



*The Good
Shepherd*
Four Marks

October 2021 Parish Magazine



The Gospel

**This is love: not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

(The Holy Bible)



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Other Ministries at The Good Shepherd

Rev. Howard Wright leads the Discipleship (with Val Lucas) and Mission ministries; TBA: Prayer ministry; Chris McGrath: Worship ministry; Rev. Jonathan Rooke: Pastoral ministry.

The Vicar's Letter

John's Gospel is full of significant statements and two of these appeared together in our Sunday readings recently: "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35. And, Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6.



We spent time on that Sunday addressing the phenomenal claim of Jesus in 14:6 and risked losing the importance of 13:34-35. The Old Testament had taught that the people of God were to love their neighbours as themselves, see, Leviticus 19:18. But now Jesus takes it to a totally new level. The people of God are to love as he loves, and this is how others would know that they were the people of God!

The obvious question is: how does Jesus love? Well, this verse comes in the conversation Jesus has with his disciples immediately after he has washed their feet and immediately before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

So, how do you think Jesus loves you? Stop, and think about this for a moment. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:10. "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:7-8

And, having thought about how Jesus loves us, how do we love others. This is a challenge in our age, but it has been a challenge in every age. To love is more than just being nice, and much more than being nice to those we like. Our temptation is to protect ourselves and our interests, but to love is to be vulnerable and risk – as Jesus was vulnerable and took a risk for us.

I've been challenged again recently to re-think what being a church family means, and especially how our love might give glory to God, by showing the world that we are his disciples. I hope we can all join in this search.

Let us live in response to God's love, growing deeper in God and larger in mission, as we live out grace, joy, and hope generously in our needy world.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized.

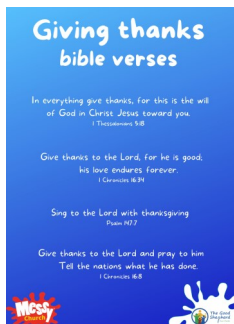
Family Ministry

Messy Church

Great fun was had by all as COGS Messy Church returned to the building on Sunday 12th September.



back in the building



Our theme for September was thankfulness, Thankful for all of creation; for our world, the people in our lives and for all God gives to us.

COGS Messy church meets monthly on the second Sunday from 3.45pm, for now numbers are limited, and some Covid safety measures are in place, registration is via Eventbrite and further details can be found on our website.



The theme for our Next messy Church on Sunday 10th October is being sorry, forgiving others and receiving forgiveness. Keep up to date with the latest COGS Messy Church news via our website or join our

Messy Church

Family
Fun
Faith
Games
craft
Food

Usually held second Sundays of the month at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Four Marks.
3.45-5.45pm
for all the family

(more information and dates overleaf)

Messy Church

Dates Autumn 2021
12th September
10th October
14th November
12th December

Booking through eventbrite

For more information contact Jane
07711407831
jane_cogs@btinternet.com

Facebook group (click below or search COGS Messy Church... at home) for all the latest updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2324513037620944>

Jane_cogs@btinternet.com or 07711407831.

COGS Tots

COGS Tots met for the first time this term on Tuesday 14th September and will continue to meet monthly on the second Tuesday between 1.30 and 3pm. Our next session is October 12th 1.30-3pm.

COGS Tots

1.30-3pm
Second Tuesdays
each month
Church of The Good Shepherd

Second Tuesdays
each month
1.30-3pm

Autumn 2021 dates
14th september
12th October
9th November
14th December

Church of
The Good Shepherd
Lymington Bottom
GU345AA

contact:
Jane Hughes
07711407831
jane_cogs@btinternet.com
or church office
01420 560622

Bring your little ones along for an afternoon of play, stories and songs, no need to book but some Covid safety measures are still in place.

Further COGS Tots details can be found on our Website.

Bumps and babies

Our bumps and babies group is for expectant parents and families with babies up to 12 months. Starting on the 27th September 2021 we will be meeting each Monday morning in the church hall between 10.30 and 12 noon.



(still working on promotional images – to follow)

Providing a welcoming space for families with young babies to make friends over a hot drink with plenty of opportunity to chat.

The Community Cupboard – saving food from going to waste and serving the community.

Four Marks and Medstead community Cupboard continues to operate from the Church of the Good Shepherd every Thursday afternoon from 3.45pm- 4.15pm. Come along and save a bag of food from going to waste. Now with a pop up Café from 3.30pm each Thursday.



AMEN



Supporting Christian Ministries in Developing Countries

Mission of the Month: The Amen Charity and Christmas Boxes.

Amen was set up to offer resources to those “on the ground” giving support to Christian ministries in developing countries. During Covid, money given was used to purchase food and essentials so that Amen partners could support families in crisis in communities around the world.

The Church of the Good Shepherd supports Amen and at Christmas we are one of the churches that joyfully contribute Christmas shoe boxes and handmade blankets that are then driven by volunteers directly to very poor communities in Romania, providing the one and only Christmas gift that families will receive. To be able to knit or crochet

any size blanket or compile a Christmas shoe box is such a blessing to the recipients and certainly is a demonstration of showing God's love in action.

For photographs and a four minute video, 2021, please go online to amentrust.co.uk to discover the real picture in far greater detail than can be explained here in words.

If you would like to produce a Christmas shoe box gift we would be extremely grateful.

The leaflet that gives help of what is appropriate to include and how to make up the box will be available in the church foyer area. The viewing of the video is strongly recommended.

Further information is given on the church notice sheet and on the mission board in church, including the inclusion of a Christmas card.

If you would like a leaflet delivered to your home or you have one of many questions then please do not hesitate to call Di on 07912630088.

Collection of boxes and blankets will be on Sunday 31st Oct and Sunday 7th Nov at 9-9.30am and 3-3.30pm in the church car park, where gifts can be placed directly into car boots.

Many thanks to all who have contributed before and those considering doing so this year. All gifts are just so gratefully received.

Some of the many shoeboxes collected last year (below).



Many blessings. Di Loosemore on behalf of the mission giving committee.

The Bethany Children's Trust

Praise God for the success of the Wukwashi Pathways School for children with severe disabilities. Three pupils have made so much progress that they have recently been integrated into mainstream schools. Pray for the teachers who are caring for the 34 children currently on the register, teaching them essential life skills and showing these pupils that they are precious and that they have a purpose.

Faithful friends: Aunty Dis, the lady who gave Wukwashi the land on which their centre is built, has recently died. Henry Chama, one of Wukwashi's longstanding volunteers, also went to be with Jesus recently. Please pray for the families of both these wonderful supporters of Wukwashi's work, and for the Wukwashi team as they grieve. Pray that God will raise up new people to encourage the ministry.

Thank God for a recent new connection with a local Pentecostal church. Three leaders visited Wukwashi recently and were hugely inspired by what they saw. Already they have encouraged their congregation to help, and clothes have been donated.

[From the September – November prayer diary.]

He [God] has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:9-10.

The Bible Project

The Bible Project is a non-profit organization and animation studio that produces 100% free Bible videos, podcasts, blogs, classes, and educational Bible resources to help make the biblical story accessible to everyone, everywhere.

There are 150 videos and 200 podcasts which can all be viewed on their website, YouTube and Vimeo.

[Source: <https://bibleproject.com>]

Without Faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6

Faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see (and the conviction of their reality faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses).

Hebrews 11:1 (Amplified Bible).

Almost every natural man that hears of Hell flatters himself that he shall escape it.

Jonathan Edwards.

Suffering Church Action & Awareness Week

31st October - 7th November

The Bible is rich in references to the faithfulness of God. In Deuteronomy the now aged Moses assures the Israelites that, "The Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations." Later he counselled them not to be afraid for, "The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

These words bring huge comfort in troubled times of Covid, conflict and chaos caused by natural disaster which added terribly to the suffering of our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.

Because of their faith, many Christians are marginalised, discriminated against or even killed. The week is an opportunity for us to stand alongside our afflicted global church family, make known their situation and demonstrate Christ's love to them in prayer and practical action.

[Source: Barnabas fund.org]

Joy is a result of who God is and what He has done, and leads to obedience to the Word.

Paul Washer.

Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway

Violence: Mild. Profane language: None.

Vulgar/Crude language: None. Nudity: None.

Sex: None. Drugs/Alcohol: None. Occult: None.

[Source: <https://christiananswers.net>;

Wonderful film, very funny indeed, watched it twice with the grandchildren – Ed.]

Bono, U2 Singer

Bono is one of the biggest names in rock music. He is known around the world as the lead singer and lyricist for the rock band U2, but he is also becoming more widely accepted as a credible philanthropist and humanitarian activist. Particularly renowned as a lyric writer, Bono's songs are filled with social, political and overtly Christian references.

Brought up in a Christian home, Bono's Church of Ireland mother took him to church with her every week. Tragically, when he was just 14, the singer's mother died of a brain haemorrhage while attending her own father's funeral.

A man of strong Christian faith and family values, Bono met his wife Alison at school and they were married over 30 years ago. The couple have four children. It was also whilst still at school that he met his U2 bandmates and formed the group that would eventually take the world of rock music by storm.

Bono is widely known as an activist for Africa. He was a key player in Band Aid, the life-saving initiative launched in 1984 by musicians Bob Geldof and Midge Ure to help combat famine in Ethiopia. Bono sang the immortal line, "*Well tonight thank God it's them instead of you!*" He didn't want to sing the line because it sounded so cruel, but Geldof convinced him that as the one clear Christian believer on the record, only Bono could sing it with real conviction.

His bold persona is also seen in the band's live performances. Bono interacts with the crowd constantly and sometimes invites a member of the audience on stage. In the 1985 Live Aid performance he reached down into the crowd and took a girl onto the stage to dance with him during a performance of 'Bad.'

Bono's deep rooted Christianity has never been hidden. It permeates his character in so many aspects and from his early days as a developing musician his fellow performers have recognised his faith. Unfortunately some more legalistic observers have focussed on Bono's unabashed use of expletives to the exclusion of his obviously compassionate, Christ-like heart. Ironically this is the very point Jesus questioned the Pharisees on. In the New Testament Christ told his followers that "*Man looks on the outside, but God looks on the inside.*"

Bono is not the kind of guy who would ever fit neatly into a suit-wearing jargon-filled holy-veneered form of Christianity. He is a man of

the heart, having much in common with Jesus and little in common with the Pharisees.

Bono's lyrics are full of references to Jesus Christ and Christianity, and it is clear that his faith has always been paramount in his life and career.

Bono is not ignorant of the high level of expectancy on high profile followers of Jesus. "Being a 'disciple' is not easy, and there are always more fingers pointing when you are a celebrity than when you are Joe Public!" He says with more than a hint of irony; "It's very annoying following this person of Christ around, because He's very demanding of your life!"

[Source: <https://www.reallifestories.org/stories/bono-u2>]

When I survey the wondrous cross

On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

[Isaac Watts, 1707.]

The Scriptures were not given to increase our knowledge but to change our lives. D. L. Moody.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

Forget Me Not in the Face of Fear

Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. Psalm 27:9



In spite of King David being a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; 1 Kings 11:4), he was sometimes confronted by fear. In Psalm 27, David cried out to God, asking Him not to leave or forsake him during a time of great fear. True to His promises, God never left David — even when David momentarily left Him.

The apostle Paul faced fear at times, just as David did. On one occasion in Jerusalem, he was almost lynched by an angry Sanhedrin, saved only by the intervention of a Roman commander. "But the following night the Lord stood by [Paul] and said, 'Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.'" (Acts 23:11). Just as the Lord never deserted David, neither did He ever desert Paul. In the face of fear, faith in God's presence gave both men courage to continue in God's will.

Who doesn't experience fear at times? In such moments, follow the examples of David and Paul and pray the prayer you know will be answered: "Do not leave me nor forsake me."

[Source: Dr David Jeremiah.]

Hallowed Be Your Name

The word "hallowed" in the Lord's Prayer is not a word we often use in our daily lives.

Now, it is quite easy to Google hallowed or hallow and find that it means "to make holy or sacred, to sanctify or consecrate, to venerate."

Interestingly, the Greek word we translate as "hallowed" has a couple of different corresponding words in Hebrew that are used in the Old Testament — qadash and godesh. Both have similar meanings, and both are similar to the English word "hallowed."

Qadash, a verb meaning to be holy; to sanctify.

Godesh, a noun meaning a sacred place or thing; holiness, something holy.

Between them the words appear some 630 times in the Old Testament.

The Greek word used for hallowed in the Book of Matthew – hagio – means “to purify or consecrate.”

Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Matthew 6:9.

Thus, we are clearly to glorify God’s holy name. Unmistakably, that name is holy – set apart above all others. His name is to be worshipped by his creation above all other gods and authorities, as the one, true God. Yahweh.

Jesus was teaching us that we must not take God’s name lightly. He is not “the man upstairs” or “the big guy.” He is, always has been, and always will be the “Most High God”; El-Shaddai, Jehovah, Adonai. The great I AM.

[Source: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/>]

The Scriptures are a treasure and neglect of it causes harm. It is not possible, I say not possible, ever to exhaust the mind of the Scriptures. It is a well which has no bottom.

St. John Chrysostom.

Archaeologists Find Evidence of Biblical Earthquake

For the first time, archaeologists have unearthed in Jerusalem evidence for an earthquake that Old Testament prophets mentioned and compared to end times events.

Amos mentions an earthquake that struck Jerusalem during the 8th century. Hundreds of years later, Zechariah references the same event. Previous evidence confirmed an earthquake at that time, but new excavations led by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) found a layer of ruins dating back to Amos’s day.

“Recent excavations revealed a layer of destruction from when the building’s walls collapsed, including a row of shattered vessels, bowls, lamps, cooking utensils, smashed storage, and storage jars,” according to IAA’s announcement.

Many types of destructive events can leave archaeological evidence, so researchers investigated for other possible causes. In order to “prove that this doesn’t involve one building that sustained an isolated trauma, we compared it to other sites, both in Jerusalem and at other places where we also see this layer, so that we can make the connec-

tion and say that this isn't an isolated event but rather something more widespread,"

Just as modern writers use presidential terms or well-known events, like 9/11 or the COVID-19 pandemic, to help contextualize the circumstances of their writing, ancient writers did as well. Prophets often begin their biblical books by mentioning the kings who ruled during their time, as Amos did, pointing to Uzziah as king of Judah and Jeroboam as king of Israel. However, he also says his prophecy came "two years before the earthquake" (Amos 1:1). This would mean the earthquake occurred in the mid to late 700s BC.

Years later, in the early 500s BC, Zechariah drew on that well known event to describe a coming "day of the Lord" in Zechariah 14. On the day the Lord's feet stand on the Mount of Olives, the mountain will split and form a huge valley and people "will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah" (Zechariah 14:5). "Then the Lord my God will come and all the holy ones with Him," writes Zechariah.

These types of archaeological discoveries give confidence to believers and evidence to consider for the non-Christian internally debating whether or not they can trust what the Bible says about history, about itself, and about Jesus.

Among [American] Protestant churchgoers, 30% say they accept some truths from the Bible, but other biblical truths just don't fit what they believe, according to a 2019 Lifeway Research study.

[By Aaron Earls, <https://lifewayresearch.com>]

Faith is acting in the face of contrary evidence. The senses declare, "It cannot be," but Faith shouts above the turmoil, "It is!"

E. W. Kenyon

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

The chains of love are stronger than the chains of fear.
William Gurnall.

The Book of Revelation's Journey into the Canon of Scripture

Revelation had a very early and positive reception in many parts of the church.

1. Revelation's early reception was quite positive. Perhaps as much as any other NT book, we have evidence for an early, widespread, and consistent reception of Revelation. Our evidence goes back as early as Papias (c.125) and also includes Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, the Muratorian Fragment, Hippolytus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, and Origen. That is an impressive list.

In addition, it is worth noting that almost every one of these church fathers accepted the book of Revelation on the same grounds, namely the belief that the apostle John, the son of Zebedee was the author.

2. Objections to Revelation were later and limited. Dionysius of Alexandria, in the late third century, makes the argument that Revelation was written by another John besides the apostle. Eusebius appears to agree with him. But, it is worth noting that Dionysius does not reject the book on these grounds, but still regards it as holy and inspired.

3. Objections to Revelation Were Eventually Resolved.

There were many who supported the book. It was affirmed by the synods of Hippo (c.393) and Carthage (c.397). It was also received by Philastrius of Brescia (c.385), Rufinus of Aquileia (c.404), Jerome (c.414), and Augustine (c.426).

And the reason why these groups accepted the book was simple: it was an ancient book quoted by the early church fathers as authoritative.

[<https://www.michaeljkruger.com>]

To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.

Karl Barth.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit,
world without end. Amen.

Church is back in the building, with some available online.

Latest: Refer to the website for the latest details.

The 8am service is unticketed.

The 9.30am Service is unticketed and is streamed at the time with the recording available later from the website / YouTube.

Kid's Church is in the church during the 9.30 service.

The 7pm Service and mid-week services are online.

Messy Church is in church on 10 October, 14 November, 12 December — booked through Eventbrite.

Giving to The Good Shepherd

This can be done via the "Donate" button on the Church website.



Small Groups

For further information contact Val Lucas, the ministry leader for small groups (01420-561139).

Prayer Chain

If you have any urgent requests for prayer through the Prayer Chain, please email Matt Senior, or Howard Wright (howardwright.cogs@gmail.com, 01420-563344).

Pastoral Care

If you would like to hear from a member of the Team or you know of someone who would, please contact the team leaders, Debbie Norgate (84534) or Gilly Cobb (544404), or Howard Wright (01420-563344) or Matt Senior.

Resource Sharing Network (RSN)

The Resource Sharing Network (RSN) will accept and circulate requests from the Church Family – for themselves or for family / friends. Money is not to be part of requests. Email cogs.rsn@gmail.com to go on the circulation.

Giving to the Church of The Good Shepherd

This can be done online or through the Church or Church office.



Litter Picking. Next: Sat October 16th

10 - 11 am every third Saturday Meet in the car park behind the garage at Oak Green. Contact: Elaine Moore on email elainechristinamoore@gmail.com

Myanmar

Myanmar fighter jets launched air strikes on a Karen village on 27 March, killing at least three people and injuring eight. Day Pu No village is in an area with a large Christian population. A second bombing raid the next day on villages and a displacement camp forced 3,000 Karen people to flee across the border to Thailand.

A majority of the Karen ethnic group of Myanmar are Christians and they have lived with violent persecution from the Buddhist ethnic-Burman majority for three generations.

Pray that they may be encouraged by remembering that their "light and momentary troubles" are achieving for them "an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

[Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/>]

The Gospel Message

The central truth of the gospel is that God has provided a way of salvation for men through the gift of His son to the world. He suffered as a sacrifice for sin, overcame death, and now offers a share in His triumph to all who will accept it.

The gospel is good news because it is a gift of God, not something that must be earned by penance or by self-improvement.

[Source: The Wycliffe Bible Encyclopaedia.]

Don't bother to give God orders, just turn up for duty.
Corrie ten Boom.

Heroes of the Faith: Amanda Smith

The life of Amanda Smith was extraordinary: she travelled from being a black slave to becoming the first international woman evangelist.

Amanda was born in 1837 in the American state of Maryland, the first of 13 children. Her parents were slaves and she became one too. Despite the poverty of her upbringing Amanda grew up surrounded by prayer and Bible reading and was taught to read and write by her parents. Through hard work, her father managed to buy freedom, first for himself and then for his family.



Although free, Amanda still suffered discrimination and was to have a very limited education. She became a maid at 13 and was to work as a domestic help until her mid-thirties. She married at the age of 17 and had two children, only one of whom survived into adulthood. Her husband died in the Civil War.

In her early twenties Amanda felt that God had miraculously cured her of a serious illness for a purpose. Shortly afterwards she had a transforming conversion experience. Increasingly, Amanda became involved in Methodist church circles and became a well-known evangelist, bringing people to trust in Christ, in churches (whether black or white), and at Christian meetings. She was a powerful speaker: nearly six-foot tall with a rich voice, a remarkable singing gift and an exuberant, dynamic and spontaneous manner. Amanda was a preacher who made an impact; where she spoke people were converted, overcome with repentance or touched with a sense of God's presence.

Amanda began preaching at special events – 'camp meetings' – where large numbers of people gathered for days of church services with an emphasis on conversion and holiness. In 1878 she was invited to cross the Atlantic to speak at the Keswick Convention in England. She soon became a popular speaker at revival meetings throughout Britain. She drew crowds because her preaching reached hearts.

Amanda was invited to go to India, where for 18 months she had considerable success in revival meetings. Instead of returning to the United States, she felt led to visit Africa and spent eight years evangelising and setting up schools and missions in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

When she finally returned to the United States Amanda wrote a long account of her life, with an honest account of her spiritual journey but also an eyewitness account of the problems of racism and sexism faced by a black woman in the nineteenth century.

From 1892 onwards Amanda focused her efforts on helping her own African-American community, in particular by establishing and running an orphanage in Illinois. In her last years, with her health failing, she moved to Florida where she died in 1915 at the age of 78.

Amanda Smith came from the most unpromising background to be extraordinarily used by God for forty years in evangelism and revival across four continents. Her success was due to God's gifting of her, but she played her part by allowing God to work in her life.

Amanda Smith achieved much for God in her generation. She sets an example for us in ours.

[Revd Canon J. John, <https://www.keepthefaith.co.uk>]

A Forgotten Revival – Lowestoft

The events in 1921 came on the heels of a worldwide pandemic: Spanish Flu, and the devastation of the Great War, in which the port of Lowestoft was heavily bombarded. This created an atmosphere of anxiety and a thirst for transcendence.

Douglas Brown, a pastor from London, arrived in Lowestoft as a reluctant mission preacher. He had been in bed for 11 days with the flu that had carried away millions worldwide, and had just emerged from months of spiritual crisis, wrestling with God until he had a powerful experience of his love and power. The visit was the result of a period of concentrated prayer by many of the local churches.

The meetings were well advertised and the church, which held 750, was well filled for the first service on Monday evening. The following day there was a prayer meeting in the morning, a Bible reading in the afternoon and another full evangelistic service in the evening. Holy Spirit was felt in the meeting, but Brown did not make an altar call.

On Wednesday evening Brown preached on the man at the Pool of Bethesda in John 5. When he had delivered his message, he told the people he was going into the vestry and would be glad to see any who wanted help or desired to surrender themselves to Jesus Christ. One by

one they came to the vestry until there were queues going down the aisles. Because of the numbers they opened the schoolroom and the people poured in. Those who had made a definite commitment to Christ were taken to one side, and those who were experiencing difficulties were taken to classrooms where experienced Christians helped them.

Sixty to seventy young people came to Christ that night.

The Thursday evening service was down the road at the Fisherman's Bethel. The inquiry room was packed with people crying out to God within a few minutes of the end of the sermon. People came to Jesus all over the building that night. By the end of the week it was obvious that God was doing something special.

The revival continued beyond the summer of 1921. It was marked by dramatic conversions, including local fisherman whose cynicism was melted by an authentic encounter with God. There was a tangible sense of God's presence in the town, with people breaking down in repentance in the street and people even being saved while out at sea.

Later in the year, during the herring season, the work continued among visiting fishermen and fisherwomen who had come south from Scotland. This led to the spread of the awakening to the north east coast of Scotland and beyond.

Ripples were felt throughout East Anglia and Northern Ireland. Douglas Brown was invited to speak at the Keswick Convention in May 1922, where there was further evidence of God at work.

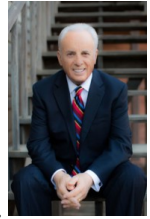
After 1921 Lowestoft sent many people to train for Christian ministry and missionary work, including Alan Neech, who became a bishop in India, and later a Chairman of the Keswick Convention.

A young curate in Suffolk who experienced the impact of the revival shared the passion with his son David Pytches, who was to become a bishop in Chile where he saw God move in power. Later as Vicar of St Andrew's Chorleywood, he became the catalyst for Soul Survivor and New Wine, and shaped the thinking of the leaders of HTB, the home of the Alpha Course. Now that is an interesting trajectory!

[<https://www.inspiremagazine.org.uk>]

Jairus's True Faith

A synagogue official came and bowed down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live." (Matthew 9:18)



Jairus's belief that the Lord Jesus could honour his request to revive his daughter from death is especially extraordinary because Jesus had not yet performed a resurrection miracle. He had performed many healing miracles, but up to this point He had not brought someone back from the dead. So there was no precedent for such a request, yet Jairus asked it in faith.

Jairus's faith surpassed that of the centurion, who believed Christ could "speak" his servant well prior to death (Matt. 8:9–10). It also topped that of Martha, who believed Jesus could have kept her brother Lazarus from dying, but relinquished hope once he died, even when Jesus said he would rise again (John 11:21, 23–24). With such unsurpassed faith that the Lord could resurrect his daughter by a mere touch, Jairus undoubtedly trusted Him for forgiveness of sins and newness of spiritual life, for salvation.

This episode also demonstrates that Jesus was not a religious guru with servants doing His every bidding, or a monk removed from everyday life, or a potentate at the top of a religious hierarchy who received people only through several layers of intermediaries. Instead He was the true Son of God who "became flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14) and ministered personally and directly to meet believing requests of men such as Jairus.

Ask Yourself:

Is your faith limited to the precedent of what you've seen Jesus do in the past? Or are you willing to believe Him for more than your eye has seen or your ear has heard? Bring a big need before Him today—in believing faith—and continue to watch for His answer.

[Source: John MacArthur, gty.org]

"Money never stays with me. It would burn me if it did. I throw it out of my hands as soon as possible, lest it should find its way into my heart."

"God does nothing but in answer to prayer."

John Wesley.

Why Resting is an Act of Holiness.

There's a reason the fourth commandment tells us to observe a Sabbath day.

A day of rest.

Not only has technology extended our workday into the late hours of the night and over weekends and vacations, these pandemic times have further eroded the lines between work and home. Although work is part of the rhythm of life, unchecked it can come at the expense of health, family, friends – and God.

I read about a pastor who was criticized by a member of his church for not being on call one day. The pastor said, "Sorry, but that's my Sabbath, the day I take off to rest and re-focus on God." The church member said, "The devil doesn't take a day off." And the pastor said, "You're right. And if I didn't, I'd be just like the devil." Rest is essential for our spiritual and physical well-being; without it, we can become intolerable.

Author and pastor Rick Warren writes, "When we don't rest, we don't give God our best." I would add that we don't give others and, more importantly, ourselves our best either. The biblical principle of Sabbath, which means "rest," was injected into the rhythm of life long before science and medicine confirmed its power and value. People need the Sabbath. It's so important that it's one of the Ten Commandments.

We remember "thou shalt not steal" or "thou shall not commit adultery." But there's also the fourth commandment, "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God."

If we don't rest, our bodies may respond by getting sick or injured. A day of rest also helps us refocus our spirit, to turn our attention away from work toward solitude, prayer and reflection. A day of rest creates opportunities to reconnect with loved ones through recreation and quality time.

Each person must decide what day of the week works best for them. If you can't take a full day, set aside a few hours. Remember, you have six other days of work to offer. On your day of rest, set aside time to be with God and others. The Sabbath was made for us to enjoy the goodness of His creation and His presence.

[Pablo Diaz, <https://www.guideposts.org>]

Why I Love to Study God's Word

by Joyce Meyer

I love the Bible! For more than 35 years now, I've been studying God's Word, and it has drastically changed my life. It's been the key to radical transformation in my perspectives and attitudes, and God has healed and restored my spirit, soul and body through the power in His Word.

God is a God of restoration and wholeness. We see it all throughout the Bible. John 3:16 says, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (NKJV). Second Corinthians 5:17 says that as new creations in Christ, old things have passed away; behold all things have become new, and verse 21 says we become the righteousness of God in Christ.

Getting Back What Was Lost:

I love what Luke 19:10 says: The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost. Notice this doesn't say "who was lost," but "that which was lost." Jesus came to save us from our sins and to restore whatever was lost. It could be the scars of childhood, something you missed out on, something that was stolen from you... Whatever needs to be restored to wholeness spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically, Jesus can bring healing to that part of your life.

Redefining Life:

The Greek word for Life is Zoe, which means "life as God has it." Think about that: life as God has it. What does it mean? Is God worried? Is He anxious about anything that's happening in the world? Is He frightened? No! God is perfect and holy. He is always peaceful, joyful and confident. And He wants us to have this life through our relationship with Christ.

So many people are not living the life God has for them. They are anxious and worried about their situations, they don't have peace, and they aren't joyful. I know what this is like because I used to be a miserable Christian. I was angry most of the time and very hard to get along with. I didn't have any peace, and I was not enjoying my life.

Becoming New: God has done so much in my life that I'm not remotely like the person I used to be! I'm still learning and growing in

my faith every day, but it's amazing how far I've come because of what God has done in me. The key to this radical transformation was discovering that the Word God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective...(Hebrews 4:12). John 1:1 tells us that Jesus is the Word of God. So when we spend time studying the Word, we're spending time with God. He works in our hearts, making us more like Jesus in our thoughts, attitudes and behaviours. Get Started

But the best news is that God loves you unconditionally, and He wants to help you. He wants you to be whole in Christ and enjoy the great life He's planned for you. In His Word, you will find everything you need to discover restoration and wholeness...to be the person you were created to be. The key is studying the Bible and doing it consistently so you can continually grow in your relationship with God one day at a time.

I really want to encourage you to be diligent with your Bible study time, because God has so much more for us than we can get from just going to church once or twice a week and hearing someone else talk about the Word. When you spend time with God, your life will change in amazing ways, because God is a Redeemer. There's nothing that's too hard for Him, and He can make you whole—spirit, soul and body!

[Source: <https://joycemeyer.org>]

Christianity is a miracle way of life, and without miracles Christianity is only a philosophy.

T L Osborne.

Prayer, Bible study, fasting, fellowship, et cetera, are ways of refocusing our mind's attention away from the voice of this world and back to the voice of our Shepherd who is constantly communicating with our spirit.

Andrew Wommack.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye Heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Should Christians Celebrate Halloween?

It's not uncommon for people to struggle with whether to celebrate Halloween. Some see it as a dark day full of evil influence while others deem it a harmless time for fun costumes and candy. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association offers some guidance on Halloween and using the holiday to share Christ:

Q: I have mixed feelings about how our family should be involved in Halloween. What should I do?

A: People come to different conclusions about celebrating Halloween, particularly if they have young children or grandchildren to consider.

For some people, this is a time for dress-up and candy; it is an opportunity for fun. Others express concern for their children's safety, or for the emphasis that is often made on violence or horror at this time of year. Those who are interested in the right or wrong of the celebration may look at its origin in the occult and believe it should not be celebrated at all; they are aware that some groups celebrate Halloween as a tribute to Satan.

On the other hand, others recognize that Halloween, the eve of "All Saints' Day" (November 1), is also associated with Martin Luther and the Reformation. They celebrate the religious freedoms won at that time in history. Since each of these perspectives contain truth, it is difficult to know how to respond.

We encourage each family to develop their own approach to Halloween based on their own convictions and the options for celebration available to them. The responsibility to make this decision rests on the adults in the family, not the children. The peer pressure on children is far too great for them to be objective. Certainly, providing a safe, fun environment must be a priority.

Some parents adapt the traditional Halloween practices, while others develop totally different alternatives. These alternatives may include parties where children are encouraged to dress in a particular theme such as positive cartoon or book characters, famous historical characters, or Bible heroes.

Rather than separate completely from the night's activities, some Christians give Gospel tracts along with treats to children who come to their homes and make Halloween an opportunity to witness for Christ. Others offer safe places for light-hearted fun.

[Source: <https://billygraham.org>]

What Gift of Grace is Jesus

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer! There is no more for Heaven now to give;

He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom; my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus! For my life is wholly bound to His;

Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine – Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Saviour He will stay;

I labour on in weakness and rejoicing; for in my need, His power is displayed.

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me; Through the deepest valley He will lead;

Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome – Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven; The future sure, the price it has been paid;

For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated! Jesus now and ever is my plea;

Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free – Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus for He has said that He will bring me home;

And day by day I know He will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, all the glory evermore to Him.

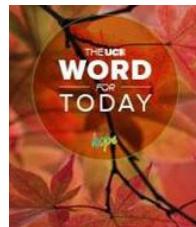
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat – Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

[J. Robinson, R. Thompson, M. Farren: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwc2d1Xt8gM&list=RDmkx-m3Cndyo&index=3]

How to find your calling

Separate ... Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 13:2



The Bible says: "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, having fasted...prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away" (verses 2-3). Notice three things:

1) Barnabas and Saul were in church when God called them. And the Holy Spirit still speaks to us when we gather to pray, worship, and hear God's Word. One reason we don't have clear direction for our lives is because we aren't in the place where God can speak to us objectively through His Word, and subjectively through His Spirit.

2) Their calling was confirmed by proven leadership. Those who laid hands on Paul and Barnabas confirming their calling, were leaders who took time to pray, fast, and seek God's will. Such people are a gift. They won't necessarily tell you what you want to hear, but they'll tell you what you need to hear. They'll counsel, correct and comfort you when you need it, and confirm God's will for you. So, do you have such relationships in your life? If not, get busy and find some.

3) God doesn't play hide-and-seek with His will for your life. God called Paul and Barnabas by name. Yes, He knows your name, where you live and the circumstances you're in. Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress (to hide it from the Midianites) and Peter was out fishing when God called them. Your lack of "ministry" experience doesn't limit God. That's because He doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

So wait on God, and when the time is right He will call you.

Bible in the year: Proverbs 27-29, 2 Corinthians 2.



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If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 4:14.

Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Romans 14:9.

I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 2 Corinthians 5:15.

John, the apostle, testified directly of Christ

- we have heard ... we have seen with our eyes ... we have looked at and our hands have touched.
- the life appeared, we have seen it and testify to it.
- we proclaim to you what we have seen and heard.
- the message we have heard from him and declare to you
- we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.

[1 John 1:1, 2, 3, 5; 1 John 4:14.]

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