

Note from Pastor Steve

As we enter May, I feel like a broken record that keeps repeating the same message. Place your hope in Christ, trust in Him, rest in His promises. It has been said in different ways, but the message is the same. We need to turn to Jesus during this time.

Then I think about my own emotions today. I have felt empty. I have felt hopeless. I have felt powerless. I have had the feeling like there is nothing I can do to move us out of this place. Those emotions have turned me to one place for comfort, one place for rest, Jesus. Right now I am listening to a song that is called Your Love is Strong. This is where my heart can rest. This is where my soul can relax. God's love for us is Strong. Even if we say it 1000 times to turn to Christ. It is the right thing to say, because He is the answer.

Your love is Strong by Jon Foreman

Heavenly Father
You always amaze me
Let your kingdom come
In my world and in my life
You give me the food I need
To live through the day
And forgive me as I forgive
The people that wronged me
Lead me far from temptation
Deliver me from the evil one

I look out the window
The birds are composing
Not a note is out of tune
Or out of place
I look at the meadow
And stare at the flowers
Better dressed than any girl
On her wedding day

So why do I worry?
Why do I freak out?
God knows what I need
You know what I need

Your love is Your love is
Your love is strong

The kingdom of the heavens
Is now advancing
Invade my heart
Invade this broken town
The kingdom of the heavens
Is buried treasure
Will you sell yourself
To buy the one you've found?

Two things you told me
That you are strong
And you love me Yes, you love me

Our God in heaven
Hallowed be
Thy name above all names
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us wicked sinners
Lead us far away from our vices
And deliver us from these prisons

Prayer List

- Joyce Sear's Family
- Carolyn Norwood
- Barry's Brothers
- Karen Richardson (Jamie)
- Sharon & Donald Winstead
- David Myers (Cancer)
- Judy Pollard (Health)
- The Clarks (Health)
- Sally Overton
- Judy Pollard (Family's Health)
- Jackie Burke's Father
- John Fletcher (Health)
- Coronavirus Crisis
- Cindy Koontz's Son (Andy)
- Margaret & Cecil Dale
- Wilma Stephens (Hospital)
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Prayer Requests

Update from Jerry and Marlene. Jerry met with doctors early this week and the cancer on his liver is gone, and the tumor on his pancreas is shrunk. He will still be taking chemo treatments, but it is working and there is hope in a full recovery. Praise God.

Continue to be in prayer for those that are impacted by the virus in our community. Pray that God brings peace and rest to the weary heart that have lived in a place of feeling alone and hopeless. They need our prayers, love, and kind words during this time.

Gracious Uncertainty By Oswald Chambers

...it has not yet been revealed what we shall be... —1 John 3:2

Beware of any work for God that causes or allows you to avoid concentrating on Him. A great number of Christian workers worship their work. The only concern of Christian workers should be their concentration on God. This will mean that all the other boundaries of life, whether they are mental, moral, or spiritual limits, are completely free with the freedom God gives His child; that is, a worshiping child, not a wayward one. A worker who lacks this serious controlling emphasis of concentration on God is apt to become overly burdened by his work. He is a slave to his own limits, having no freedom of his body, mind, or spirit. Consequently, he becomes burned out and defeated. There is no freedom and no delight in life at all. His nerves, mind, and heart are so overwhelmed that God's blessing cannot rest on him.

But the opposite case is equally true—once our concentration is on God, all the limits of our life are free and under the control and mastery of God alone. There is no longer any responsibility on you for the work. The only responsibility you have is to stay in living constant touch with God, and to see that you allow nothing to hinder your cooperation with Him. The freedom that comes after sanctification is the freedom of a child, and the things that used to hold your life down are gone. But be careful to remember that you have been freed for only one thing— to be absolutely devoted to your co-Worker.

We have no right to decide where we should be placed, or to have preconceived ideas as to what God is preparing us to do. God engineers everything; and wherever He places us, our one supreme goal should be to pour out our lives in wholehearted devotion to Him in that particular work. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

God's Plan or Our Plan

The year was 1920. The scene was the examining board for selecting missionaries. Standing before the board was a young man named Oswald Smith. One dream dominated his heart. He wanted to be a missionary. Over and over again, he prayed, "Lord, I want to go as a missionary for you. Open a door of service for me." Now, at last, his prayer would be answered. When the examination was over, the board turned Oswald Smith down. He did not meet their qualifications. He failed the test. Oswald Smith had set his direction, but now life gave him a detour. What would he do? As Oswald Smith prayed, God planted another idea in his heart. If he could not go as a missionary, he would build a church which could send out missionaries. And that is what he did. Oswald Smith pastored The People's Church in Toronto, Canada, which sent out more missionaries than any other church at that time. Oswald Smith brought God into the situation, and God transformed his detour into a main thoroughfare of service.

The God who yearns and waits for us

We are strange conundrums of faithfulness and fickleness.

We cleave to you in all the ways that we are able.

We count on you and intend our lives to be lived for you, and we find ourselves among your people who are always seeking elsewhere and otherwise.

So we give thanks that you are the God

who yearns and waits for us,
and that our connection to you is
always from your side, and that it is
because of your goodness that

neither life nor death
nor angels nor principalities
nor heights nor depths
nor anything in creation
can separate us from you.

We give you thanks for your faithfulness, so
much more durable than ours.
Amen.

- Walter Brueggemann

In anticipation of reading Jeremiah 2-3