

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter



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A DEVOTIONAL **FOR MEN ON THE GO**

Heading Back for More

"Some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead. But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe". Acts 14: 19-20

Something nobody wants to see is a player down on the field. In fact, the training staffs of both teams are ready to run out and attend to an injured player, no matter who is hurt. I've seen trainers from the opposing team in the most heated of rivalries race onto the field to help a fallen player. Even fans wait in hushed silence to see that an opposing player is okay.

In this story from Acts, Paul's mission was almost life-ending. He was stoned, dragged outside the town limits, and left for dead. But then miraculously, Paul got back up and headed back into town for a night, setting off the next day to finish the trip.

Some people would say that's perseverance. Others might call Paul crazy or obsessive. Still others might suggest that Paul was totally sold-out to what he was being called to do and to the God who called him to do it. And yet still others might say the apostle Paul was totally in love with the person who changed his life forever on the Damascus Road--God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

We might never have to experience what Paul went through as a result of the call upon our lives to follow Jesus Christ. There were many more painful moments, disappointments, beatings, imprisonments and heartaches that Paul would experience in his service to the Lord. But Christ calls us to follow Him all the way to the cross if that is His plan. **What we need to embrace, in addition to our relationship with Jesus Christ, is the passion, persevering spirit, and example of the apostle Paul in our journey to serve and touch the world for Christ.**

We may or may not be beaten or jailed for it. We may or may not lose our life in the process of doing what we do for Christ. We may or may not know of any life that is different because we lived for Christ. What is important for us is that we are sold-out for Christ to the point where we are able to persevere through anything we face--until the last breath we take for Him.

UNCOMMON KEY > Reflect on any difficulties you've encountered when you've shared Christ with someone. Then thank God that you were able to be a witness for Him. There is one and only one way to follow Christ--sold-out! AMEN.

Uncommon Life - Daily Challenge
By Tony Dungy and Nathan Whitaker

A MEDITATION FOR EVERY **MARRIED COUPLE**

Your Life Story

"Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path." Psalm 27:11

Many of King David's prayers were turned into psalms. One day he prayed, "Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life" (Psalm 39:4). Wow! Would you like to know exactly how many days you have left? And what about how you will leave this world? Perhaps this is an uncertainty most of us can live with!

Dr. Gary Chapman suggested an interesting exercise; Take a paper and draw a line like this one:

.....—————→

This line represents your life. There's an arrow at the end of it. Do you know why? Your life doesn't end; it continues on for eternity. Notice the dots at the left of the line. The first dot is there to represent the day you were born. The second is the day you met your spouse. The third is when you married. The fourth is when you have children. The last dot represents something that hasn't happened yet--the day you die.

See how close the dots are at the beginning of the line? There's not much space. Actually, the dots are amplified and the line is condensed because we can't really comprehend the entire line.

This is how God ages our lives. He's the one who gives us the line. It's a line to live for eternity. We make the dots the focus of our lives; we live for them. Do you ever wonder what God wants us to live for? Could it be He wants us to live for the line rather than the dots? Look at this line:

Your Spouse—————→

There's only a short amount of time on earth to enjoy and edify your spouse, isn't there? Perhaps the message is you're living for eternity. And while you're here make the best use of your time! AMEN.

After You Say, "I Do" Devotional
— H. Norman Wright



DEVOTIONAL FOR SINGLES

Hang In There

“But the fruit of the Spirit...patience.”
Galatians 5:22

You’ve probably heard the expression “Hang in there!” A man known by the name Henry Dempsey did just that...literally! He was piloting a committed flight between two small towns on the East coast when he heard a strange noise coming from the back of the plane. He relinquished the controls of the plane to his co-pilot and went to the back to check out the noise. Henry was surprised to find that the rear door had not been secured prior to takeoff. Just as he noticed this, the plane hit some turbulence and slammed Henry against the door. It flew open, sucking Henry out over the cold ocean thousands of feet below.

The copilot noticed two things: the open-door warning light and the fact Henry had disappeared! He realized what must have happened so he radioed for a helicopter search over that section of the ocean.

After the plane landed, Henry was found all right. But not where they thought he would be. As Henry was being sucked out the door, he grabbed the outside ladder and hung on for dear life...his own. He was able to hang on despite the plane’s descent of several thousand feet at 200 miles per hour. And during the landing he had a bird’s-eye view of the runway because he kept his head raised just 12 inches away from the ground.

One last thing about Henry...**they had to pry his fingers away from the ladder. This man really “hung in there”!** Sometimes it’s difficult to hang in there—especially when we hit the turbulence in our own lives. We’d rather bail out instead of working it out. We’re so selective (some call it picky) when it comes to looking for a life partner that at the first upset we say, “I’m out of here” rather than staying and working it out.

When there’s difficulty at work, we head for the want ads. When our roommates don’t take care of their responsibilities, we’re ready to spring the eviction notices.

Sure, life is unfair. Some people are difficult to get along with. But hanging in there and resolving may be a better solution than bailing out. God’s Word talks to us time and time again about patience, endurance and sticking it out! Consider the following scriptures:
He who is slow to anger has a great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly (Prov. 14:29).

Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes (Ps. 37:7).

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross despising the shame, and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart (Heb. 12:1-3).

Patience literally means “long suffering” or to be able to continue to suffer from life’s unfairness and not throw in the towel. In other words, “Hang in there!”

You say that you can’t? It’s too difficult? You’re right. That’s why it is one of the fruits of the Spirit. It takes God’s power to help you hang in there. You are running a lifelong race, but fortunately you are not on your own. He is with you.

When you’re struggling, turn back to the psalmist:

I waited patiently for the Lord: and He inclined to me and heard my cry (Psalm 40:1).

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Are you facing a turbulent circumstance today? If so, are you thinking about bailing out? Do you really believe this is God’s solution to your problem? Why not ask God to bring you in for a safe landing? AMEN.

--Dr. H. Norman Wright, Single Purpose

TEEN'S CORNER -

GOT QUESTIONS – GOD'S GOT ANSWERS...



QUESTION:

I can't always find time to study my Bible every day. What does the Bible say about my daily devotional?

THE QUICK ANSWER:

Get reacquainted with God every day: Would you like a foolproof formula for a better life and better relationships? Here it is: stay in close contact with God.

Every Day with God

**“Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation.”
Psalm 62:1 NKJV**

When it comes to spending time with God, are you a “squeezer” or a “pleaser”? Do you squeeze God into your schedule with a prayer before meals (and maybe, if you've got the time, with a quick visit to church on Sunday)? Or do you please God by talking to Him far more often than that? The answer to this question will determine the direction of your day and quality of your life.

Each day has 1,440 minutes—do you value your relationship with God enough to spend a few of those minutes with Him? He deserves that much of your time and more— is He receiving it from you? Hopefully so, but if you find that you're simply “too busy” for a daily chat with your Father in heaven, it's time to take a long, hard look at your priorities and your values.

Warren Wiersbe writes, **“Surrender your mind to the Lord at the beginning of each day.” And that's sound advice. When you begin each day with your head bowed and your heart lifted, you are reminded of God's love, His protection, and His commandments. Then, you can align your priorities for the coming day with the teachings and commandments that God has placed upon your heart.**

So, if you've acquired the unfortunate habit of trying to squeeze God into the corners of your life, it's time to reshuffle the items on your to-do list by placing God first. God wants your undivided attention, not the leftovers of your day. **And if you haven't already done so, form the habit of spending quality time with your Father in heaven. He deserves it...and so, for that matter, do you. AMEN.**

God is a place of safety you can run to, but it helps if you are running to Him on a daily basis so that you are in familiar territory.

~~Stormie Omartian

We must appropriate the tender mercy of God every day after conversion or problems quickly develop. We need his grace daily in order to live a righteous life.

~~Jim Cymbala

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



DEVOTIONAL FOR SENIORS

THANKS-LIVING

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. (*Psalm 23:6*)

Wanting to mature in her spiritual life and become more thankful, Sue started what she called a Thanks-Living jar. Each evening she wrote on a small piece of paper one thing she thanked God for and dropped it in the jar. Some days she had many praises; other difficult days she struggled to find one. At the end of the year she emptied her jar and read through all of the notes. She found herself thanking God again for everything He had done. He had given simple things like a beautiful sunset or a cool evening for a walk in the park, and other times He had provided grace to handle a difficult situation or had answered a prayer.

Sue's discovery reminded me of what the psalmist David says he experienced (Psalm 23). God refreshed him with "green pastures" and "quiet waters" (vv. 2–3). He gave him guidance, protection, and comfort (vv. 3–4). David concluded: "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life" (v. 6).

I'm going to make a Thanks-Living jar this year. Maybe you'd like to as well. I think we'll see we have many reasons to thank God—including His gifts of friends and family and His provisions for our physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. We'll see that the goodness and love of God follow us all the days of our lives.

Dear Lord, You bless me in more ways than I can count. Thank You for Your love for me.

When you think of all that's good, give thanks to God.

~~ Anne Cetas, Daily Bread



A Little Humor from God's Little Acres - Desperate Measures -

Little Johnny went to his mother demanding a new bicycle. His mother decided that he should take a look at himself and the way he acts. She said, "Well Johnny, it isn't Christmas and we don't have the money to just go out and buy you anything you want. So why don't you write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead." After his temper tantrum, his mother sent him to his room. He finally sat down to write a letter to Jesus.

**Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle.
Your Friend,
Little Johnny**

Now, Little Johnny knew that Jesus really knew what kind of boy he was (a brat). So, he ripped up the letter and decided to give it another try.

**Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle.
Yours Truly,
Little Johnny**

Well, Little Johnny knew this wasn't totally honest so he tore it up and tried again.

**Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy this year and can I have a new bicycle?
Signed,
Little Johnny**

Well, Little Johnny looked deep down in his heart, which by the way was what his mother was really wanting. He crumpled up the letter and threw it in the trash can and went running outside. He aimlessly wandered about, depressed because of the way he treated his parents and really considering his actions. He finally found himself in front of a Catholic Church.

Little Johnny went inside and knelt down, looking around not knowing what he should really do. He finally got up and began to walk out the door and was looking at all the statues. All of a sudden, he grabbed a small one and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

A Little Humor from God's Little Acres (continued)

Jesus, I've broken most of the Ten Commandments, shot spit wads in school, tore up my sister's Barbie doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mama. If you ever want to see her again, give me a bike.

Signed,

You know who

- Author Unknown -

http://godslittleacre.net/funnies/desperate_measures.html

A Little Humor from Short Funny Jokes

- Powerful Verse -

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38! Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven..." The burglar stopped in his tracks.

The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture at you." "Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an Ax and Two 38's!"

- Cooking for Two -

Mother Teresa died and went to heaven. God greeted her at the Pearly Gates. "Be thou hungry, Mother Teresa?" asked God. "I could eat," Mother Teresa replied. So, God opened a can of tuna and reached for a chunk of rye bread and they began to share it. While eating this humble meal, Mother Teresa looked down into Hell and saw the inhabitants devouring huge steaks, lobsters, pheasants, and pastries. Curious, but deeply trusting, she remained quiet. The next day God again invited her to join him for a meal. Again, it was tuna and rye bread. Once again, Mother Teresa could see the denizens of Hell enjoying lamb, turkey, venison, and delicious desserts. Still she said nothing.

The following day, mealtime arrived and another can of tuna was opened. She couldn't contain herself any longer. Meekly, she asked, "God, I am grateful to be in heaven with you as a reward for the pious, obedient life I led. But here in heaven all I get to eat is tuna and a piece of rye bread and in the Other Place they eat like emperors and kings! I just don't understand it..." God sighed. "Let's be honest Teresa," He said, "for just two people, it doesn't pay to cook."

<http://www.beliefnet.com/prayables/joke-galleries/short-funny-jokes.aspx?>



Manners & Etiquette

~ Reminders for the New Year ~

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." -Philippians 4:8 KJV)

The first and most important rule of good manners is kindness and consideration to others. This rule never changes. The source of this rule is the Bible, and it is the second most important commandment next to loving God: ***"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"*** (MATT 22:39; MATT 19:19). Remember, knowing what is right is only part of having good manners. It is the doing that counts. (JAS 1:22; JAS 2:20; MATT 7:21)

General Good Manners

- Think of the others first. (PHIL 2:4-5; ROM 12:10)
- Be hospitable and friendly. (1.PET 4:9; ROM 12:13; PROV 18:24)
- Always say, "Thank you" - this is a way of praising others and one of the keys of good manners; not forgetting "Excuse me", "Please", "You are welcome", "Hello" and "Goodbye". (COL 3:15; 1. THESS 5:18; 3. JN 14)
- Do not be boastful, arrogant or loud - always exercise restraint. Let your deeds speak for themselves. (TIT 1:8; 1.COR 13:4-5)
- Listen before speaking. Never interrupt. Look people in the eye, and listen carefully. (JAS 1:19)
- Before speaking to others consider what effect your words will have. Don't say thoughtless, unkind things. Pause and weigh your words carefully and say them with a "quality of softness." (PROV 15:23; 12:25; 25:11)
- Never whisper, as it makes the person who can't hear feel left out. (PSALM 41:7)
- Never point or stare, especially at people with disabilities or those who are "different". (PHIL 2:3; ROM 12:11)
- Be thankful and show appreciation for gifts, help, etc. Write "thank you cards" rather than sending e-mails to show your appreciation. (COL 3:15; EPH 5:20)
- Give compliments - a fundamental rule of good manners is to give. (ACTS 20:35)
- Be considerate and do not embarrass others - treat others as you would like to be treated, and think of how you can put them at ease. Never demean anyone with rude jokes or an unwelcome nickname. (1.COR 13:4; PHIL 2:4; LK 10:27)
- Do not criticize or complain - a person with good manners is above criticizing others or complaining about circumstances. Negativity in any form is to be avoided. If you hear gossip, don't join in, be indifferent to it. If you disagree with others, do so respectfully. Don't verbally attack or condemn them. (1.COR 13:5-7; PHIL 2:14; EPH 4:29)
- Never be ruffled. Be a calming, happy influence in any stressful situation and maintain your composure. (PROV 16:32; PSALM 37:8)
- Respect people's time and be punctual. If you make an appointment, arrive on time or even a bit early. If you're going to be late, always call and let them know. Never arrive early for a social engagement; your host may still be getting dressed. (EPH 5:16; MATT 5:37)
- When you give your word or promise something, then you must fulfil it; or get word to the person promised early enough that no harm is done. Your explanation as to WHY you cannot keep your promise must be perfectly acceptable and not due to your own fault. (JAS 5:12; ECCL 5:4-5)
- If you borrow something it should be treated more carefully than if it was your own. It should also be returned promptly and if possible in better-than-original condition. When someone lends you money, then NEVER forget or delay the repayment. If a problem arises, contact the lender. (DEUT 23:21)

Manners & Etiquette (continued)

In Public

- Always introduce yourself and others.
- Be helpful. Open doors (regardless of gender). Men should always open doors for women. (HEB 13:16; 1.PET 3:7)
- Do not ask too many intimate or invasive questions the first few times that you meet a person. (PHIL 2:3)
- To strangers/new ones: Do not comment on personal appearances or clothes in a negative way; if you cannot say something complimentary, do not say anything at all. (PSALM 12:5; PROV 11:22)
- If you are in a mixed group, always greet the elders and the women first.
Don't address elders and seniors by their names, unless they have specially asked you to.
Stand up when an elder or a guest enters the room and don't sit until you've offered them a seat. (1.PET 5:5)
- If an elderly person enters a bus or train, the younger offers him/her a seat, if needed. (LEV 19:32)
- A man should always offer the woman to enter a room first. (1.PET 3:7)
- At a restaurant/official dinner, the man moves the chair away from the table and offers the woman her seat. (1.PET 3:7)
- When leaving a place, men should help the women to put on their coats/jackets. (1.PET 3:7)
- Girls/women should always dress modestly. (1.TIM 2:9)
- Wear a nice, clean dress on Sundays.
- Stand when the national anthem is playing. Show respect to the flag.
- Be involved in a variety of community service organizations. (MATT 5:16; TIT 2:14)

At Home / With Guests

- Introduce guests to everyone in your home. (**1 PET 4:9**)
- Offer something to drink (a glass of water, a cup of tea/coffee) to anyone who steps into your home/office. (**HEB 13:2**)
- Do not continue to watch TV or surf the net when you have a visitor.
- Lower the music or TV volume when others are talking or trying to sleep.
- Wear clean clothes at home. (**GEN 35:2; LEV 6:11**)
- Children should learn at a young age to help in the household and take over responsibility. (**DEUT 6:7; EX 20:12**)
- Children should stand up when the father or older people enter the room. They do not remain seated, e.g. in front of a TV. They should also offer the best seats. (**COL 3:20**)
- Goodbyes should be short and cheerful when you are the guest. If you have guests, be with them when they are leaving, making their visit pleasant to the end. (**PHIL 2:3; 1.PET 4:9**)

Table Manners

- Wear appropriate clothing and be presentable. Even if it is very hot never sit at the table without a shirt.
- Wash your hands before a meal. (**EX 40:31**)
- Wait to eat until the food is blessed.
- If the meal is not buffet style, then wait until everyone is served before eating. It shows consideration. Never overload your plate as it makes you look greedy. It is better to take less and return for seconds.
- When you sit down, place the napkin on your lap.
- Sit up straight and don't slouch.
- Put both your hands on the table, but never your elbows.
- Always use a napkin to dab your mouth (remember, dab your mouth only!) Your napkin should be on your lap when not in use.

Manners & Etiquette (continued)

- Start with the cutlery furthest away from your plate and work yourself in towards your plate.
- Eat slowly, but keep up with your host. Also, don't fill your mouth with food - it looks gross! Do not speak or drink with your mouth full, nor lick your fingers.
- Eat with a fork unless the food is meant to be eaten with fingers, and keep your knife out of your mouth.
- When eating rolls, cut them with a knife at breakfast, but break them open with your hands at a dinner before buttering.
- Slice butter from the butter dish and place it on your butter plate or other plate. The butter knife should stay with the butter dish.
- Be sure to compliment the housewife on the meal she prepared (and/or the chefs/cooks)! Don't make any negative comments that will hurt someone's feelings
- Always say "thank you" when served something. It shows appreciation.
- You should eat what is offered on the table. (1.COR 10:27; 1.TIM 4:4)
- Ask for specific things you want instead of reaching out directly or pointing at dishes; don't make too much noise. Chew with your mouth closed, and don't talk with food in your mouth!
- When a second helping is offered, take it if you are still hungry.
- Excuse yourself from the table if you need to go to the bathroom. Also excuse yourself if you need to remove some food from between your teeth, blow your nose, etc.! However, at an official dinner you may need to wait until your host excuses you.
- Clear your plate from the table and take it to the kitchen. Help clear the dishes (but not at an official dinner)

Kids

- Kids only speak if they are asked to. As a rule, kids should be seen but not heard. (**COL 3:20**)
- Kids do not interrupt if adults talk. (**EPH 6:1**)
- Fathers are often offered the better parts of the food. (**1.TIM 5:17**)
- Never play with your food.
- Never wave or throw utensils.
- Never grab food from other people's plates.
- Leave toys, books, and pets behind!
- Do not read while eating.

Phone Manners

- When the phone rings speak clearly and politely, e.g. "Hello, this is John speaking."
- When the call is for someone else, clearly answer with, e.g. "Just a minute please." If the person is not there; ask the caller if he wants to leave a message. Also, ask for his name and number so he can be contacted later. Write this down so you don't forget to pass it on.
- Let the number you are calling ring six to eight times before hanging up, as the person may be busy and not able to answer straight away.
- Never hang up abruptly. Always allow the person you called to hang up first.
- Don't be a "phone hog" as other people may want to use the phone, or someone may be trying to reach you.
- Mobile phones should either be switched off or set on "vibrate" or "silent" during meals, at the cinema, etc.

~By Tina Lee

Source: *'Manners To Grow On: A How-To-Do Book For Boys and Girls'*, Doubleday
<https://www.cai.org/bible-studies/manners-etiquette>

A STORY TO WARM YOUR HEART

I never knew how to worship until I knew how to love.

~Henry Ward Beecher~



THE BROWNIE STORY

By Dawn L. Billingsly

*F*inancially deprived, yes, that's the perfect way to describe how it all began. My parents were uneducated out of necessity. Both were raised during the Depression and had quit school to help support their families.

My father was one of eight children, at least until his baby brother Johnny was killed at three years of age, a great tragedy from which the family never fully recovered. My mother was the third child of five. Her father died when she was four years old. Her mother didn't remarry until all of her five children were raised. My grandmother was an extraordinary lady.

I am the firstborn child of my parents—hence the name Dawn. They always told me my name was symbolic of the beginning of a new life for them. One evening they went to sleep as a couple, and they awoke the next day as something more: a family. Even though the story is corny and sentimental, I have always liked it. My sister was born eighteen months after me, with my brother following her fifteen months later. My parents were determined to have a son, and after his birth they felt their family was complete.

Female was a confusing gender in my family. Were they the breadwinners and heads of the family as in my mother's family? Or were they supposed to be modern-day Cinderellas: washing, cleaning, staying within womanly domains, learning skills that would eventually be of some value to a wife, like taking care of a household and children? That was the path my sister chose. Me, well, I *did* learn to dust.

Don't misunderstand me. My dad loved me and had hopes for me, as long as any dream I had stayed within the boundaries of those dreams deemed appropriate for poor white trash. My mom, on the other hand, was always telling me there was a star out there, and it was my job to hitch my wagon to it. I was her hope. She wanted me to go where she had been afraid to tread.

For two years, when I was six and seven, we had no indoor plumbing, except for the cold-water pipe in the kitchen. We boiled water on the stove in order to take baths in our number-three washtub. We did, however, have a rather plush outside facility, because my father was fair at carpentry, and he designed our special rest room with two holes instead of one, in order for the children to go outside together. He hoped that this togetherness would minimize our terror of going to the outhouse in the dark.

The first day of school, I realized that something was different about me. Up until then, I had learned to talk early, sing in harmony, entertain my family with not-too-humorous stand-up comedy and help my mother with the other children (sometimes without being threatened), and I had a basic proficiency at getting my sister and myself to the outside facility. First grade taught me many different things. Other girls my age had a different dress for each day of the week. Dick jumped, Jane skipped and both of them saw Spot run. I also couldn't help but notice that most of the other children had lunch pails with thermoses to match. Not only was I short on clothes, I had to take my bologna sandwich in a brown paper bag with no thermos. Drinking water from the school cooler was perfectly suited to the family budget.

THE BROWNIE STORY (continued)

By second grade, I was convinced that somewhere along the way my parents had forgotten to pick up a couple of checks. One, I was quite sure, was sitting somewhere, written for the explicit purpose of a pink lunch pail with matching thermos just for me. I had a desperate desire to fit in. I wanted to belong. Then,

out of nowhere appeared the ultimate opportunity. A flyer was passed around for joining Brownies. In second grade, in a small town in Oklahoma, Brownies is the quintessential little girl experience and quite necessary for success in future marriage or business. Needless to say, I was devastated, as was my mother, when she had to explain that I couldn't be a Brownie because we were not able to afford the uniform and dues. My chances for belonging, blending in and being accepted were dim.

I remember my father attempting to explain life to me when he couldn't stand to see me hurt. He told me that living in a dream world, or being overwhelmed by some sort of fantasy, would only lead to the need to understand three very simple rules of life. Number one, money marries money. (I thought that was interesting, because I had only heard of *people* getting married.) Number two, good things happen to those who can afford them, which I had some understanding of since "the big five," the wealthy girls in my class, seemed to always have good things happen to them. And last, but certainly not least, number three; life was something one must endure until it was over. If I could grasp and believe in those concepts, I could be a successful member of the official poor white trash community. If not, I was begging for disappointment for the rest of my days.

Even as a child, this did not make sense to me. How in the world was grasping these concepts going to help me avoid heartbreak and disappointment? My father had grasped the concepts, and it sure wasn't saving him heart-break. It appeared that something was missing from this all-encompassing philosophy, and I figured that if I was going to be miserable in life anyway, I might as well have money and good things happen once in a while. My mother taught me about miracles. She used at least two sources to back up her claim of their existence: the movie *Miracle on 34th Street* and stories of miracles God had performed in the Bible. I believed that between God and Santa Claus, anything could happen.

Of course, my dad even had a story about Santa. He said that when he was seven years old, he still believed in Santa Claus. One day, this big sleigh drawn by horses came down his street. He almost lost his breath with the excitement of seeing Santa in person for the first time. He told me that Santa was throwing candy out for the children, but he didn't want any. He just wanted to touch Santa's sleigh to make sure he wasn't dreaming. He ran as fast as he could, his heart beating out of his chest. Just as he got to the sleigh, he breathlessly reached out to touch it and pushed out a weak, "I love you, Santa." Crack! He felt a jolt of pain. Santa had cracked his metal bells across dad's knuckles. "Don't touch the sleigh, kid!" was all he could remember Santa saying. My dad lost whatever faith he had left in childhood fantasies that day. It made me cry when I heard the story. I wondered why he didn't know that it must not have been the real Santa.

I remember spending my recess time alone, praying that my dad wasn't right about Santa or life. I wanted to believe that worth wasn't just about money, and that even if you didn't have money, dreams could still come true. Otherwise, hitching my wagon to a star was going to be impossible. But if miracles did exist, I still had a chance with both my wagon and Brownies. I felt torn; I knew I should listen to my father. Fathers should be respected and taken seriously. But he seemed to not have all of the information. Miracles had been scarce for him, and I wondered if that was because he didn't know how to believe in them. I was convinced the secret was in the believing. And I was determined to believe enough for both of us.

My second-grade teacher, Mrs. JoAnn Stone, saw me huddled alone outside at recess one day and came over to find out what the problem might be. I told her that there wasn't a problem; I was just having a talk with God about being a Brownie. She asked me, "Why the talk with God?" "I might not get to be a Brownie," I replied. "My mom can't afford a uniform and the dues, so I was hoping that God could give me some ideas."

Several days later, as my seven-year-old faith was being pushed to its limit, Mrs. Stone asked if I could stay after school for a few minutes. After school that day, she took me into her office and locked the door.

THE BROWNIE STORY (continued)

She was acting rather strangely, and I thought she might be angry with me. I could not figure out what I might have done wrong. She noticed my concern, smiled, and told me that she had a surprise for me. I was greatly relieved to know she wasn't mad. She opened a box. I couldn't believe my eyes! A Brownie uniform! She kept apologizing that it wasn't new. She said her sister had a little girl one year older than I was, and that this was her old Brownie uniform. She thought it might fit me.

She asked if I would try it on. I was hesitant because my slip was very old and torn, and I didn't want her to see it, but I thought I could live through the embarrassment if the uniform would just fit. My sacrifice was rewarded when it did. It was wonderful and soft, and Mrs. Stone even had the funny little beanie hat that went with it. I knew God had answered my prayers. I knew Mrs. Stone was the kindest woman in the world, and I knew from that moment on that my father was wrong—not because he was bad, but because someone had obviously lied to him, and he had believed them. I only wished he had had Mrs. Stone as his second-grade teacher. She would never have lied to him.

When I put on my uniform, I knew I wasn't meant to be just poor white trash. I was meant to be something wonderful. . . I was meant to be a Brownie!

In Brownies we had a project. We made plaster of Paris puppy dogs. Everyone but me painted their puppies brown or black. My mother had just spent our dinner money on balcony tickets to the picture show to see *101 Dalmatians*. I remember sitting up there so high, looking down on all the people. I felt wonderful and special, so I painted my plaster dog white with large black spots to remind me of that wonderful feeling.

The big event in Brownies was the Father-Daughter Dinner. Only fathers were allowed to attend with their daughters. I had never had an evening out alone with my dad. One day, my mom found an old pedal sewing machine in an alley. She asked the man who owned the building how much he wanted for it, but he told her she didn't want that old machine because the bobbin had to be wound by hand, and it didn't run very well. He told her it was more of a headache than anything else. She told him that was a matter of perspective. She had children who needed clothes and the old machine looked wonderful to her. He felt sorry for her and ended up selling it to her for five dollars. She hand-wound the bobbin, cleaned and oiled the machine, and bought some material at a garage sale for a nickel a yard. She made a beautiful dress for me to wear to the dinner.

I thought that my dad was the handsomest man there. At one point the fathers and daughters began to sing "*Let Me Call You Sweetheart*" to one another. My dad lifted me up and stood me on a chair, and we did one of the things he loved most: we sang in harmony. He had a glorious voice. There were tears in both our eyes as we finished singing. He leaned over and whispered into my ear, "When I look at you, my little Brownie, I can believe in miracles."

I'll never forget that moment. I imagine that he hasn't forgotten either. For a moment we weren't poor white trash, nor wealthy and powerful either. For a moment, none of that mattered. We were a father and daughter experiencing one of the richest moments of my life. In that moment miracles were as real as we were, and the hope created for me out of that experience has led me forth ever since.

Greatness and Children: Learn the Rules

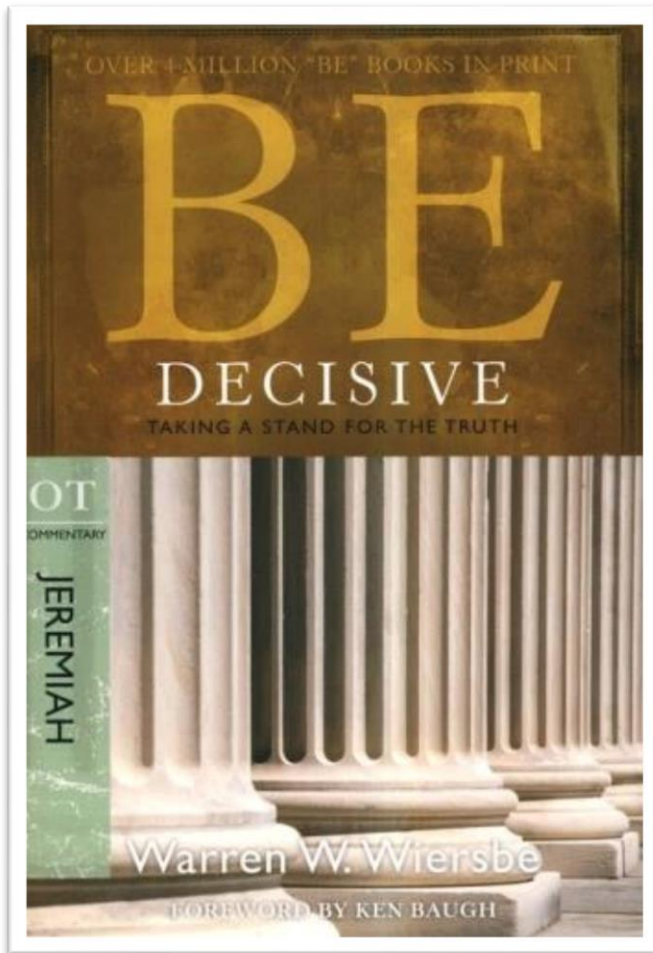
Canfield, Jack, et al. *Chicken Soup for the Christian Family Soul*. Deerpark Beach: Health Communications, 2000.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

405 W. 7th Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45203

Phone: 513-381-3858 – Web: www.union-baptist.net



Imagine living in a world with no moral absolutes. A place where truth is in the eye of the beholder. A society with eroding standards. **Sound familiar?** Yet this dilemma is not new. **The prophet Jeremiah was called to take a public, and unpopular, stand for God's truth.** His story can inspire us to make the powerful, decisive choice to stay firm in our faith and values.

This study is part of Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe's best-selling "BE" commentary series. *Be Decisive* includes study questions and other exciting biblical truths.

A respected pastor and Bible teacher, Dr. Wiersbe shares the need for decisive believers in a lukewarm culture.

We invite you to attend this powerful new group study which will be led by Pastor Yates in the church sanctuary. For your convenience, we are offering it to all of our Bible study classes. Come and grow with us!

Bible Study Beginning Dates

Men's Bible Study & Fellowship:	Tuesday, January 16, 2018	7:15 p.m.
Noon Day Bible Study:	Wednesday, January 17, 2018	12:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study:	Wednesday, January 17, 2018	7:00 p.m.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES
TO EVERYONE BORN
IN THE MONTHS OF
JANUARY AND FEBRUARY**



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, the spelling of your name, the date and time of your call, and, most importantly, a telephone number where you may be reached. Reverend Wyatt will be in touch with you, as quickly as possible, after receiving your telephone 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, Intercessory Prayer Ministry Leaders.

NEED A RIDE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR 10:25 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. If you are interested in becoming a driver on Sundays, (van/mini bus) please call Deacon Ted Craig at (513) 521-2393. YOU MUST POSSESS A CDL LICENSE TO DRIVE THE MINI BUS. GOD BLESS YOU.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16th AT 7:15 P.M.: Please see flyer on page 13. What a blessing that awaits all who participate! ~~ Pastor Yates

WEDNESDAY NOON DAY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES ON JANUARY 17th: Please see flyer on page 13. Remember all are welcome and we will be blessed by your presence. ~~Pastor Yates

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE AND BIBLE STUDY RESUMES ON JANUARY 17TH AT 7:00 P.M.: Please see flyer on page 13. All are invited to attend. ~~ Pastor Yates

8:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICES WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 14, 2018.

DEACONS MINISTRY: The Deacons Ministry will have a meeting on Tuesday, **January 16th** and Monday, **February 5th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Page Archives Library. The Deacon Family Ward Ministry assignments are listed on page 30. **Please have your monthly Ward Family Reports.** ~~Pastor Yates

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LEGACY AWARDS BREAKFAST ON JANUARY 15, 2018:

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast will be held at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. This year's theme is: **"WE MOVE FORWARD. WE NEVER STOP."**

The door to this event will open at 7:30 a.m. and the **Buffet Breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m.** The program will begin at 9:15 a.m. in the Harriet Tubman Auditorium. Union Baptist Church has reserved a table and **tickets are \$35 per person. Please contact Sis. Portia Fuller for tickets.**

Following breakfast, the **March will begin at 10:30 a.m.** from the Freedom Center to Fountain Square. Prayers will be given on Fountain Square and the March will continue to Music Hall where the **MLK Coalition's program will begin at 11:30 a.m.** All events are FREE except for the Breakfast.



"THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY IS NOT
THE OPPRESSION AND CRUELTY
BY THE BAD PEOPLE BUT THE SILENCE
OVER THAT BY THE GOOD PEOPLE."

"THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF A MAN
IS NOT WHERE HE STANDS IN MOMENTS
OF COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE.
BUT WHERE HE STANDS AT TIMES
OF CHALLENGE AND CONTROVERSY."

"IN THE END, WE WILL REMEMBER NOT
THE WORDS OF OUR ENEMIES.
BUT THE SILENCE OF OUR FRIENDS."

"AN INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT STARTED LIVING
UNTIL HE CAN RISE ABOVE THE NARROW
CONFINES OF HIS INDIVIDUALISTIC CONCERNS
TO THE BROADER CONCERNS
OF ALL HUMANITY."

THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR SIS. YVONNE "BONNIE" SEWELL: The Top Ladies of Distinction Beautification Committee, joined the Cemetery Committee on Clean Up Day in July 2017 and pitched in to help with the Union Baptist Cemetery. They were impressed with Union's initiative. On **Saturday, February 10th**, The Top Ladies of Distinction will present the **Community Sweetheart Award** in the area of Community Beautification, to Honoree Yvonne Sewell (UBC Cemetery Committee Chair) at their **Annual Gala Dinner and Dance held at the Sharonville Convention Center. This is a formal event and will start at 5:30 p.m.** For tickets, please see Angelita Moreno Jones. Tickets are \$65.00 and the deadline for purchase is January 26, 2018.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)**

THANK YOU'S AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Good Morning Unionites,

Just wanted you to know that I thank my God for every remembrance of you. Your thoughts, prayers, phone calls, and all of your concerns for me during my journey is and always will be appreciated. Every now and then we find ourselves touched by kindness. Please continue to lift me up in prayer.

Love and God's Blessings,

Sis. Mack (Doris)

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. You remain in my love." (John 15:9)



To Union Baptist Church,

I am so touched by your acts of kindness and prayers during the loss of my husband, Deacon Floyd Norman. A special thank you to Pastor and Sis. Yates, the Deacons and Deaconess Ministries and the Benevolent Culinary Ministry for your support during this difficult time. God bless you all!

Sis. Ruth Norman

What a Church Family!

With Sincere Gratitude and Everlasting Love and Thanks we say

TO: Pastor Yates for such a personable eulogy for our beloved sister, aunt and mother, VIOLA HARMON GRACE.

TO: Minister of Music, Jason Bailey and the Homegoing Choir for touching songs.

TO: All ushers for being dutiful doorkeepers.

TO: Former Chief Usher, Shirley Norman, for the meaningful read Resolution.

TO: The three members - Louise Stevenson, Carolyn Davis, and Doris Mack for their heartfelt written messages.

TO: The Culinary Committee - Elsie Pierre, Portia Fuller, Faye Shirley, Gwen Hall, and Yvonne Fairbanks for a delectable repast.

TO: Nurse Donnetta Johnson for her needed caring services.

TO: ALL members for their useful prayers, beautiful flowers/planters, gracious cards, many calls and other

TO: The member who placed the Usher black-ribboned chair in front of the church. What a benevolent thought expressions of love.



Our Church family has done sooo very much.
Our grateful family is very very THANKFUL for such!

**Louise Harmon Stallworth
Shauna Darlene Stallworth
Michael Kevin Grace**

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)**

THANK YOU'S AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (CONTINUED)



Matthew 25: Ministries' CEO, Tim Mettey, distributes aid in Puerto Rico in response to Hurricane Maria.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to Matthew 25: Ministries. Your gift of \$1,000.00 on 11/07/2017 will help us continue to care for a needy world.

Matthew 25: Ministries is continuing to respond to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, as well as wildfires in California and the earthquake in Mexico. We have already shipped over 1.5 million pounds of aid to these hard-hit areas.

A medical mission team, led by CEO Tim Mettey, recently took a trip to Puerto Rico to help those affected by Hurricane Maria. During this visit, the team was able to assist approximately 10,000 people through medical clinics and distributing much-needed products, including water sanitation packets. We are so thankful for your generosity, which enables us to serve during times of need.

Already in 2017, we have shipped over 12,900,000 pounds of aid, helping more than 18,100,000 people. Thank you for your support of this work!

God's Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendell".

Rev. Wendell Mettey
President & Founder

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)**

THANK YOU'S AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (CONTINUED)

November 20, 2017

Pastor Orlando B. Yates
Union Baptist Church
405 West Seventh Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203

Dear Pastor Yates:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ !

The family of the late Hannah H. Thomas is donating \$750.00 in her memory to the church's scholarship fund.

Mrs. Thomas always encouraged educational pursuits, and the enclosed amount is to be distributed as follows:

- 1) Male, full time college student, \$250.00.
- 2) Female, full time college student, \$250.00.
- 3) Male or female full time student pursuing an advanced degree, including a MS, MA, MBA, PhD, JD, MD, or similar degree, \$250.00.

The funds may be used for books, supplies, and/or incidental educational expenses.

If the announcement of the recipients is planned for an upcoming church service, please let me know so that some family member may plan to attend.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Family of Hannah H. Thomas –

Mrs. Evernee L. Blanks
Mrs. Carolyn H. Bailey
Mr. Kenneth H. Hawkins
Mrs. Kathy W. Jackson

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)

MESSAGE FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT



Greetings Union,

As we begin the new year, I want to thank the membership for your support of the Sunday School this past year; I am looking forward to seeing more of the membership (children, as well as adults) this coming year. Our teachers are prepared each Sunday with lessons, that will cause you to think, and really understand what God has in-store for you; but you must attend classes on a regular basis to know what He has for you, as well as your family.

I am urging all parents to attend Sunday School with your children; we are living in times when knowing God, will see you through the turbulent times we all will certainly face.

We will continue with classes for all ages, and also continue with our combined adult class the second Sunday of each month; if you would like to become a part of the Sunday school staff please let me, or the assistant superintendent (Dea. Donald Darby) know; we are in need of assistance with our teens, and the younger children.

To my Sunday School staff, I want to thank each of you, for your faithful service each Sunday in teaching God's word; may God continue to bless each of you.

Note to all teachers: we will hold our regular teacher's meetings the first Tuesday of each month. If there are any changes to this meeting date I will let you know.

Blessings/**Deacon Ernest Norman**
UBC Sunday School Superintendent



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

People of Jamaica are in need of your used eyeglasses. A receptacle is in the vestibule for your eyeglass donations. Thanking you in advance for being a blessing to others. If you have any questions please contact **Sis. Doris Walker**.

2018 Dates for Matthew 25 Ministry are: February 10th, April 14th, June 9th, August 11th, October 13th, and December 15th. Time for all dates is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are asking that the participants bring one person outside of the church to join with us in this ministry effort. **Sis. Doris Walker**

FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry Ministry was blessed to serve **97 families** in November for Harvest. The Food Pantry was closed in December. **Sis. Monica Ray, Ministry Leader**

AMAZONSMILES: Amazon has established a program where a portion of your Amazon purchases will be donated to a charity of your choice. When you are shopping on Amazon, please go to the AmazonSmiles site and designate The Union Foundation as the designated charity.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY UPDATES

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES

The Women's Ministry was blessed with the opportunity to once again serve as Matthew 25 Ministries during the month of December 2017. This month a challenge was given to our members to bring a new person with them to serve at this worthwhile endeavor. We thank the new volunteers: Sis. Portia Fuller, Sis. Lisa Adams and Sis. Ruth Phillips who joined us this month.

The **Women's Ministry thanks Sis. Doris Walker** who continues to faithfully spearhead this ministry effort. We ask people to join us as we continue into 2018. Union Baptist Church is typically scheduled to serve on the second Saturday of every other month. Our next opportunity to serve shall be February 10, 2017.



VESSELS OF PRAISE

The Vessels of Praise ministered to the congregants of Union Baptist Church twice during the month of December 2017. **The Women's Ministry thanks Sis. Tristan Cargile and Sis. Carol Cargile** for their commitment to this ministry.

Many exciting things are planned for the year of 2018, including a workshop to be held at Union Baptist Church. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

The Vessels of Praise welcome new members to their ministry. Females of all ages (children to seniors) are welcomed to join and to use their talents to worship the Lord. ~~ **Sis. Rogena Stargel and Sis. Louise Stevenson, Women's Ministry Leaders**

HOLIDAY CAROLING

The members of the Women's Ministry were invited to sing Christmas carols for the residents of Lincoln Crawford Nursing Home and Oak Pavilion Nursing Home. Led by our very own elf, Sis. Louise Stevenson, the members joyfully let their lights shine for the Lord as we brought song, fellowship and Christian love to the nursing home residents.



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)

Acts of The Holy Spirit in You



I'm going to begin by saying the Holy Spirit is discussed in both the old and new testaments of most Bible translations but I will only recite the NKJ testament Holy Spirit as mentioned by Jesus Christ to his Disciples in **John 16:7**, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." To encourage you before we go too far on our research let's please read **Hebrews 11:1** and **12:1**.

My basic source of information comes from a theology class I took at Temple Bible College and the textbook, **Basic Theology**, by Charles Caldwell Ryrie. The first thing you're taught is "Theo" is the study of God and "logy" is the reading and analysis of His word.

In **1 Corinthians 2:9-13**, Paul tells us "But, as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him. But God has revealed them to us through His spirit."

For the spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a thought better, except for the spirit of that person, which is him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

According to the **Basic Theology** by Charles Caldwell Ryrie;

- a. HE IS A PERSON - Denial that Spirit is a person often takes the form of the substituting concept that He is a personification of say, power much like the claiming that Satan is a personification of Evil. These claims were made first long ago by the Monarchians, Arians and Socinians and in recent times by the Unitarians, liberals and some neo-orthodox.
- b. He possesses and exhibits the attributes of a person
 1. He has intelligence, He knows and searches the things of God (**1 Cor.**)
 2. He possesses a mind (**Rom 8:27**). He makes intercessions for the saints of God and is also able to teach.
 3. He shows his feelings. He can be grieved by the sinful acts of believers (**Eph. 4:30**) and do not grieve -an influence cannot be grieved.
 4. He has a will. He uses this in distributing the gifts to the body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:11**). He also directs the activities of Christians (**Acts 16:6-11**).
- c. **HE IS GOD** – He is a unique person, for He is God. Proofs of personality are not necessarily proofs of Deity; but proofs of Deity are also proofs of His personality. If God is a person, and if the Spirit is also God, then He is a person also.
- d. **The Spirit Indwelling** - To express indwelling Paul not only used the preposition, but also the verb in Greek that can't pronounce but means to dwell (**Rom 8-9, 1 Cor 3:16**) to relate his ministry of Spiritual believers. Many passages clearly teach that the Spirit is given to all believers rather than selectively.
 - John 7:37-39
 - Acts 11:16-17
 - Rom. 5:5
 - 1 Cor. 2:12

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)

Acts of The Holy Spirit in You (continued)

- 2 Cor 5:5
- 1 These 4:7
- 1 Tim 2:2
- Matt 1:21

There are many more in **Romans 8:9** and the book of **Jude 19**. My brethren and sisters have a wonder in the searching the Spirit of the Lord. Individually we can be more spiritually stronger than in ancient times. Let's look at **Ephesians 2:3 AMB**. Among these (unbelievers) we all once lived in the passion of our flesh (our behavior governed by the sinful self), indulging the desires of a human nature (without the Holy Spirit) and the impulses of the sinful mind, we were by nature, children under the sentence of God's wrath just like the rest of mankind.

Know that I have the agape love of Christ for you and want the best spiritual opportunities for all of us.

Happy New Year!

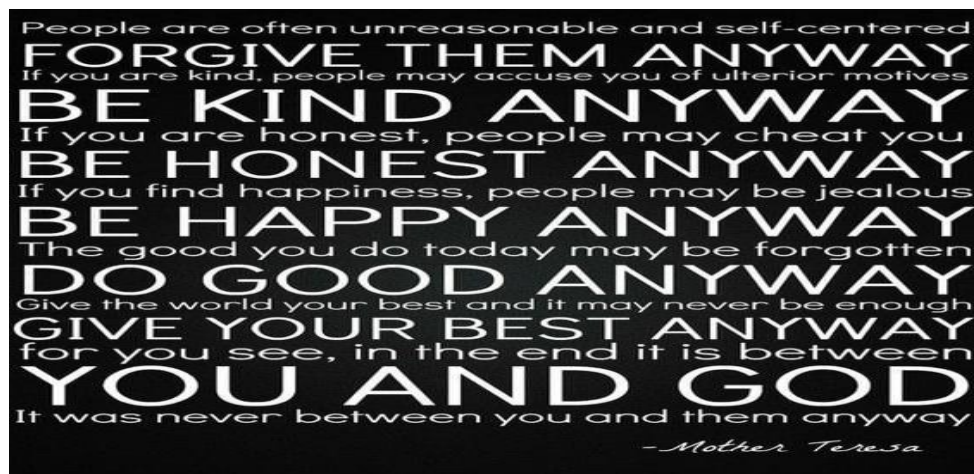
Deacon James E. Darby, UBC Men's Ministry Leader

THE CITY GOSPEL MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY: The schedule of the longstanding participation of Union Baptist Church Ministers began with Reverend Shawn D. Pate, is as follows:

January 27, 2018	Reverend Emanuel Marshall	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
February 24, 2018	Reverend Barry Hixon, Jr.	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
March 24, 2018	Reverend Alvin Wyatt	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.

Union is asked to pray for and support, in every way possible, **our Associate Ministers** as they serve at City Gospel Mission. The City Gospel Mission is located at 1805 Dalton St., 45215. Thank You.

~~Pastor Yates.



~~ Submitted by Sis. Portia Fuller

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)**

JANURY IS "WORSHIPPING JESUS CHRIST ONLY, ALWAYS" MONTH

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

January 8, 2018: FIRST QUARTERLY CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.

January 14, 2018: SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DURING 10:25 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

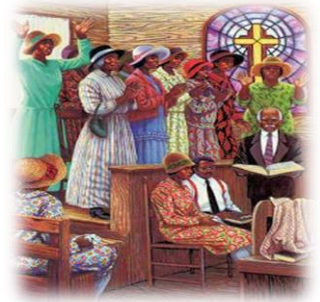
January 15, 2018: CITY WIDE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OBSERVANCE (CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED)

January 16, 2018: DEACONS MINISTRY MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.
TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.

January 22, 2018: FIRST QUARTER OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.

January 26, 2018: FIRST QUARTER CHURCH CONFERENCE AT 7:00 P.M.

January 29, 2018: UNION FOUNDATION MEETING AT 7:00 p.m.

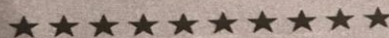


A New Year's Prayer

Lord, you make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this New Year and for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise your glorious name.

Amen



~~ Submitted by Sis. Elsie Pierre

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)**



**MEMBERSHIP CLASS
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Beginning Date: Sunday, January 7, 2018

Attention Union!

Beginning, Sunday, January 7, 2018 our Disciples of Christ 101 Class will now be referred to as our Membership Class. **This class is a required class for all new joins and must be completed before new joins are officially added to the membership role of Union Baptist Church.** Current members are encouraged to attend these classes at some point in the future. This training consists of 4 individual classes that will be held during the Sunday School hour from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. in the sanctuary In the front pews on the organ side. The classes are as follows:

Membership Class 101 Membership

This class will be offered on the first Sundays of each month and it covers Salvation: what salvation is and what it means to be saved, what the church is and what it means to be a member of the church, what we believe, church history and much more.

Membership Class 201 Discovering Spiritual Maturity

This class will be offered on the second Sundays of each month and it covers the myths of spiritual growth and explains the habits that are needed for one to grow into spiritual maturity and so much more.

Membership Class 301 Discovering My Ministry

This class will be offered on the 3rd Sunday of each month. This class covers spiritual gifts, what they are according to the Bible and how we discover our gifts and unite with a ministry at Union Baptist church plus so much more.

Membership Class 401 Missions

This class will be offered on the 4th Sundays of each month. This class covers what the believer's mission should be and much more.

It is important to know that special arrangements can be made for members who want to attend these classes but are having difficulty making the classes on a particular Sunday. Please contact Rev. Alvin Wyatt to make those arrangements. Also, if Ministry leaders who would like this class offered during their ministry meetings as a way to ensure those members have received this curriculum can also contact **Rev. Alvin Wyatt** as well. He **can be reached on his cell at 513-328-3981 or via email at revalwyatt@yahoo.com.**

Rev. Alvin Wyatt

Minister of Youth, Christian Life and Witnessing

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)**

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY OBSERVANCE MONTH



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

February 4-25, 2018: A BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE BY THE MAHALA SAUNDERS LIBRARY MINISTRY WILL OCCUR DURING EACH SUNDAY 10:25 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE.

February 5, 2018: DEACONS MINISTRY MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.

February 12, 2018: PRESIDENT'S DAY (CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED)

February 19, 2018: TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.

February 25, 2018: UBC AFRICAN HERITAGE OBSERVANCE (WEAR AFRICAN APPAREL)

February 26, 2018: UNION FOUNDATION MEETING AT 7:00 p.m.



Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries

around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All members are asked to be mindful that no one should be in the **church building between the hours of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.** due to security reasons. Any necessary exceptions should be coordinated and approved by the Chairman of Property and Space, Bro. Don Johnson, at least one week in advance. God's blessings to each of you from the Trustee Board Ministry. ~~~**Dr. Carolyn Turner, Ministry Leader**

UNION BAPTIST'S EMAIL ADDRESS: The church has an email address for all ministry announcements. Please send all forms of communications (church announcements, flyers, upcoming events, etc.) to unioncincinnati@gmail.com. Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS: The deadline for church announcements for the March-April 2018 Newsletter is **February 19, 2018**. Requests for announcements should be **e-mailed in care of Sis. Shirley Norman, Public Relations Ministry Leader**, at Union's email address: unioncincinnati@gmail.com. Please note "Sis. Norman – Announcement" on the subject line. **Please note: any announcements received after the deadline date will be included in the May-June 2018 newsletter.**

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH OF CINCINNATI WEBSITE: Please visit our website (www.union-baptist.net) which is both informative and interactive for those who are seeking the Will of God in their lives. **On our website, you will see upcoming events; evangelistic missions inclusive for men, women and children;** discipleship opportunities for building God's kingdom; exploratory devotional links for personal spiritual growth; and, community connections that have demonstrated, in the past, and continue to demonstrate, the **POWER OF GOD** throughout the Greater Cincinnati area, and beyond.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH RADIO BROADCASTS: You can now also listen to the Union Baptist broadcast on **WCVG 1320 every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** through live stream radio by connecting to the Union Baptist Church website at www.union-baptist.net.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ON FACEBOOK: The official Union Baptist Facebook is also linked to the Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati website at www.union-baptist.net.

UNION BAPTIST WI-FI SETTINGS: Please see Executive Church Administrator, Bro. Dale McAllister, to obtain the settings for the wireless router (Wi-Fi). Thank you.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Opportunities for anyone interested in volunteering in the church office or other areas of the church are still available. Please contact Bro. Dale McAllister, Executive Church Administrator. Thank you.

UBC MEMBERSHIP DATA FORM: All members who have not completed their updated UBC Membership Form, are urged to complete and provide your updated information, including, any name change; your current home address; your home, cell and work telephone numbers; a number where you may be reached in case of an emergency; and, an emergency contact person, etc. Membership Data Forms are available in the wall receptacle near the church office. When you have completed your form, please give to **Sis. Gwendolyn Hall**, Church Office Receptionist. Thank You.

Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati



"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."
—Ephesians 6:18

The Prayer Band is a group of people dedicated to the ministry of prayer and intercession. Our mission is to serve the Body of Christ locally and around the world by praying for their needs and requests via conference calls with one another. ~~Sister Gwen Hall

BAND MEMBERS

Sis. Gwen Hall
Sis. Inez Austin
Sis. Sara Bell
Sis. Johnnie Moreno

Sis. M. Ruth Phillips
Sis. Doris Walker
Sis. Marge Yates

Please contact Sis. Gwen Hall if you would like to be a part of this ministry.

A Crossword Puzzle: Biblical Towns

By Rowland Miller

Pocket Posh King James Puzzles

(Please finish puzzle before checking hidden answers.)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
			18					19				
20	21	22					23					
24					25	26					27	28
29				30						31		
32			33						34			
		35					36	37				
38	39					40						
41					42					43	44	45
46					47				48			
49					50				51			

ACROSS

- 1 Old Testament book
5 He died "old and full of days"
8 Assist
12 Flood survivor
13 Period of time
14 Like the desert of Sinai
15 City destroyed by God
17 "None is so fierce that dare ___ him up (Job 41:10)
18 Actor Julia
19 "Suzanne" composer Leonard ___
20 Sounds from Gideon's trumpet?
23 Ringlet
24 Traditional knowledge
25 Some electrical devices
29 Kimono sash
30 Broadway failures
31 "... and the archers ___ him" (1 Sam. 31:3)
32 "And ye are ___ in him." (Col. 2:10)
34 Butte kin
35 Grad
36 Wanderer
38 Bandleader Shaw
40 "The ___ are a people not strong" (Prov. 30:25)
41 "He saith among the trumpets, ___" (Job 39:25)
42 "...Lord Jesus Christ, let him be ___ Maranatha" (1 Cor. 16:22)

46 "For ___ hereunto were ye called" (1 Peter 2:21)

47 Wildebeest

48 "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do ___" (Ex.23:2)

49 Carnivore's diet

50 Son of 12-Across

51 And Jacob said, ___ me this day thy birthright" (Gen. 25:31)

DOWN

- 1 Chang's twin
2 San Diego tourist mecca
3 Abraham found one caught in a thicket
4 "My kingdom for ___!"
5 "...children of Judah had fought against ___" (Judg. 1:8)
6 Spoken
7 Humbug!
8 Classify
9 "Now when Jesus was born in ___ of Judea" (Matt. 2:1)
10 Cleveland's lake
11 Gull relative
16 Betrayer
19 "...as the washing of pots and ___" (Mark 7:8)
20 Alliance
21 Timber wolf
22 Joseph of ___
23 Simon Peter's hometown on the Sea of Galilee
26 Decimal point
27 "...and the children shall ___ up against their parents (Matt. 10:21)

Crossword Puzzle (continued)

DOWN continued

- 28 What the magi followed
- 30 Chimney part
- 33 Flexible
- 34 Prepares potatoes?
- 37 Mel the Giant base baller
- 38 "Pardon me!"

- 39 Pan's opposite
- 40 Prophetess mentioned in Luke 2:36
- 42 Kabul coin (abbr.)
- 43 Adam's mate
- 44 Wire measure (abbr.)
- 45 "Follow peace with ___ men" (Heb. 12:14)

5 Reasons Why We Should Study God's Word

The Bible is an incredible book of history and facts that proves that there is a God that created all things. Most important of all, the Bible is the Word of God. It contains the mind of God and His will for each one of our lives. That is why the Bible was given to us. Paul the Apostle says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." Why should we study the Word of God? The following are a few scriptural reasons that we should consider when answering this question.

First, the Word of God is infallible. There is no error in God's Word. The law of the Lord is perfect concerning our soul. The testimony of the Lord is not only infallible it is inerrant. Proverbs 30:5-6, "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar." The purity of His words does not need anything added to it. God warns us not to misrepresent His scripture.

Second, the Word of God is complete. The Bible does not need any new chapters or verses. It is all given to us already. Many cults add their own books or commentaries to the Bible. All you need is God's Word because it is the holy Word of God. It is complete. In Revelation 22:18-19, God gives us a warning, "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Third, the Word of God is totally authoritative. The book of Psalms 119:89 says "Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven." The Word of God is the only source for absolute divine authority. This divine authority is for you and me as servants of Jesus Christ. When some say, "I have a word from the Lord for you," write it down and as you study God's word see if the Lord speaks to you through His Scriptures. Only then will you know if the Lord is truly speaking to you.

Fourth, God's Word is totally sufficient for all of our needs. We don't need anything else. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 it reads "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." We Christians can be totally secure in the Lord by studying the Bible because it is God's plan for our life.

And fifth, the Word of God will accomplish what it promises. If God told you something will happen, and you wait, it will happen. In Isaiah 55:11 it says, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." God sent His word to accomplish His perfect will in our lives. If God makes a promise to you He will fulfill it in His own time. There are so many promises given to us in the Bible. These promises reassure us and bring comfort to our lives in our times of trial. I challenge you to take time to study the Word of God. The Lord will show you wonderful things that will change your life.

By Raul Ries

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/tips/why-we-should-study-gods-word-11631900.html>

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Continued)



TruthSeekers *Small Care Group*

The members of the Small Care Group "TruthSeekers" meet every Monday from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in the Avondale Branch Public Library to study God's word and grow through the five purposes of the church, worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. Please feel free to join us as we learn about God's Word and how to become more Christ like.

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." (John 17:20, 21)

For more information, please contact our ministry leader, Rev. Shawn Pate.

Union Baptist Church
405 W 7th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45203
(513) 381-3853
Rev. Dr. Orlando B. Yates, Pastor
Rev. Shawn Pate, Minister of Small Care Groups
unioncincinnati@gmail.com

Hidden Puzzle Answer Sheet

1	E	2	Z	3	R	4	A	5	J	6	O	7	B	8	A	9	B	10	E	11	T
12	N	13	O	14	A	15	H	16	E	17	R	18	A	19	S	20	E	21	R	22	E
23	G	24	O	25	M	26	O	27	R	28	R	29	A	30	H	31	S	32	T	33	I
34	R	35	A	36	U	37	L	38	C	39	O	40	H	41	E	42	N	43		44	
45	B	46	L	47	A	48	S	49	T	50	S	51	C	52	U	53	R	54	L	55	
56	L	57	O	58	R	59	E	60	A	61	D	62	A	63	P	64	T	65	E	66	R
67	O	68	B	69	I	70	F	71	L	72	O	73	P	74	S	75	H	76	I	77	T
78	C	79	O	80	M	81	P	82	L	83	E	84	T	85	E	86	M	87	E	88	S
89	A	90	L	91	U	92	M	93	R	94	O	95	A	96	M	97	E	98	R	99	
100	A	101	R	102	T	103	I	104	E	105	A	106	N	107	T	108	S	109		110	
111	H	112	A	113	H	114	A	115	A	116	N	117	A	118	T	119	H	120	121	122	123
124	E	125	V	126	E	127	N	128	G	129	N	130	U	131	E	132	V	133	134	135	136
137	M	138	E	139	A	140	T	141	H	142	A	143	M	144	S	145	E	146	147	148	149



Strife Prevention in 2018

For where envy and strife exist, confusion and every evil will be there. James 3:16

The spirit of strife has an assignment from hell to bring destruction everywhere it goes. We cannot see this spirit, but we can certainly learn to recognize the symptoms of its presence. Strife is a bickering, arguing, heated disagreement or an angry undercurrent. The dictionary defines strife as “fighting, heated, often violent conflict; bitter dissention, a struggle between rivals; or contention.”

There are three doors which often swing open to allow the entrance of the spirit of strife into our lives. They are the doors of our lips, our pride and our debate. **To resist strife, we must learn to lock these doors and refuse to open them at our enemy’s approach through strife.**

The Door of Our Lips:

And the tongue is a fire. *“The tongue is a world of wickedness set among our members, contaminating and depraving the whole body and setting on fire the wheel of birth (the cycle of man’s nature), being itself ignited by hell.”* (James 3:6)

When someone insults us or hurts our feelings, we could quickly speak out of our wounded emotions. But it would be better to ignore the insult and let God deal with the person. There are times to spiritually confront people in love, but it is vital to walk in peace and be sensitive to the Spirit of God in each situation. Don’t fuel the situation and open the door for strife.

The Door of Pride:

“By pride and insolence comes only contention, but with the well-advised is skillful and godly wisdom.” (Proverbs 13:10) Remember that contention is strife. Even though wrong words may have opened the door to strife, it is a proud heart that refuses to be quiet in order to have peace. The Word of God teaches that pride will lead you into destruction. There is no hope of peace without a willingness to humble yourself, pray and allow the Lord to guide and direct your path.

The Door of Debate:

Christians often get caught up in strife by debating the Scripture and other issues. One person thinks one thing and another believes something else. Healthy debate is fine in limits but don’t let the issue damage relationships. As long as we think we know everything, we don’t know anything. When we believe we still have a lot to learn and stop passing out our opinions, we have finally come to the place where knowledge can begin. The apostle Paul stated: *“For I resolved to know nothing (to be acquainted with nothing, to make a display of knowledge of nothing, and to be conscious of nothing) among you except Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and Him crucified.”* 1 Corinthians 2:2 Stay out of conversations where no one knows what they are talking about, and everybody is arguing over nothing. There is no true spiritual power without unity and harmony. **Take courage from the early believers in the book of Acts, Chapters 2 and 4: They prayed in agreement; lived in harmony; cared for one another; met each others needs and lived a life of faith. AMEN!**

Life without Strife, Joyce Meyers (summarized by M. Yates)



*“New Year - a new chapter, new verse,
or just the same old story?
Ultimately we write it.
The choice is ours.”*

- Alex Morritt

