

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter



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A DEVOTIONAL FOR MEN ON THE GO

“A Life of Spiritual Power”

“The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you” (Romans 8:11) AMEN.

Pastor John Ortberg captures what it means to live a life of spiritual power:

Spiritual human transformation always involves training, not just trying.

Spiritual transformation is a long-term endeavor. It involves both God and us. I liken it to crossing an ocean. Some people try, day after day, to be good, to become spiritually mature. That’s like taking a rowboat across the ocean. It’s exhausting and usually unsuccessful.

Others have given up trying and throw themselves entirely on “relying on God’s grace.” They’re like drifters on a raft. They do nothing but hang on and hope God gets them there.

Neither trying nor drifting are effective in bringing about spiritual transformation. A better image is the sailboat, which if it moves at all, it’s a gift of the wind. We can’t control the wind, but a good sailor discerns where the wind is blowing and adjusts the sails accordingly.

Working the Holy Spirit, which Jesus likened to the wind in John 3, means we have a part in discerning the winds, in knowing the direction we need to go, and in training our sails to catch the breezes that God provides.

That’s true transformation.

Are you living a life of power in Jesus Christ, or are you just drifting along, waiting for your eternity in heaven? If you want that life of power, ask God daily to open up to the influence and control of his Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

Jesus, grant me the will to submit to the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Devotional for Men on the Go — Arterburn and Farel

A MEDITATION FOR EVERY MARRIED COUPLE

“Making Wise Use of Time”

“Teach us to make the most of our time, so that we may grow in wisdom. (Psalm 90: 12 NLT)

Are you interested in a look at how you possibly will spend your time in the future? Time analysts are now able to tell in advance how we make use of the time allotted to us. I wonder what we would do differently if we knew at an early age that we would spend 1,086 days “sick.” The average person does. And some of our ill-nesses are preventable. Do you want to spend 1,086 days sick? Not likely.

You may be surprised to discover that you will spend 8 months of your life opening junk mail. Do you want to spend 2 years of your life on the telephone? Do you want to spend 5 years waiting in line or 9 months waiting in traffic? Just the basic necessities of life consume a large quantity of time. You’ll spend 4 years cooking and eating. (You can’t live on McDonald’s, Burger King, and Taco Bell all the time.) You’ll spend 1.5 years dressing, 1.5 years grooming, and (get this) 7 years in bathrooms! Finally, the time experts tell us we’ll spend 24 years sleeping and 3 years shopping.

Who knows if all of these calculations are accurate? But even if they are close, we need to ask whether this is the way we want to use our time.

Years ago someone wrote an article with this attention-getting title: “If You Are 35, You Have 500 Days to Live.” Your first reaction might be, “Wait a minute, that couldn’t be true!” Consider what the author said, though. **When you take away all the time spent sleeping, working, doing odd chores, taking care of personal hygiene, taking care of personal matters, eating, and traveling – you end up with only 500 days in the next 36 years to spend as you want. Isn’t that sobering?** It sheds new light on what the psalmist said: “Teach us to make the most of our time, so that we may grow in wisdom” (Psalm 90:12 NLT).

How will you make wise use of your time? How will you take the investment God Gives you and use it with purpose and meaning? AMEN.

After You Say, “I Do” — H. Norman Wright

**TEEN'S CORNER –
GOT QUESTIONS –
GOD'S GOT ANSWERS...**



QUESTION:

What does the Bible teach us about praising God?

THE QUICK ANSWER:

"Praise Him! One of the main reasons you go to church is to praise God.

But, you need not wait until Sunday rolls around to thank your Heavenly Father. Instead, you can praise Him many times each day by using silent prayers that only He can hear."

"Praise Him"

"I will praise You with my whole heart."

(Psalm 138:1 NKJV)

If you're like most folks on the planet, you're busy ... very busy. At times, you may feel like there simply aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done. And when the demands of life leave you rushing from place to place with scarcely a moment to spare, you may not take time to praise your Creator. **But if you forget to praise God – if you forget to praise Him for who He is and what He's done for you – you're making a big mistake.**

The Bible makes it clear: it pays to praise God. Otherwise, you quickly lose perspective as you fall prey to the demands of everyday life.

Do you really want to know God in a more meaningful way? Then praise Him. And please don't wait until Sunday morning – praise Him all day long, every day, for as long as you live ... and then for all eternity. AMEN.

100 Questions Teens Ask with Answers from God's Word – By Freeman Smith

***A Little Humor For The
"Hearts and Minds of God's People"***

Topic: Easter

"Happy Ending"

Young Jonathan, who had been promised a new puppy for his tenth birthday, had a tough time choosing one from the dozen likely candidates at the neighborhood pet shop. Finally he decided on one nondescript shaggy pup who was wagging his tail furiously. Explained Jonathan, "I want the one with the happy ending." In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers us a "happy ending."

1001 Humorous Illustrations for Public Speaking: Fresh, Timely, and ... –By Michael Hodgin

Laughter
is an
instant
vacation.
– Milton Berle



A Devotional for Singles

Get Rid of Excess Baggage

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.”

(— PHILIPPIANS 3:13)

When you travel on an airline, it’s not uncommon to discover that you have excess baggage. The problem is that you are only allowed to check through so many bags. You can check in the excess, but it will cost you. It used to cost \$10 a bag, then \$20 – now the charge is \$50!

Many of us are going through life with some excess baggage and it’s costing us. It’s also robbing us ... of joy, of being productive and of achieving our potential.

We pack our excess baggage with numerous items. Some of us fill it with hurts we carry around from the past – maybe an embarrassing incident in adolescence that keeps us from experiencing life to the fullest. It could be abuse from a parent or other relative. It might be the hurt of a broken relationship or the betrayal of trust in a friendship. But it still hurts. There’s another kind of baggage we carry, too.

Some of us carry baggage from giving in to peer pressure when we were younger. We liked the results so much that traveling this way became a way of life – even into adulthood. We compromise our beliefs and values for the momentary approval of those around us, and usually discover we are not really in charge of our lives at all. Others are.

Let me use my “meddle” detector to really dig through the excess baggage. I’m looking for something a lot of people carry that is often evident to others. It’s a little three-letter word called “ego.” Ego is nothing more than an inflated, distorted sense of importance. You’ve seen it in others. People with this extra baggage introduce themselves by their titles, their diplomas, by what they drive and what they’ve accomplished. They want you to identify them by what they’ve accomplished or accumulated rather than getting to know them for who they are. They want others to think they are unique or special so they tell them why they are. Usually, however, what they have to tell produces the opposite effect. Do you know anyone who’s packed a little too much ego?

With all of the baggage some people carry, they eventually begin to feel like pack animals. For years pack animals have been used to carry the excess baggage. If you’ve ever been backpacking on a hunting or fishing trip into the high country, you’re glad to have those mules or burros along to carry all the gear. And if you’re fortunate, you’ve got a guide along who knows how to load and unload the animals. It’s a lot of work and to add to the work sometimes the animals are in foul moods. These stubborn creatures either kick you or try to take a bite out of you!

In the Far East, camels are the mainstay for the desert traveler. And in Jesus’ day they were very common. His statement in this verse has more significance to it than meets the eye.

**Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle,
than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. (Matthew 19:24).**

One of the gates in the Old Jerusalem wall was actually called the Needles Eye Gate. It was very narrow, just barely wide enough for a camel. The problem was the baggage. It wouldn’t fit. The merchants had to downsize their camels. They had to unload them, walk them through the gate, bring the baggage through and, if they had further to go, reload the beasts. Only when a camel was unloaded could it get through the gate. It had to get rid of its baggage.

Jesus said, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it” (Matthew 7:14, NIV).

What about it? Are you carrying any baggage or burdens that make it difficult for you to enter the narrow gate? Just as with the camel, something may need to be stripped off. Take a look at your load. Something may need to be unloaded before you can get through.¹ QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What kinds of excess baggage are you carrying today? Have you been dragging around childhood hurts and attitudes that keep your life from taking off? Perhaps you are flying high on an ego that needs to be deflated. Are you ready for your reality check? What excess baggage would you have to unload to pass through the Eye of the Needle today?

~ Single Purpose—A Devotional for Singles- H. Norman Wright

Note

¹ Judson Edwards, *Regaining control of Your Life* (Minneapolis: Bethany, 1989), p. 157, adapted

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015



*Happy Birthday Wishes
Everyone Born in the Month of April*

UBC COMMUNICATION CARDS: Anyone worshipping with us today and **"making a decision for Christ"** by using one of our **UBC Communication Cards found in the pocket of the pews, is encouraged to follow-up your decision TODAY, by contacting REVEREND ALVIN L. WYATT, Minister of Christian Life and Witness at (513) 381-3858.** When calling, please leave **your name and the spelling of your name, the date and time of your call, and, most importantly, a telephone number where you can be reached.** Reverend Wyatt will be in touch as quickly as possible after receiving your phone call, as to the next steps regarding your decision(s) for Christ. **GOD BLESS YOU.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY: For the convenience and support of the Union Baptist Church membership and our guests, a **Prayer Request Box with Forms is available in the vestibule leading into the Sanctuary.** Please feel free to place your Prayer Request(s) in the box at any time. Our Prayer Partners stand ready to pray with you, and for you. Thank you, **Deacon Norman and Sister Ann White, Ministry Leaders.**

NEED A RIDE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR 10:20 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE? If you are in need of a ride to Church, please call **(513) 981-0423** and leave your name and your telephone number.

MEN: A New and Powerful Bible Study Series entitled "It's Not Too Late: How God Uses Less-than-Perfect People by Dr. Tony Evans. If you've ever wondered, **"Is it too late for God to do something with me?" this study is for you. God frequently uses broken people to accomplish His purposes on earth.** A broken person who has learned dependence on God is a force to be reckoned with. This six-session study looks at three men and three women of the Bible who were used mightily by God despite their previous mistakes. You too can learn to focus on the potential of your future, not the missteps of your past. **Each week following the video session, Pastor Yates facilitates the Instructional and Discussion Time that remains, assisted by Reverend Barry Hixon, Co-facilitator of the Weekly Men's Bible Study and Fellowship. Thank You, PASTOR YATES.**

**CONTINUED INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015**

WEDNESDAY NOON DAY BIBLE STUDY: Our noon day Bible Study is held every **Wednesday from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.** (a light lunch is served immediately following the Bible Study). This **Series Subject** is: **"The Study of God-Life's Most Meaningful Pursuit."** The Study of God is the most meaningful pursuit in life. **Jeremiah 9:23-24** expresses the importance of knowing God: **"Thus says the Lord, Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom and not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let Him who boasts boast of this, that He understands and knows Me."** Of all the things that matter in life, to know God through a purposeful study of His nature, His character, and His perfections should be our driving force. Only then will we be able to define everything else accurately. Remember all are welcome, it's never too late, and may we be blessed with your presence very soon. **PASTOR YATES.**

WEDNESDAY EVENING CHURCH-WIDE PRAISE & WORSHIP, PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 7:00 - 8:30

P.M.: Mid-week Praise and Worship, Prayer and Bible Study is held every **Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Private Prayer and meditation begins at **6:00 p.m.** for those who come early. Each week as the church gathers at **7:00 p.m.**, we are lead in praise in worship by a praise team under the leadership of our Minister of Music, Brother Jason Bailey. It is also my prayer that the entire leadership of the church and each member Will Make Every Sacrifice to be Present to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to pray and to study His Word from the Bible. Remember the words of **Hebrews 10:24, 25:** **"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."** Reach out and bring someone with you. Thank you, God Bless You and May God Keep You, Always" is My Prayer. **PASTOR YATES.**