

## Note from Pastor Steve

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Mother's Day is upon us a day where we remember the commitment of our mother, grandmothers, and other mother figures in our lives. The ladies that have given selfless throughout their lives so that we can experience love, grace, protection, and a life full of experiences. The love and care of a mother is a blessing on our lives. A blessing that we each hold on too and we cherish. I would encourage you today to stop and remember and thank the women in your life that have served as mother to you.

It is easy for us to remember the people that helped us in the big moments of our lives. However, mothers are the ones that love and service those around them in the small forgotten moments. The moments that are essential to our lives, but also overlooked the most.

Today, Give Thanks to the one that helped you to learn, to walk, talk, tie your shoes. To the one that helped with laundry when you came in covered in food and dirt. To the one that shared Christ love to you when you did not even know that you needed it. To the one that gave of themselves so that you can be in the place you are today.

We are all here today, because of the love, grace, and affection of those that have been given the most awesome title of mommy in our lives.

## Margaret Dale

Margaret Dale passed away this last Tuesday. She had been fighting the Corvid-19 virus for over three weeks at that point. She fought and fought, but the toil of the virus wore her heart out. She has now returned to the father and is no longer burden by the pains of this word. She is able to see clearly, breathe easy, and rest peacefully in the embrace of our Heavenly Father.

There is a limited gravesite service that takes place Saturday May 9 in Oak City to pay last respects to Margaret. I know it has been hard in this time to loss loved ones from our body and not be able to gather like normal to say goodbye to them. I want to remind you we will be reflecting and Celebrating the life of Margaret this summer when we meet together again. We will celebrate her life and love for the Lord together.

### 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 Dale's Family
- Wilma Stephens (Hospital)
- Janice's Co-Workers Daughter
- Linda Egnor Mother's Health
- Clayton Southside School Community—Loss of Teacher

## Take the Initiative By Oswald Chambers

*...add to your faith virtue... —2 Peter 1:5*

Add means that we have to do something. We are in danger of forgetting that we cannot do what God does, and that God will not do what we can do. We cannot save nor sanctify ourselves— God does that. But God will not give us good habits or character, and He will not force us to walk correctly before Him. We have to do all that ourselves. We must “work out” our “own salvation” which God has worked in us (Philippians 2:12). Add means that we must get into the habit of doing things, and in the initial stages that is difficult. To take the initiative is to make a beginning— to instruct yourself in the way you must go.

Beware of the tendency to ask the way when you know it perfectly well. Take the initiative— stop hesitating— take the first step. Be determined to act immediately in faith on what God says to you when He speaks, and never reconsider or change your initial decisions. If you hesitate when God tells you to do something, you are being careless, spurning the grace in which you stand. Take the initiative yourself, make a decision of your will right now, and make it impossible to go back. Burn your bridges behind you, saying, “I will write that letter,” or “I will pay that debt”; and then do it! Make it irrevocable.

We have to get into the habit of carefully listening to God about everything, forming the habit of finding out what He says and heeding it. If, when a crisis comes, we instinctively turn to God, we will know that the habit has been formed in us. We have to take the initiative where we are, not where we have not yet been.

## Patience By: Daily Bread

Hebrews 12:1 tells us to “run with endurance” the race set before us. George Matheson wrote, “We commonly associate patience with lying down. We think of it as the angel that guards the couch of the invalid. Yet there is a patience that I believe to be harder -- the patience that can run. To lie down in the time of grief, to be quiet under the stroke of adverse fortune, implies a great strength; but I know of something that implies a strength greater still: it is the power to work under stress; to have a great weight at your heart and still run; to have a deep anguish in your spirit and still perform the daily tasks. It is a Christ-like thing! The hardest thing is that most of us are called to exercise our patience, not in the sickbed but in the street.” To wait is hard, to do it with “good courage” is harder!

## Psalms 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me to  
devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes  
who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me,  
my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me,  
even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the LORD,  
this only do I seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all  
the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of  
the LORD

and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me  
safe in his dwelling;

He will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
and set me high upon a rock.