me, but I always thought that He would never use me. How could anyone ever see value in someone like me? It was not until after high school where I truly realized the beauty of the Gospel. The amazing thing about the Gospel is that at my very worst, with all my sinful baggage, the brokenness, the shame, the guilt, and all the shattered pieces of my life, God said, “I want you.” He did not just say it; He proved His love on the Cross.

The reality of my testimony is it has nothing to do with me and everything to do with Jesus. It is so freeing to be able to say that. What I love about God is He uses broken and imperfect people to love other broken and imperfect people. Last year, I went to two prisons and two jails and God gave me the opportunity to love and encourage broken and imperfect people. I told every person I interacted with the same message I needed to hear, "If you were the only one ever to come to know Christ, to ever worship Him and acknowledge Him as Lord, He would have died just for you. God loves you so much, and He is crazy about you. And any lie from the enemy that says you have no value, I pray that you remind yourself that you are worth the blood of Jesus."

I love how 2 Corinthians 12:9 says it, ***"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."***





GATHER  
GATHER  
GATHER



CHAPTER 2  
DR. RANDY T. JOHNSON  
GROWTH PASTOR





Once we become followers of Jesus Christ, not only do we have “peace with God,” but we also become a “piece of God.” This is not a New Age or Zen directive, but 1 Corinthians 12:27 says, **“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”** We, the Church, are the body and Christ is the Head. We do not become God or even gods, but He speaks of us as being part of Him.

What does it mean to be the body of Christ?

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Define “church.”

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What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a beautiful “Church” building?

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A key passage on “the body of Christ” is 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, **“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any**

*less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."*

What observations do you see from this passage?

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How can the parts of the human body relate to the Church (body of Christ)?

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What does verse 27 mean?

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Several verses discuss the body of Christ:

Romans 12:4-5

***“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”***

Colossians 1:18

***“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”***

Colossians 1:24

***“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.”***

Ephesians 5:23

***“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.”***

Ephesians 5:29-30

***“For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.”***

How do these verses relate to “the body of Christ?”

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Is it clear that believers (the Church) are the body of Christ?

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The body of Christ is a common theme among Church leaders:

“We have been released from the spirit of fear by the Holy Spirit, who has placed us in the body of Christ.” David Jeremiah

“For the church is not a human society of people united by their natural affinities but the Body of Christ, in which all members, however different, (and He rejoices in their differences and by no means wishes to iron them out) must share the common life, complementing and helping one another precisely by their differences.” CS Lewis

“Yes, I see the Church as the body of Christ.” Martin Luther

“When it comes to my salvation, all I need is Jesus; after my salvation, everything is Jesus plus the church... When people preach that all you need is Jesus, they cut you and I off from one of the greatest sources of healing, which is the body of Christ. Don't go it alone - you won't make it.” Josh McDowell

Which quote or concept stands out to you?

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What are some parts (roles) of the body of Christ (the Church)?

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What is your part (role) in the body of Christ (the Church)?

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What could you do, should you do, and will you do?

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# DELIVERED

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## GATHER, DEVOTION 1

Isaiah Combs | *Worship Leader*

I love a good story. I think that is true of most people. Hearing a great storyteller tell a detailed and fun story is up there with the best things ever. I am not partial to books or movies. Just give me a good story.

As a staff, we wrote a song about the greatest story ever told. I think good songs also tell good stories. Just like a good book, you become attached to the characters, and it becomes personal.

*Broken for broken beaten for me  
put on the cross called Calvary*

Jesus died for our brokenness. This story is personal. It is our story. It is the story of our Savior being beaten and dying for our sins. We read in 1 Peter 2:24, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

*All hope was shattered placed in the ground  
your body lay broken my savior cast down  
The stone rolled away you rose from the grave  
you are alive and now I will proclaim*

For three long days, Jesus laid in the grave, but He rose again just as He said. He defeated death, Hell, and the grave. Matthew 12:40 says, **“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”** Luke 24:2 adds, **“And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.”**

*From my wandering  
from my sin and shame  
you delivered me out of the grave  
Now, I'm found in you  
You're my hiding place  
I will praise you for all of my days*

Before Jesus, we were all lost and wandering. We were chained to death by our sin. The cost of our sins was too great. But we are no longer lost but found in Jesus.

Romans 6:23 says, ***“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”***

This is the greatest story ever. It is a story of redemption, love, and grace. This story is personal. It is the story of our staff. It is my story.



# TO THE MOON & BACK

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## GATHER, DEVOTION 2

Mary Jane Johns | *Worship Leader*

**W**e have four crazy children. It seems as if our boys came out of the womb full of vinegar. My sons love to challenge us and keep us humble. The game of soccer runs deeply through their veins, and they have the stitches to prove it. Whether it is in their eyebrows, fingers, lips, knees, or cheekbones, we have been to the emergency room to stitch things back up and put them back in place. I will never forget during one particular game, my son went up for a header and crashed into another player. The player on the opposing team immediately went down. My son, however, kept playing and got blood all over the field. Thirteen stitches later, he was back on the pitch the next day. The boys have broken lamps, dishes, and clocks by juggling in the house. Sometimes they blame their sister who is also an accomplished soccer player. Almost every time it is one of our boys who are to blame. We like to think they are wonderfully stitched together.

We love our children all the same; however, whenever they ask me who is my favorite, I always say, "You are my favorite. Shhh! Do not tell your brother or sister. I love you to the moon and back." It is just a thing we say to one another on a regular basis. It is almost habitual.

1 Peter 3:15-16 says, ***"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."*** This is our family verse. Each one of our children has a ring that has this reference engraved on the inside of it. It is a reminder for us to honor and love God but mostly we need to be prepared to give an answer for our hope.

*Merriam Webster Dictionary*, defines hope this way: “to cherish a desire with anticipation: to want something to happen, be true or to expect with confidence.” We live in a broken world with emotions, ruined relationships, and shattered families. Our family has seen serious problems. We do not claim to be perfect. The Johns’ family has been humbled and brought to our knees. There have been times our children have steered away from God’s love and forgiveness. It has been difficult for us, yet we continue to love unconditionally. I believe this is what God would want. There is hope!

Our Heavenly Father is our hope. We make a choice every single day to love our kids even when they are unlovely. Why do we do this? We do this because God first loved us. He is the ultimate example of love and hope. Sharing Jesus and giving Him honor is just part of our story. We can point neighbors and friends to Christ, but it is the work of the Holy Spirit to change hearts. For our family, this is part of our brokenness.

We gain encouragement by gathering together with other saints. We have been humbled, and we do not claim to have all the answers, yet we are willing to share our story with gentleness and respect. By doing this, we point others to Jesus. We continue to love our children to the moon and back. We continue to gather together to give God praise on a regular basis. I love the song “*Reckless Love*.”

*Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.  
Oh, it chases me down, fights ‘til I’m found, leaves the ninety- nine.  
I couldn’t earn it, and I don’t deserve it; still You give Yourself away.  
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.*

I am grateful that our Heavenly Father is chasing us down and loves us to the moon and back. People ask us why we are different. Why do we have this confidence? It is because of Jesus’ unrelenting never-ending love. He stitches us back up when we feel utterly broken.

# BROKEN FOR BROKEN

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## GATHER, DEVOTION 3

Philip Piasecki

One of my personal passions is writing worship songs for the church. Our Gathering Team is filled with so many creative people, and we have had the opportunity to write a few songs together that our church now sings on a regular basis. Last year, we wanted to write a song that would work hand in hand with our Easter theme, and we ended up writing the song, “*Delivered*.” It is amazing how God can use multiple people, with multiple ideas, to come together to write one song. John Hubbard (Waterford Worship Leader) came to us with the lyrics for the chorus, and after that, the whole song started to flow. I want to take you through each part of the song and explore what we were trying to express through it.

*Broken for broken, beaten for me  
put on the cross called Calvary  
Creator crucified, bled on that tree  
descended to darkness, You died for me*

For the first verse, Pastor Caleb had the idea of the phrase “*Broken for broken*.” The idea is that Jesus Christ was broken on the cross to save broken people. So many people treat Jesus as if He only died for those people who “have it all together,” but that could not be further from the truth. He was broken for a broken world and for broken people. The whole first verse is the story of His crucifixion, how He was broken, He was beaten, He bled, and He died all for us. Surprisingly, sometimes as believers it is easy to forget about the cross. We wanted to take the first verse of the song to sing about it, reminding us of what Jesus endured. This first verse sets up the rest of the song and the story.

*All hope was shattered placed in the ground  
Your body lay broken my Savior cast down  
The stone rolled away, You rose from the grave  
You are alive and now I will proclaim*

The lyrics at the beginning of verse two express how it seemed like all hope was lost after Christ had died. I cannot even imagine being one of Jesus' disciples at the time. To see the man you had faithfully followed for three years be crucified would have shattered all of my expectations about who Christ really was. However, then the miracle of the resurrection takes place. The stone was rolled away, Jesus rises from the dead, and because of that, we proclaim His praises.

*From my wandering, From my sin and shame  
You delivered me out of the grave  
Now I'm found in You  
You're my hiding place  
I will praise You for all of my days*

Jesus died and rose again to deliver us from our sinful life. That is what we celebrate in sing in the chorus. Part of the concept comes from the story of the Prodigal Son. He had left his father's house, wandering the city streets living in sin, and living in shame. He had no hope until he returned home to his father. The father delivered him out of his wandering, sin, and shame. The father welcomed him home and gave him a place where he was protected and safe again. That is our same story, and it is why we sing that Jesus delivered us from our wandering and ultimately from the grave. Instead of being found in this world we can be found in Christ. It is in Christ that we can find strength and refuge, and that is something for which we should praise Jesus!

*Death was defeated, your love abounds  
 Rise up in victory and claim Your crown  
 Creation rejoicing, come hear the sound  
 heavens be glad that salvation is found*

Verse three continues the celebration of what Christ did, and how we should respond to that victory. One of my favorite lines in the whole song is found in verse three *“Rise up in victory and claim Your crown.”* It is this picture of Jesus taking what is rightfully His, victory over death and Hell, and claiming His crown as our King forever as creation. I remember Josh Lahring (Goodrich Worship Leader) bringing up the idea of even creation rejoicing and praising the Lord. It is so powerful to think that all of creation is worshipping God and we get to join along with it.

*I'm found in You, I'm found in You  
 Your Love broke through, I'm found in You*

I remember when we were writing this song we wanted something simple, yet profound for the bridge of the song. Isaiah Combs (Holly Worship Leader) came up with the simple and powerful idea of how Jesus' love broke through everything and found us. We are no longer found in this world once we have been delivered from it; we are found in Christ. It is so powerful when the body of Christ is singing in unison *“I'm found in You.”* We get to declare to Jesus that we do not want to be found in our pain, circumstances, sin, or shame. We are found in Him.

I hope understanding the lyrics of this song has been an encouragement to you. Remember, when we gather together as the Body of Christ, we sing for a purpose. We sing to celebrate, to remember, and to confess. I pray that it is something we would not take lightly, but that we would recognize that we are coming before the Throne of God with our prayer and our worship.



# COMMUNITY

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## GATHER, DEVOTION 4

Carole Combs | *Women's Ministry*

People gather together for all sorts of reasons. It may be for a quilting meeting or even a substance abuse meeting. People gather for a Boy Scout meeting, Girl Scout meeting, to scouting out their ancestry. Students meet on the university campuses for group studies, sorority meetings, and fraternity meetings. People meeting at a designated location to worship God is another reason people gather together. This is surely a very short list of examples of people of all ages, male and female, that gather together.

Why did they gather together? They had become a community. A group of people that care about each other and feel they belong together should meet. They share common attitudes, interests, and goals. One of the fundamental human needs is to feel like you belong. People do not want to be lonely. Do not get that confused with being alone. Sometimes in the chaos of my very large family, I would like to have some quiet time alone, not too much though. Being lonely is a very sad feeling. You can be in a room full of people and still have the feeling of loneliness. This is why having a community is very vital for the well being of a person.

A real community brings a sense of home, family. A good community gives you a sense of belonging and acceptance of who you are. A community gathers together, or if you may, you are not a community if you do not gather together. When a community gathers together, you begin to trust one another. A funny thing happens, complete strangers can become closer to you than your biological family. I have personally experienced this aspect in my church community. I love to travel. When I travel, I love to visit Bible teaching churches. When

I walk into a building of a community of followers of Christ, it is as if I already know these people. We are family here and for all eternity! God is our Father, and we are His children. We are a community of Christ followers! We share the same identity. Our identity is in Christ. Have you experienced this? Are you gathering regularly with a group of believers? If not, why?

Think of all the other communities you have joined. It could be work, sports, gym, crafts, moms, books, and music. How much time and energy do you personally put into them? How much of your resources do you use for it? God made each of us with a need to belong, to connect with other humans. It was His desire for us to connect with Him and His family. Crazy; however, we are no different than those recorded in the Bible. Mankind, you and I, have connected and gathered together for anything and everything except God and the things of God. There is so much in this world vying for our attention. We can gather for this meeting and that event, but heavens no, we do not have time to gather with those “churchy” people. The church has failed in so many ways. Our internal purpose as a community of believers is to love, care, build one another up, and encourage (Hebrews 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ephesians 4: 12,29). I know these actions are not always present. If the internal purpose has been failing, the external purpose is suffering as well.

We as believers are told to go into all the world and preach the Gospel (Matthew 28: 16-20). We are to love and care for those outside of the community of believers. We are called to be an army for the Lord. Great things are done when a force goes out! Do not use the failings of the church, a friend, a family member, or even a stranger, keep you from gathering together with a community of believers. Do not use business, laziness, tiredness, or anything as an excuse. You belong gathered together. Become part of the community of believers that God has meant for your life and your families life. They need you, but you need them!



# WHO AM I?

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## GATHER, DEVOTION 5

Dani Reynolds | *Graphic Designer*

**“W**ho am I?” is a question that I had asked myself often in my “B.C.” (before Christ) times. I would describe myself as being scattered, goofy, clumsy, unstable, useless, unlovable, a mistake, a joke, tainted, and unworthy. That is how I viewed myself. I think I probably carried myself like that too. I brought children into this world with my belief that I was not good enough. My kids watched and heard me belittle myself. In turn, they started to follow my path. I would hear them say that they were not good enough or they were a mistake. I was shocked to think they thought of themselves that way. I would respond, “You are not a mistake, I love you!” I thought I was teaching them that they were better than that. But what I did not realize is that actions speak louder than words. I can say all day long you are not a mistake but if they see me and hear me belittle myself, why would they think any different? I am their mother; they are apart of me.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”*** In God, we find value and direction.

Hebrews 10:24-25 adds, ***“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*** Once we give our life to the Lord, He often uses other believers to encourage, challenge, and walk with us.

Jason Gray's song, "Who I am," teaches us that we need to be reminded of who we are in Him. If we are to lean on our own understandings, we leave ourselves vulnerable to Satan. John 10:10 says, "**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.**" We all need to be reminded of who we are in Him (the Lord).

*When I lose my way, And I forget my name  
Remind me who I am  
In the mirror all I see, Is who I don't wanna be  
Remind me who I am  
In the loneliest places, When I can't remember what grace is  
Tell me, once again  
Who I am to You, who I am to You  
Tell me, lest I forget  
Who I am to You, that I belong to You, To You  
Who I am to You, who I am to You Tell me, lest I forget  
Who I am to You, that I belong to You To You  
When my heart is like a stone, And I'm running far from home  
Remind me who I am  
When I can't receive Your love, Afraid I'll never be enough  
Remind me who I am  
If I'm Your beloved  
Can You help me believe it  
Tell me, once again  
Who I am to you, who I am to You, whoa  
Tell me, lest I forget  
Who I am to you, that I belong to You, To You  
I'm the one You love, I'm the one You love*

Not only do I need to be reminded of who I am in Him. I need to remind myself that I am so loved and valuable that He lives in me.

# MOVE MOUNTAINS

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## GATHER, DEVOTION 6

Michael Fox | *Creative Director*

**M**usic has always been an interesting influence on my life. I spent the majority of my high school life involved in music. I was in Concert Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Men's Ensemble, and Concert Choir. Looking back, and now having a son of my own, I cannot imagine going to all those events! Worship music, however, was not a major influence until later in my life. I have even found in the past year worship music to be a major part of my worship to and with God. There is something about the music itself, mixed with the lyrics, that really creates a space for a connection with God in my mind.

I remember about a year ago first hearing the song “*Do It Again*” by Elevation Worship. I was going through a valley in my life, and that song really spoke into my life and helped point me to God.

*Walking around these walls  
I thought by now they'd fall  
But You have never failed me yet  
Waiting for change to come  
Knowing the battle's won  
For You have never failed me yet*

In the first verse of the song, they sing about a well-known story in the Bible where Joshua marched around the walls of Jericho seven times for seven days, and the walls fell, just as God said they would.

Joshua 6:2-5 records, “***And the Lord said to Joshua, ‘See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of***

***valor. You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.'"***

As I read through these lyrics, I also stumbled upon an article on [newreleasetoday.com](http://newreleasetoday.com) where they interview the artists of the song, I reflected on some of the meaning behind this song. One principle that stood out was the first three lines. God has a master plan, but it is easy to want to take that into our own hands, and it is easy only to see it our way. Sometimes we get tired; we wonder where God is. Sometimes we give up or stop trying. But if we stop marching around the walls on the sixth time, we might miss what God has for us on the seventh time around.

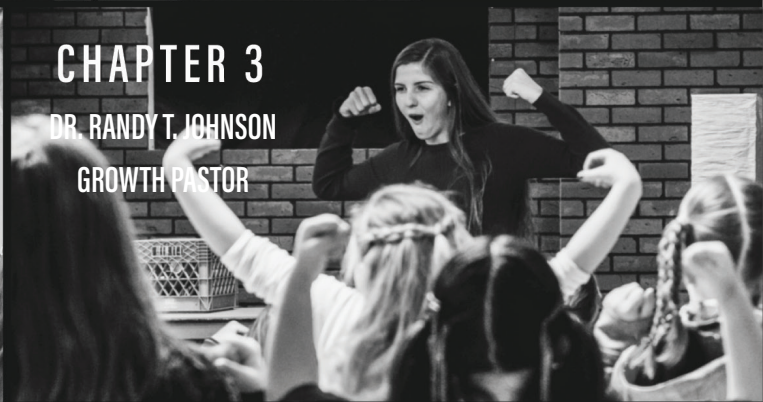
*Your promise still stands  
Great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness  
I'm still in Your hands This is my confidence;  
You've never failed me yet*

*I've seen You move; You move the mountains  
And I believe, I'll see You do it again  
You made a way, where there was no way  
And I believe, I'll see You do it again*

As the song goes on, we sing, "I've seen You move, You move the mountains." My lesson from this is to learn God's promises and trust and have faith that He will do what He said He would do. He can and will move mountains.

Matthew 17:20 says, ***“He said to them, ‘Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”***

Romans 4:3 (NLT) adds, ***“For the Scriptures tell us, ‘Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.’”***



CHAPTER 3  
DR. RANDY T. JOHNSON  
GROWTH PASTOR

**M**atthew 28:19-20 is referred to as the Great Commission. It is the last two verses of the book of Matthew. Jesus has already risen from the dead, and He gets the disciples together for some final words. It is a coach's last pep talk as the players enter the arena for a big game. He says, ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."***

It is these verses that are the basis for who we are as the Church: The Church exists to glorify God by reaching the world, gathering with the saints, and growing in the Word.

This mission seems quite clear from Jesus' words:

***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,"*** (glorify God by reaching the world)

***"baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"*** (glorify God by gathering with the saints)

***"teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"*** (glorify God by growing in the Word).

This process is not a straight line with an ending point. It is more like a spiral as we reach, gather, grow we should then want to be reaching more of the world, gathering, growing, and so on.

Please remember the focus of every step – Glorify God!



What does it mean to glorify God?

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Peace with God (reach) and Piece of God (gather) lead to an amazing position of Peace of God (grow). John MacArthur describes the difference between peace with God and peace of God, “God can work peace through us only if He has worked peace in us... Those who are in the best of circumstances but without God can never find peace, but those in the worst of circumstances but with God need never lack peace.”

What do you think of MacArthur’s perspective?

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Philippians 4:6-7 uses the words ‘peace of God,’ ***“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”***

What stands out to you in these verses?

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What does “surpasses” (or transcends) mean?

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What does this “peace” mean to you?

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Isaiah 26:3

***“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”***

How does this verse relate to the topic?

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John 16:33

***“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”***

Who said this?

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How does this statement relate to John 16:33: I do not know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future?

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Colossians 3:15

***“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”***

Charles Spurgeon has said, "As long as a man is alive and out of hell, he cannot have any cause to complain."

Is Spurgeon too harsh, or does he have a proper perspective?

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Colossians 3:15 added thankfulness to peace. Do these two elements go together?

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"Real contentment must come from within. You and I cannot change or control the world around us, but we can change and control the world within us." Warren Wiersbe

John 14:27

***"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."***

What kind of peace does the world offer?

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"A great many people are trying to make peace, but that has already been done. God has not left it for us to do; all we have to do is to enter into it." Dwight L. Moody

What kind of peace does the Lord offer?

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# WHAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE?

## GROW, DEVOTION 1

Ryan Story | *Location Pastor - Burton*

I have always struggled with one story in the Bible. More than trying to understand the Nephilim, Predestination, or even the Holy Trinity, I have always struggled with the understanding of why people choose to walk away from God. Whenever truth is being told like that of Judas Iscariot, the rich young ruler, or Demas, I yearn for more information. I am over analytical, so I am always looking for the commonality of those who have every opportunity to see how real God is and yet they seem to walk away.

Take some time to read the first four chapters of 1 Samuel. In the first two chapters of 1 Samuel we see Hannah crying to the Lord and asking for a son. When God gives her Samuel, she promises God that Samuel would live with Eli. It says in 1 Samuel 2:11, ***“Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.”*** At this point, God begins to use Samuel. Samuel would grow to be the last judge of Israel, a prophet of God, and the teacher of the first two kings of Israel. Samuel goes down for all eternity as a man that God used in many ways. However, the man who was at the beginning of Samuel's walk with God was a man named Eli.

We know Eli was a priest, and he loved God. The saddest thing about Eli is that within one verse, we see a fantastic contrast. Verse 12 says, ***“Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord.”*** Eli's two sons were Hophni and Phinehas. If you read your Bible, you will see that the sons were wicked. They abused their family's position for their good. These men were known for stealing food from the offerings. I cannot think of a worse fate than the

eternal Word of God describing me as “worthless.” Eli’s sons never have that redemption moment; they are never seen in any favorable light. This is what drives me crazy, what makes the difference in a persons walk with God? Samuel, Hophni, and Phinehas all likely had the same teacher in Eli. They all probably lived in the same place. My brain runs in thousands of directions trying to figure out what made the difference between Eli’s sons and Samuel.

Growing in your walk with God is the single most important act you can do. It says in 1 Timothy 4:8, **“Godliness is of value in every way.”** While I still struggle finding out the truth behind what made Eli’s sons wicked, I feel the difference rests on one truth. The major difference between Eli’s sons and Samuel was how each of them viewed the offering of God. Hophni and Phinehas viewed the offering as a means to their success. While I cannot say for certain, but I feel Samuel understood the offering as a means of making God’s renowned known. One side looked at the offering to God as a “what can I get” and the other had a “what can I give” attitude. Samuel was able to see how vital an offering to God was. Eli’s sons could not see the value.

To grow in our walk with God, we must first see the value in the ultimate offering, which is Jesus. Until we value Jesus’ offering Himself on the cross for our sins, we will always be out of sync with God.

# “IT WAS NOT AS DIFFICULT AS I THOUGHT”

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## GROW, DEVOTION 2

Ryan Story | *Location Pastor - Burton*

On the last day of Student Growth Community a year ago, I had the students do a questionnaire. I asked, “How has your walk with God improved” and “what are some habits you need to develop to strengthen your walk with God?” There were some other questions along that line. One of the questions I asked the students was “Have you started reading your Bible more because of Growth Community?” The room all answered, then one girl raised her hand and said one of the most profound truths I have ever heard. Her response was, “I have started reading the Bible more this year. I realized it is not as difficult to understand as I thought.” That response was one of those lightbulb moments for me.

Not reading your Bible is like not getting an oil change for your car. If you never get new oil in your car, you may be able to continue down the road for some time, but eventually, your engine will seize up. As a Christ follower, you may be able to keep going down the road of life for some time, but eventually, everything will seize up. At the center of growing in your walk with God, there must be reading the Word of God. You cannot grow in a relationship with Jesus without a heavy dose of Scripture.

I recently read the longest chapter in the Bible, Psalm chapter 119. In this whole chapter, you see how amazing the Word of God is. I would love to go through all 176 verses, but it would take a very long time. At the core of this Psalm, I think that Psalm 119:47 is the thesis statement for the whole Psalm, **“For I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.”** The Psalmist knew the vital truth of finding delight and love in knowing God’s commands.

I think one of the first excuses we use for not reading the Bible is because we do not understand it. I will let you know a fun fact: you will never truly understand the whole Bible. I have a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies, and I still feel like a novice when it comes to my biblical understanding. We are quick not to attempt things that we think we are going to fail at, but we cannot let this be true with our Bible. It is even harder to understand your Bible if you never open it!

We must learn to be like the Psalmist, and we must know that we will only begin to truly read the Bible when we realize that we must love the person who wrote it. When we recognize that the Bible is the only book ever to exist where the author wants to have a relationship with every person who opens it is the moment we will never be able to put it down. Take today to open your Bible. Reading the Bible is not as hard as the devil is making it seem. God does not need you to be a theological scholar. He wants you to be obedient and just to sit down, read, and love a book that He ensured got penned so all of His creation would know how amazing He is!

"A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."  
Charles Spurgeon



# IMITATOR

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## GROW, DEVOTION 3

Larry Gabbara | *Financial Bookkeeper*

**“S**o as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:10

To grow means the way a Christian will spiritually mature or grow in our faith, to draw nearer to God.

We as Christian's should understand that to grow spiritually is a process that will help us to draw nearer to God. It is part of our spiritual faith. This process develops quicker for some than others. Through reading the Bible and listening to teachings, we will increase in our knowledge, and grow in our prayer life, faith, and understanding. Yet we should understand that growing should never end, as we should always continue to learn.

As a baby, we grew as our parents fed us, as we were nurtured we developed and grew, we matured and learned how to survive as people. I hate to think how our lives would be if we did not have this process. This process is true for all living organisms. The same happens to our pets, flowers, plants, and crops.

The beginning of spiritual growth is when we as Christians accept Jesus in our heart. We then develop a craving for the knowledge and understanding of God. We read in 2 Peter 3:18, ***“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”***

My story is probably similar to many baby Christians, after being saved, it took time for me to understand spiritual growth. After many Bible study's, attending church, and listening to messages, the Holy Spirit put the desire on my heart to learn the Word. This was a slow transformation. My old sinful nature wanted to take over, and the nasty old devil still rears his ugly head. With the help of prayer and God's unending grace, we fight to continue to grow and continue in the ways of the Lord.

We must have a spiritual plan, a road map to help us develop. As we grow, we should pray to ask the Lord what areas we can increase our faith. Our plan should include growing in the knowledge and understanding of the Word. We should be doing our best to stay away from sin, and all that draws us to sin, working on learning Christ-like qualities, and having total trust in the Lord should be our goal.

Paul gives us a great plan to follow in 1 Corinthians 11:1, ***“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”***

# GROWING THROUGH CHRIST

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## GROW, DEVOTION 4

Ben Kirkman | Associate Operations Pastor & Facilities Director

**“T**rust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.” Proverbs 3:5-8

God graciously blessed me with a wonderful father. My Dad loved and followed Jesus and was a man of integrity, honesty, and character. As I grew up, my Dad developed a relationship of trust with me. I knew I could confidently seek wisdom and advice from him and he would lead me in the right direction. My Dad had proven himself trustworthy, and because of that, I knew I could trust his direction and follow his leading. As I matured, I found myself wanting to be just like my Dad.

I understand your relationship with your father may have been completely different. Maybe you are still searching for a trustworthy example to help you grow and mature in your relationship with Jesus? I want to encourage you to ask God to bring that person into your life. Perhaps you have had a great example, and you are growing daily as a believer - find someone to whom you can be an example!

Wherever you may be at in your walk with God, Proverbs chapter 3 contains some wonderful truths that will help all of us as we continue to grow as believers. First of all, **“trust in the Lord.”** God is completely trustworthy; He has proven Himself faithful since the beginning of time. We could fill the pages of this devotional book with

stories of God's faithfulness. You can completely trust God to lead you and grow you into the Christian He wants you to be.

Secondly, really trust in God, ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."*** So many people say they trust God, but when it comes right down to it, they will "lean on their own understanding." They will follow what they think is best rather than what God has said is best. If you do not wholeheartedly trust in God, you are going to have a very difficult time growing in your relationship with Him.

Thirdly, ***"in all your ways acknowledge Him."*** Make God a part of everything that you do. Do you want to grow? Do you want to mature as a believer? Get God involved in every area of your life. Seek direction from Him in the choices that you make. We have a God who knows everything, a God that is all-powerful, and a God that is completely trustworthy. The best choice is always to trust Him completely and seek His direction in every single aspect of our lives.

Proverbs chapter 3 continues with sound advice, ***"Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones."***

Finally, Psalm 92:12 pictures the outcome of growth, ***"The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon."***

# GROWTH COMMUNITY

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## GROW, DEVOTION 5

**Gareth Volz | Seniors 55+ Director**

*S*tanding on the promises of Christ my King,  
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

*Standing, standing,  
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises I now can see  
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;  
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,  
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.*

As I reflected on the words of this hymn, I was reminded why it is important that I take advantage of the opportunity to be a part of a Growth Community again this year. Growth Communities provide us with the opportunity to gather with fellow believers and study the Bible – God’s Holy Word. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the Apostle Paul writes, **“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”** Since the Bible is God-breathed, it is inerrant. If I know God’s promises and stand on them, I cannot fail. If I am God taught, God trained, and God equipped, I will be able to prevail when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail. Proverbs 30:5 says, **“Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”**

The River Church has Growth Communities for senior adults, married couples, men, women, students, and children at all locations. They meet on different days of the week and at different times to try and meet each believer’s needs and schedule. The Growth Communities are opportunities for us to study God’s Word throughout the week, and then come together to study what God has taught us. Proverbs 27:17 says, **“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”** As we study God’s Word together, we help each other to stand in the liberty where Christ makes us free, to overcome daily with the Spirit’s Sword (the Bible), and to rest in Jesus as our all in all.

We have to know the promises of God in order to be *“Standing on the Promises of God.”*

# ABILITIES

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## GROW, DEVOTION 6

John Hubbard | *Worship Leader*

If anybody had the right to complain or have a bad attitude, it was Joseph. He had just been thrown into a pit and then sold into slavery by his own brothers. Imagine the confusion, heartache, and betrayal he felt. When he arrived in Egypt, he was bought by Potiphar, the captain of the guard in Egypt. I doubt that being a slave to an Egyptian was Joseph's dream job. I doubt that it was a job he was passionate about. I doubt that as a little boy, he would daydream about being a slave when he grew older. Despite all of these things, Joseph was known for being honest and a hard worker.

Joseph rose through the ranks and was made the overseer of Potiphar's house and was put in charge of all that this powerful man had. When Joseph wound up in prison he was, once again, placed in charge of all of the prisoners and was trusted by the keeper of the prison. Joseph eventually ended up being the second most powerful man in Egypt.

Do you think that he would have wound up there if he had been complaining day and night about his unfortunate lot in life? I do not. Joseph was faithful in the little things. Joseph was faithful as a slave, he was faithful as a prisoner, and all who saw him could see that he was favored by God. This can be a great reminder for us as we head to jobs that maybe are not our passion. Let us be reminded of this when we feel like we do not want to put the effort in to do a great job. God sees our hearts and our attitudes. You never know what God has planned for you!

I bet when Joseph was sitting in prison that he never dreamed he would end up in prison. Be faithful in trials, be faithful in the small

things; you never know what God is preparing you for or where He is going to take you!

Luke 16:10 says, ***“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much...”***

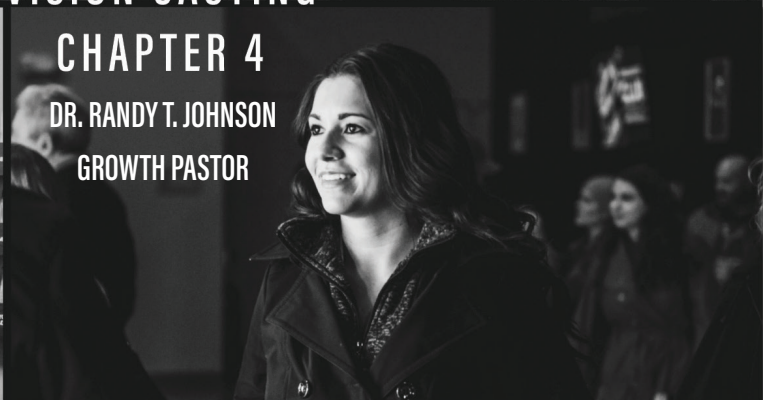






# Reach

VISION CASTING



## CHAPTER 4

DR. RANDY T. JOHNSON

GROWTH PASTOR



Everyone is familiar with the concept of seeing the “Big Picture.” We can get tunnel vision and miss the more important concept or theme. It is the idea of being so focused on a tree that we do not see the whole forest. This analogy can be viewed in the realm of God giving us pieces of a puzzle so that as we put them together, we see the big picture.

When was a time you had a hard time seeing the big picture?

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Numbers chapter 13 tells of the story of Moses sending 12 spies into the land of Canaan. The men came back with the same observations, but with a different vision. Ten of the men want nothing to do with it, while two of the spies looked beyond themselves. Chuck Swindoll said, “When I think of vision, I have in mind the ability to see above and beyond the majority.”

Numbers 13:1-2 says, ***“The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them.’”***

Why were the men sent into the land of Canaan?

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Numbers 13:25-33 gives the rest of the details, ***“At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back***

*word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, 'We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.' But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, 'Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.' Then the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.' So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, 'The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.'"*

What was God's plan for them?

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Why did they have a hard time seeing the big picture?

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What are some reasons why we miss seeing the big picture today?

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One of the biggest differences in vision is perspective. Some people see “obstacles,” while others see “opportunities.” While some want to be in control and play it safe, others do a faith drop into God’s arms expecting the insurmountable obstacles to become opportunities for them to see God do a miracle.

Do your prayers involve you being safe and in control, or are you praying for God to take you wherever is necessary?

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Even though Helen Keller was blind since being a young child, she made a very astute statement concerning vision, “The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight, but has no vision.” Sometimes people with 20-20 vision cannot see past the moment. They refuse to look from a different angle.

The Bible writes about a very influential man who needed to become physically blind to gain authentic spiritual vision. Acts chapter 9 writes about an abusive self-serving Saul who becomes one of the greatest missionaries of all time (Paul).

Acts 9:1-9 says, ***“But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ And he said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be***

***told what you are to do.’ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”***

What do we know about Saul?

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How was his perspective wrong?

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In Acts 9:10-22, Saul was given vision and a vision, ***“Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ And the Lord said to him, ‘Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.’ But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.’ But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord***

***Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' And all who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?' But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.'***

How was Ananias' perspective wrong? What could he have missed?

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What was God's plan for Saul?

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George Washington Carver has said, "Where there is no vision, there is no hope." All too often vision is wrong. Today people see relationships, power, a title, good deeds, and possessions as possibly bringing peace, purpose, value, and meaning. This faulty vision is contrary to Scripture and leads to destruction.

Our vision needs to come from the Lord. Unfortunately, the spies and the host of followers saw giants instead of God. They were sent there to see the land God was giving them. God was not looking for their



approval rating or vote. Instead of listening to God and buying into His vision, they ended up wandering in the wilderness for 40 years.

Saul's vision was consumed with keeping The Law. He focused on his "good works," and missed what the Messiah (Jesus) had done. He had a picture in his mind of what the Messiah should look like, and reality could not change it. Once, he was forced to be face to face with the Lord, it caused blindness but gave him a vision. Once he regained his sight, his focus was already clear. He understood his calling from God.

What is God's plan of salvation for all of us?

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What is God's plan for your life now? In a year? Three years? Five years?

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***"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."*** Proverbs 29:18 KJV







# WORK AND WORSHIP

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## BACK TO REACH, DEVOTION 1

Ryan Story | *Location Pastor - Burton*

I sit down with an older man every other week. The purpose of our meetings is because I crave wisdom in my life. I love when people can speak truth into my life so I can be a better husband, father, and pastor. One of the things he tells me is a quote from Thomas Edison, “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” I have always enjoyed this quote, but I have often fallen victim to F.O.M.O. (fear of missing out). I have had to look at my life and realized that I have missed out on opportunities to see God work because I did not want to work.

I believe that God created man for two reasons. The first thing we were created to do was to worship God. The second thing that I think we were created for was to serve God. If you go back and read the creation account in Genesis chapter two, God and Adam both do some pretty amazing things. Genesis 2:15 says, ***“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”*** Adam was assigned by God the task to take care of paradise. The opportunity to take care of Eden was not a punishment; it was not because of sin. For some reason, we always think that work is a sin. Work is not sinning. Work is our means of worship. If we jump to Genesis chapter 3, we see that work becomes hard because of sin. We must always remember that God created man to work. So we all must get to work!

As much as I could talk about this idea for the remainder of this devotion, God showed me something that I have never seen before. Genesis 2:19 says, ***“Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens***

***and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.***” It amazes me that God never commanded Adam to name the creatures. God simply sent every living beast to Adam, and he knew what to do. God did not have to beg, plead, or inspire Adam to do work. God simply sent work Adam’s way and Adam did it. The relationship between Adam and God was so perfect that God did not need to command Adam to serve Him, Adam just knew to do it.

You have heard the sermons and the announcements about serving. You have probably been told by God to serve in a ministry. Do not let the devil trick you into thinking that you do not have time, or you do not have the skills to help in a ministry. Do not allow serving to become what it is not meant to be. Serving should not be work, serving should not be something that pastors or leaders of the church beg you to do, nor should it be commanded. Serving should be our way of growing in our walk with our God. Serving should be us seeing the opportunities that God has given us and take the initiative to be used to further His kingdom.

# MOTIVES MATTER

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## BACK TO REACH, DEVOTION 2

Debbie Kerr | Office Administrator

Growing up as a young girl, I remember being in church a lot! It is a good thing that I loved it because it was a huge part of our lives. If the doors were open for anything, whether it was Monday night visitation, Wednesday night mid-week service, choir practice, bus ministry, or youth activities, we were there, and my dad was not even the Pastor! I am very thankful I was raised to love and serve Jesus. I have been serving the Lord since I was a teenager, but I have to admit, my motives have not always been the purist. I am afraid there were times I have served out of selfishness and pride, with a desire to receive recognition and praise. As I continue to grow in my walk with the Lord, He graciously and gently reveals the areas that are not pleasing and acceptable to Him. When we serve with wrong motives, our service is in vain. In other words, it is wood, hay, and stubble which will be burned up when it is tried by fire. That is a sobering thought!

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (AKJV), ***“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”***

The Bible has a lot to say about serving, James 2:17 tells us that faith without works is dead. I love how Jesus did not just tell us how to live for Him; He always demonstrated it by example. In Matthew 20:28

we read, ***“Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”***

Motives Matter!

1. Serve in Love.

***“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”***

1 Peter 4:8-11

2. Serve with A Grateful Heart!

***“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful putting me into ministry.”***

1 Timothy 1:12 (NKJV)

3. Serve Understanding the Eternal Significance.

***“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.”*** 1 Corinthians 9:25 (NKJV)

4. Serve Humbly.

***“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”***

Philippians 2:3 (NKJV)

***“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”*** Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

# WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION

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## BACK TO REACH, DEVOTION 3

Isaiah Combs | Worship Leader

**“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”** James 2:14-17

I attended a secular college Bible class that used the Bible as literature and not as the living Word of God. It was one of the most eye-opening semesters of my life. It taught me a few things about myself. First, I do not know enough about the Bible, and I needed to study more. Second, the world has a skewed view of the Word of God and will stop at nothing to disprove it.

One of the discussions we had in the class was about James 2:14-17 and Ephesians 2:8-9, **“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”**

The professor believed that James and the writer of Ephesians (Paul) were contradicting each other. James was saying you needed works to prove your faith and Paul was saying we only need faith and it is not the result of the works we do.

I believe 100% that the Bible is the perfect written Word of God. Everything was put in the Word on purpose for a purpose. I am telling you it is both. James is telling us that if we have been saved by faith

and God's amazing grace, we cannot help but do works for others. It is the proof that we have been changed. It is also us showing and giving people love by serving them.

Dan Smithers, a missionary to Durban, South Africa, put it best. If starving kids come to him and all he does is tell them about Jesus and sends them away, they will never be changed. But if he gives them PB and J and then tells them about the Bread of Life (Jesus), they now can see what Jesus is like. People need something they can touch and feel, and we are the only Bible they are going to read and the only Jesus they will see.

Paul is not arguing with James in Ephesians but is adding to it. The message is consistent; you do not need the works to be saved. It is nothing we can or have done but it is everything that Jesus has done for us, and we are saved only by grace through faith.

Serving and works are a very important part of our faith, and without the proof of works, your faith is dead. The Bible is clear. Take a good look at your life and works and find out why you are serving or why not.



# HUMBLY SERVING

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## BACK TO REACH, DEVOTION 4

Donna Fox | *Assistant to the Growth Pastor*

**Y**ou have likely heard the stories of Jesus serving. Whether you have been around church your whole life, or you are new to the church, you have heard the stories. Jesus healed the sick, He fed the hungry, He washed the disciples' feet, and ultimately He died for our sins on the cross.

Consider 1 Samuel 12:24: ***“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.”*** Did you catch that? ***“What great things he has done for you.”*** He served you and me by dying on the cross for our sins and making a way for our salvation! ***“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends”*** (John 15:13).

As Christians, we are to be Christ-like, to look to the examples of Christ serving in the Bible and be like Him. If we are to be “Christ-like,” then we, too, are to serve. What does that look like?

I think our church body does a pretty good job of being servants. We have greeters at the door, welcoming with a smile. We have wonderful volunteers in the nursery taking care of our precious babies. The list is without end.

We also have wonderful ministries that provide clothing and food for the community, visit those in the hospital or homebound, provide meals for those recently hospitalized, and have a prayer chain for those in need of prayer. The list can include everyone.

But why do we do it? Why do we volunteer, sign up, and commit to giving our time and resources to help others? We do it to follow Jesus' example, to be "Christ-like." Philippians 2:3 says, ***"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."*** Serving others, humbly, was modeled by Jesus. Matthew 20:28 shows Jesus' purpose, ***"Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."***

Jesus' life can be summarized in two words: humbly serving. Galatians 5:13 (NIV) says, ***"Serve one another humbly in love."***

It is by Jesus' example that we humbly serve one another. Look around you today and in the days ahead and see where you can help someone out with a meal, babysitting, or an encouraging word. There are so many ways to humble ourselves and serve another, but we need to keep our eyes open and be aware. Opportunities are all around every day!

John 13:15 summarizes it beautifully: ***"For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."***

# “PEOPLE TEACHING”

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## BACK TO REACH, DEVOTION 5

James Clouse | *Student Pastor*

As I used to walk down the streets of Savannah, I would look around and recognize the beauty of everything that God had made. Savannah was a beautiful city, and our family would go on a regular basis when we lived in Georgia. I would walk and look around and also see God's beautiful creation in people. We love to people watch. I would get my favorite ice cream, Moose Tracks, and sit down and watch people. There is beauty in the creation of people. To be able to see all the different skin colors, tall and short, dark hair or light hair is inspiring. As I recognize the beauty of God's creation, I have to remember that God gave me a mission.

As I have grown in my relationship with Jesus Christ, I recognize that it can not stop there. I am always learning and always looking for ways to get closer to the Lord. But as much as we all think that is important, it is still not our mission.

Matthew 28:18-20 says, ***“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”***

I want to point out a very specific phrase that Jesus uses in this conversation with those around him, ***“make disciples.”*** What does it mean to make disciples? To be a disciple literally means to be “a learner.” This means that you have learned and grown in your relationship with Jesus or became a disciple, and now you need to

go out and make more learners, or disciples. The cycle of Reach, Gather, and Grow does not stop at Grow. This cycle does not say that we have now made it and we can now stop, stand still, or even coast by with what we know.

So what does this look like in our ordinary life? This means that we have to stop “people watching” and instead go and do some “people teaching.” Now do not get scared. I know I used a word that many do not like, teaching. This does not mean you actually have to teach a class. This means that you are making learners around you. It means you are teaching other people around you what it means to love Jesus, what it means for Jesus to love you. This can be done through our words, actions, and efforts. This means we make an effort to reach out to people and invite them to gatherings so that they can re-start the cycle of Reach, Gather, and Grow.

# THE LINE

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## BACK TO REACH, DEVOTION 6

Brett Eberle

**“A**nd he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, ‘I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’”

Genesis 28:12-15

Working for the River Church is probably the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. The pace that we keep is nothing short of insanity, but I love it. In fact, I thrive on it. One of the hardest parts of working for the Church is finding the line between whether what I am doing is my job or my ministry. I constantly find myself seeking counsel with pastors and friends in an attempt to find that line, and I think the clearest answer that I have found is in a passage describing the dream Jacob had.

First thing first, we are going to jump to the end of the passage where Jacob tells us that he is going to give a tenth of everything that God has given him back to God. Genesis 28:22 says, **“And this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”** We see examples

of this scattered throughout the Bible starting with Cain and Abel back at the beginning of the Bible. One of the first things that I had to realize to find the line between work and ministry was that everything I have is given to me by God and I need to give that piece back, or everything that I do whether for work or ministry will feel like I am doing it for the paycheck.

The other thing that I found in this passage that was made clearer to me was a few verses earlier. Just before Jacob wakes up in verse 15, God tells Jacob that He will keep him and go with him wherever he goes. In plain English, God tells Jacob, "I got you," and He says that He is not leaving until He does all that He has promised. This verse is how I found the line and my breaking point. All I had to realize is that God has me. He does not just have me; He has all of us. As far as figuring out when I will stop, well God said He is not leaving until He has done what He has promised. The last time I checked, He promised that He is returning one day. So that means that I will stop when one of two things happens: God comes back, or I die and get to be in Heaven. But until that happens, I am going to push as hard as I physically can to further the Kingdom of God.







# OUR MISSION

Matthew 28:19-20: ***“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

## REACH

At The River Church, you will often hear the phrase, “we don’t go to church, we are the Church.” We believe that as God’s people, our primary purpose and goal is to go out and make disciples of Jesus Christ. We encourage you to reach the world in your local communities.

## GATHER

Weekend Gatherings at The River Church are all about Jesus, through singing, giving, serving, baptizing, taking the Lord’s Supper, and participating in messages that are all about Jesus and bringing glory to Him. We know that when followers of Christ gather together in unity, it’s not only a refresher it’s bringing life-change.

## GROW

Our Growth Communities are designed to mirror the early church in Acts as having ***“all things in common.”*** They are smaller collections of believers who spend time together studying the Word, knowing and caring for one another relationally, and learning to increase their commitment to Christ by holding one another accountable.

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# BOOKS BY THE RIVER CHURCH

