

# IN NEED

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A Video Class Series

2022

## In Need of Encouragement

By Dale Jenkins

### SEE (Introduction)

Close your eyes. Imagine a place of pure perfection. A garden full of every good thing. An atmosphere with no pollution and perfect temperatures. A place where God, Himself walked and talked with the people there. A place where everything was beautiful and the water crystal clear and no weeds grew. paradise, Paradise, really. That was the creation God created. And while it sounds like a dream to many, it was reality to Adam. And God, the first Observer stepped in and saw one thing that was not good. The first "not good" thing that was ever spoken of. He decreed: "It is not good for man to be alone." God recognized it was not good for man to be alone-he said I want you to have people. Total aloneness is still not good. They place the most hardened of criminals in solitary confinement. We need others to challenge us, to cheer us, to comfort us, to confront us with changes we need to make, and to encourage us. Every person in this room tonight needs encouragement and every person in this room can give encouragement. Why then, would we not?

### Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/I5Pku-PhD1Y>

### WHY

We talk about the church being the best it can be. We talk about it being true to the Scriptures and Faithful in its mission of obeying the Lord. And we are right. But sometimes we miss the thing that is right in front of us. Even what we know we can sometimes miss. We know: The church is not the building, it's the people. You've heard that all your life. But we sometimes use that phrase to put down the concept that the "church building" is the "church." I want to challenge you to consider this from a positive aspect. The church is the people. The people. So "your church" - it's those people you worship with each week. That's the church. And, yes, they, like you, struggle. Yes, sometimes they may not be as kind as we'd wish. Sometimes they may be difficult to deal with. And, they all have baggage. But it is church. God's Word is that we are to "encourage one another daily..." (Hebrews 3:13). The reason is that every person there needs encouragement. You do too.

1 Corinthians 12 teaches that the church is a body. It is an organism. It is not an institution. It is a living thing. It is not like a club where you pay your dues and can come and go as you please. But it is a body where you are a part. And in a Body, we DEPEND on one another. Each part of a body depends on the other parts of the body. In A Body EVERY MEMBER is IMPORTANT. In a club, if someone doesn't show up, they just miss. But if your hand doesn't show up one morning, it's a really big deal. And a body is to be UNITED. If your two feet are determined to go in different directions, obviously you have a problem. We must work together in this Body.

## WHY (continued)

In the video, we talked about a man who really lived out this concept of being a part of the Body. So much so that the apostles renamed him with a name that fit his character: "And Joses, who was also named **Barnabas** by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement)..." (Acts 4:36 NKJV).

Review quickly the care that Barnabas had and the contrast it is with those who do not think of encouraging others:

Encouragers care more about people than possessions: Barnabas owned some land but there were people in the church who were hurting and in need of help, so he sold the possession and gave the money to help people in need. Someone said that for most people "our possessions possess us." That is not true of someone who wants to encourage. It is OK to have stuff! But always remember, it is just stuff and people are always more valuable than stuff!

Encouragers care more about people than prestige: I'm positive that Barnabas had a huge reputation in the church. He could have easily leaned into being comfortable with that. But when Saul became a Christian and people were ready to reject the one who had done so much harm to the church prior to becoming a Christian, Barnabas puts that on the line and brings Saul to the apostles \*Acts 9:26-29).

Encouragers care more about people than programs: When the hated Gentiles were becoming Christians and persecution was a possibility Barnabas encourages them to be accepted and the church to be united (Acts 11:20-24). Rather than stand in the background and watch Barnabas made an effort.

Encouragers care more about people than their past. Study these passages and discuss why this is true (Acts 16:36-39; 2 Timothy 4:11).

## SEE

Early on in this study, we mentioned Hebrews 3:13, "encourage one another daily..." but did not quote all of that verse. The whole verse reads: "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." Notice there is a reason to encourage here. To help people from getting hardened because sin is deceitful. People can get down and discouraged and wonder if it is worth it, or think they cannot go on in faith, or that it is not worth it. They need to be encouraged so they don't lose their soul! Why not determine to be one who encourages everyone around you for the best? It is not always simple but it is rewarding! No, this is not some little mission of just always being positive, this is about helping people remain true to God, this is a huge assignment. You are up to it. Start now being an encourager, if you do, there will be those in heaven because of your effort.

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## In Need of Penitent Hearts

By Austin JOHNSON

### SEE (Introduction)

Lawnmowers have the potential of being one of the most frustrating inventions ever! One man experienced this in his backyard with his lawnmower tipped on its side. He was trying to get the blades off to be sharpened. He had his biggest wrench on the bolt but it wouldn't budge. Immense effort led to sweat and frustration! In his ragged emotion he grabbed a four-foot-long pipe and slipped it over the wrench handle to give more leverage to break the bolt...nothing.

At this point, the grunting and exhaling was next level. So, the man took a large rock and banged on the pipe. Emotions were, edgy, to say the least. The neighbor saw what was happening and walked over and said that he had a lawnmower like this once and that, if he remembered correctly, the threads on the bolt turn the other way. The man reversed his twist and, sure enough, the bolt loosened and came out easily once he twisted the correct direction.

Sometimes we push two or three times as hard, in the wrong direction, simply because we don't want to admit that we are wrong.

### Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/rOf1PGf-bq4>

### WHY

What Saul was in desperate need of was a penitent heart. Penitent means "feeling or showing sorrow or regret for having done wrong." This heart was not within Saul. It needs to be within us. However, our humanity makes repentance seem to be an obstacle that we seldomly want to face. Why is this?

Admitting we are wrong is miserable for some of us. Our sins are embarrassing, and we don't want others to know our weaknesses. Confessing sin makes me feel vulnerable. Selfishly, I just want to do things my way. And who honestly likes being told what to do? These, along with other excuses have been used to ensure that one's heart stays prideful and calloused instead of penitent.

Sometimes amid our sins, we keep pushing "our way" struggling to make things work out instead of owning up to our mistakes. This is exactly what Saul did. Remember, Saul claimed that he feared the people and thus gave in to the pressure they applied on him. (*verse 24*). His concern was not that he had sinned against a righteous God, but that his public image would be damaged if Samuel refused to work with him. Saul didn't have a deep conviction concerning the despicability of his sin. He only feared that he would look bad before "the crowd." Sound familiar? Therefore, he pled for Samuel to go back and worship with him, thus giving the appearance that all was well. He pushed hard in the wrong direction hoping that things would simply look right outwardly, instead of confessing and making his inner relationship with God right first!

## WHY (continued)

Are we guilty of the same thing? Not having a penitent heart while working to make things appear okay on the outside? We may try to get super spiritual instead of confessing the wrongdoing. We know we have messed up, so instead of admitting the wrong and telling parents, friends, Elders, or even God himself, we just ramp up the spiritual stuff. We try to become super Christian and attend all the Bible classes, pray, and read the Bible at home. We may even work to become a golden child and do some extra chores around the house to receive praise from our parents because deep down what we really want is reassurance that we are good, and things are going to be okay despite our mistakes. It is so easy to fall into this trap because we can receive reassurance and validation, without having to go through the pain of admitting fault and owning up to wrongdoing.

Operating in this way, however, steals an opportunity from God to comfort us in the midst of our self-doubt and strengthen us in our sorrow. In 2 Corinthians 7:9, Paul said to the Christians, *“I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief so that you suffered no loss through us.”* His point? The letter he wrote to them pointed out their sins and made them feel “Godly grief.” Godly grief is the pain and sorrow we feel when we know we’ve done wrong. A hard heart will attempt to avoid this pain by not confessing, through blaming others, or trying to become super Christian/son or daughter.

Even though we don’t enjoy the pain a penitent heart produces within us, it is just the emotion God uses to build us up in his love and forgiveness. Scripture goes on to say in 2 Cor 7:10, *“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret”*.

## SEE

We are prideful people who seldomly enjoy admitting we are wrong. I believe pride is why we push two or three times as hard in the wrong direction, because we don’t want to admit our wrong. Humility is the exact opposite of pride. Saul was the poster child for pride, and it was obvious. God eventually condemned him because of it. David, Israel’s next king, was the poster child for humility, and it was obvious. God exalted David because of this personality trait.

To be a disciple of Christ means that we are following in the footsteps of Jesus. Jesus lived with the utmost humility. He said in Luke 22:42, *“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”* Regardless of how Jesus felt, the burden he had to bear, or what it would have cost him, he was willing to humble himself before the Father and obey His will. A humble heart will follow in the footsteps of Jesus. If that is not you, it may be that you need a penitent heart.

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## In Need of Patience

By Ben Hayes

### SEE (Introduction)

Amusement parks are designed to be fun. The purpose is for people—young and old—to, well, be amused. Those who operate them attempt to entertain you and thrill you and hopefully put a smile on your face. The thing about amusement parks that I hate, which I feel confident most of you would agree with, is the wait time. Standing in line for more than 10 minutes drives me up the wall. Most good parks have lines that are 10 times that amount, which leaves me completely unamused.

So why endure the wait time? Well, because it is worth it. It is something you have either heard about or something you have experienced before and you have deemed it well worth the wait.

So let's examine your thoughts a moment: What ride have you or would you wait for hours to ride?

What movie have you or would you camp overnight to be the first to see it?

What restaurant would you wait for hours to eat at?

Why? What makes those things so special that you would sacrifice time and energy just to wait for them?

We call this patience.

### Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/m7S1fyfiaXA>

### WHY

The video we just watched shared with us three points that can help us with the development of patience. Let's look at what was shared and some further thoughts on each one of these areas:

#### 1. Learn to Accept What You Do Not Control

Jesus had been woken up by his disciples in Mark 4:35-41 because they couldn't control the weather. They were frightened but they went to the one person they knew could make a difference. We are often confronted with things that we don't have control of so what do we do when we encounter life circumstances that often result in anxiety? Well, Jesus reminded his followers in Matthew 6:25-34 that he is in control of those things and to let Him handle them while we focus primarily on "seeking first the kingdom and His righteousness."

I don't control tomorrow but I certainly trust in the one who does. The sons of Korah share words in Psalm 46 that help us turn back to the one that we know can take care of us in the storms of life. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (1). They share several instances where the world seems to be crumbling and falling apart but in the end they encourage us to "cease striving and know that I am God" (10). You might recognize the verse as a song we often sing: "Be still and know that I am God."

## WHY (continued)

### 2. Experience is the Best Teacher

Who do you often hear referred to as the most patient man in the Bible? Job of course. Why do we say Job is the most patient? Because of his experience!

Satan had seen Job as being protected from trouble by God and then God allowed Satan to tempt him by taking away almost everything. His dialogue with his friends, and especially his dialogue with God, helped him develop patience in this difficult time of his life just like James 1:2-4 eluded to.

If Job is the frontrunner then I would say that Joseph is the runner-up. He was made fun of and sold by his brothers—only because they were talked out of killing him by their eldest brother. Then after becoming successful as a servant of Potiphar he was falsely accused of wrongdoing and thrown in prison, where he once again became successful but was forgotten even after his favorable interpretation of the cupbearers dream (Genesis 40:1-23).

### 3. Focus on Something Ahead

Patient endurance is the idea of having a positive attitude as you press on through difficult times. One of the best ways to accomplish this is understanding what lies ahead. We are not really told about Joseph's longing to go back to his homeland throughout his struggles. However, when Hebrews 11 speaks of Joseph's faith it tells us that "by faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones" (22). All those years in Egypt but Joseph didn't want to be left there forever. He wanted his remains taken back home. Seems to be a window into Joseph's future focus.

The same is true for us. As we face difficulty we focus on the future. Abraham patiently endured so that he could obtain the promise God had given him (Hebrews 6:15) and James lets us know that the true is for us. "God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12).

## SEE

There are certainly difficult things that we face every day. I'm not sure that Christians today face nearly the struggles that Christians faced in the first century. Those individuals faced persecutions that included terrible punishment and often death. Yet in the midst of those things Paul encourages those in Corinth with the words of 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 that I often sum up with the words strength, endurance, and vision.

The middle verse (17) says, "for momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison..." as he continues with what we focus on—the invisible, eternal things.

As you stand in line for a ride, food, or a movie you have an expectation that what it is you are obtaining is well worth the wait. God has given us the promise of something in eternity that is well worth the wait. He has painted the wonderful pictures of what that will be like throughout scripture so that as we endure, we can do so with patience.

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## In Need of Strength

By Larry Davenport

### SEE (Introduction)

Can I interest you in a drain cleaning bladder? I honestly had never heard of one until a couple of years ago.



We were under a severe thunderstorm warning when I noticed that the drains on the back patio between the basement sliding doors and the pool were not draining. The water was inching ever closer to my basement and I thought I was in trouble. Fortunately the water never breached. But I had to clear the drains.

I tried everything you can imagine until I discovered the drain cleaning bladder. It is piece of rubber that attaches to a water hose and it has a tiny hole at the other end. You then insert the assembly into the drain and turn the water on. The rubber inflates from the pressure and seals against the pipe. The resulting blast of water pressure pushes the clog through the drain. Amazing.

I do have a theory that the drain cleaning bladder would be useless if it were not connected to the source.

### Watch the video

[https://youtu.be/k\\_XoMzXVnlk](https://youtu.be/k_XoMzXVnlk)

### WHY

Just like the drain cleaning bladder must be connected to a source to clear the debris from the drain, we absolutely must be connected to our power source – Jesus – to have the strength and the tools we need to keep our path clear.

1 Corinthians 1:24-25

*But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

When you make the decision to plug in to the strength of Christ, you become a different person and His strength is shared with you.

In the video, we discussed thoughts, imaginations, and strongholds.

Since it is the thought that begins the process, let's begin there. We must be prepared and equipped to capture that thought.

Will evil thoughts come - Yes or yes? So what do we do? Replace the thought. This is why we must strategize right now. Go ahead and get a favorite Bible verse in your mind. Do you have a favorite devotional song? Put it on your heart. Now when the bad thought enters your mind, replace it with that scripture or that song.

Take some time now to discover your Scripture weapon and your song weapon so that you will always be ready.

## WHY (continued)

Jesus told his disciples, "In the world, you will have tribulation." (John 16:23).

Once when I was in the Navy, the ship I was on was dropping anchor. I remember watching the anchor chain unwind very quickly as the anchor dropped. The water was very deep because the chain kept rolling out. Suddenly, I saw the last link roll off and the anchor and chain sunk to the bottom of the ocean.

Well, you and I both know enough to understand that the anchor must remain connected to the ship to provide strength and stability, keep the ship from crashing into a reef, and keep their position strong and secure.

Staying connected to our source of strength – Jesus – may mean dropping some anchors at times to secure our position. Consider the following anchors:

### 1. A Strong Family

God said in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good that man should be alone..." If you are looking to get married, find someone that will help you get to heaven.

### 2. A Strong Faith

Luke spoke of "things surely believed among us..." Luke 1:1 – How grounded in the truth are we? What would we give "in exchange for our soul?" Matthew 16:26

3. A Strong Group of Christian Friends  
Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:33 that evil companions corrupt good morals. The friends we choose to hang out with will have a profound impact on our manners, our morals, and our character.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 talks about the value of good friends when the enemy comes. Solomon says that one might be overpowered, two can provide a defense, but that a group of three is difficult to break. Imagine what four, five, six friends all connected to the same source of strength i.e. Jesus can withstand.

## SEE

Are you connected to the source – Jesus?

Let's say you have a car. It is beautiful. It has the latest technology, great engine, brand new tires, key in the ignition, but it is useless without a battery right? Why? Because it must be connected to a source.

Cars, computers, your smart phone, and even drain cleaning bladders must be connected to a source if they are to be effective.

I hope you are plugged into the Word of God. I pray that you become a child of God (if you are not already) . Admit that Jesus is the Son of God and be baptized for the remission of your sins as God commanded. Then stay connected to the source – develop your spiritual weapons so you can capture your thoughts and remain obedient and faithful all of your life.



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## In Need of Cleansing

By Jerry Elder

### SEE (Introduction)

Get your hands really dirty...greasy. Talk about the reason your hands are dirty. Ask your class the following question. What do you think it would take for me to get my hands clean?

As you wait for their response, you will know exactly what you need. You need an agent, a cleansing agent to get your hands back to their original state.

Have a container of water and soap available then begin to wash your hands in front of them. Let your container be clear that way they can see the dirt that is coming off of your hands, and settling into the water. After a thorough cleaning of your hands, show your hands to your class.

Explain to them that while it took something to get them dirty it took something stronger to make them clean. Everyone of us have experienced some sort of "filth" in our life. We've all been dirty. We've all needed cleansing!

Today's lesson takes us back to an individual who once was a pure individual, yet fell into a time of life when he needed cleansing again. Listen as we hear about David.

### Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/OOHTNXFV0fk>

### WHY

As you have seen in this video, David a true believer in God, a "man after gods own heart" was an individual that fell away and needed the cleansing from God to bring him back, to restore him.

It's important to understand that sin separates us from God, and it is sin that tarnishes us that makes us "unclean". But it is through the love of God and his son Jesus Christ that makes us clean from our sins today.

When sin separates us it means we have no chance of getting to God. David had separated himself for far from God that it took Nathan to bring him back.

One must understand that we are speaking of building our relationship with the Lord. It has eternal consequences, we control our own destination by the choices we make.

**Recognize our sin** - David, while sunk deep into the sins that were taking place, (here is a good place to discuss all the sins that were committed) was aware of the wrongs he was doing. The actions of his life were taking him further away from God. When God sent Nathan to speak with him (2 Samuel 12) Nathan used the analogy, of two men with sheep, one was a precious sheep that was like a family pet. The other man had plenty of sheep yet when it came time for a feast, he slaughtered the one that was like a family pet This angered David to the point of saying the selfish man should be put to death! Nathan then told David it was him. David had been given everything, but it was not enough, He recognized his faults, his sin, his walking away from the Lord.

## WHY (continued)

2 Samuel 12:13 he admitted (confessed) that he has sinned against the Lord!

The further consequences of the sinned are spelled out in the remaining portion of that chapter. There are always consequences for wrong doing.

Think about the sins you struggle with in your life. Are they separating you from God at this very moment? What about your friends that are trapped in their sins. Are you the Nathan that needs to go to them and lovingly lead them back to the Lord? To help them recognize that they are lost, to show them the way back to the Lord!

### Repent of our sin

Once you have recognized the sin in your life, you know that you have to do something about it. If you do not do anything about it, then you know that you are hopelessly lost.

Repentance is a neat word. It means to turn around, to change, to become something totally different! In this case to repent of our sins is a turn away from the devil and to turn towards the Lord! Throughout the word of God repentance is seen clearly from those who have walked away from the Lord. In the story of the prodigal son and Luke 15, the young man walked away from his family and walked away from his Lord, realized that in his life he needed to turn around, (repent) he comes back home and he tells his father, "I have sinned against God and against you", he comes home to be restored back to his family.

David in Psalm 51 gives a beautiful prayer to God of repentance and turning his life back to him from the sins that he has committed against God.

As you read those words that says, "have mercy on me, oh God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions". It is here where David begins pleading with God, realizing the sins that he has committed in his life and he is begging for mercy from God for him to blot out, (forgive) the sins he has committed. He knows that it is God only that can forgive him from the sins and that God will forgive him. David knows he needs to make the change to turn back to the Lord!

### Restore our lives

The latter part of Psalm 51 tells the process in which David asked God how to cleanse him from these iniquities that he is committed against Him. David says to take hyssop and purge me with it. Hyssop it's a beautiful plant that has wonderful qualities in cleaning the skin. David says to take that and purge him to make his soul feel clean again. David knew what it was like to be pure with the Lord, to be that "man after gods own heart" David knew how much God loves him, and he realizes that he needs that love at this time.

He asked God to let me "hear joy and gladness", and he says "let the bones that you have broken rejoice!" David was thankful to God to be brought back to Him after all of the iniquities that he did against Him. Again he pleads out to God, for forgiveness of his sins. Probably the most famous verses that we are aware of is from verse 10 in Psalm 51 where he says "create in me a clean heart, oh God, and renew a right spirit within me" there that David wants that full restoration, to be right with God again, to be pure, holy, acceptable before God. David knows he needs that restoration to be once again be the man after God's own heart!

## SEE

We are prideful people who seldom enjoy admitting we are wrong. I believe pride is why we push two or three times as hard in the wrong direction, because we don't want to admit our wrong. Humility is the exact opposite of pride. Saul was the poster child for pride, and it was obvious. God eventually condemned him because of it. David, Israel's next king, was the poster child for humility, and it was obvious. God exalted David because of this personality trait.

To be a disciple of Christ means that we are following in the footsteps of Jesus. Jesus lived with the utmost humility. He said in Luke 22:42, *"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."* Regardless of how Jesus felt, the burden he had to bear, or what it would have cost him, he was willing to humble himself before the Father and obey His will. A humble heart will follow in the footsteps of Jesus. If that is not you, it may be that you need a penitent heart.

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## In Need of Power

By Josh Webster

### SEE (Introduction)

Kevin's dream car was a 1964 GMC short wheelbase pickup truck. At the age of 50 he was finally able to fulfill that dream. The restoration project was not easy. Attention to every detail assured the best result. Beautiful purple and root beer paint, twenty-inch ghost gray powder coated wheels, and a brand-new interior made the car unique to any passerby. It even had a new Chevy 350 engine that was built by the best motor mechanic around. Kevin was proud of the finished product. Shortly after completion, while cruising on a Sunday afternoon, the engine started making a concerning sound. Upon investigation it was concluded that the number five piston had suffered catastrophic failure. How could that be? How could a new engine with less than 250 miles experience such damage? (insert Chevy jokes here) As it turns out the problem was the fuel. You see the engine builder used parts that would allow the motor to achieve higher compression in the combustion cylinders thus producing greater horsepower. In such cases, high octane fuel is required. Kevin didn't receive that information. As Christians we require the correct motivation, energy and drive. The wrong stuff will cause detrimental failure every time.

### Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/vLQ3CjNWyuI>

### WHY

What fuels the Christian? What motivations push us to thrive in our faith? Romans 1:16 says *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*

How can the "good news (Gospel) of Christ" be the power of God to salvation. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 *"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures"*. Notice that not only are we saved by the Gospel (see Romans 6:1-6) but we also "stand" in the Gospel. There is something very special about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The story of the Ethiopian nobleman in Acts 8 (26-40) projects the power of the gospel. As Philip spoke of Jesus the nobleman was compelled to be baptized. It should not come as a surprise that the man then "went on his way rejoicing" (verse 39). His sins were forgiven. His life was made clean. He traveled a "new" path. It's significant to understand that the Good News of Jesus, when heard and obeyed, brings overwhelming joy in the Christians' life. Further consider Acts 17:28 where the bible says, *"In Him we live and move and have our being"*.

## WHY (continued)

Followers of Christ find their very existence and identity in God's Son! The propaganda of western society leads us to believe that our identity is found in the things we choose to be involved in i.e. cheerleader, band, soccer, outdoors, pet lover, etc.. The Christian must find identity not in the things they do but rather in the personal salvation experience in Jesus. Think about 1 Peter 1:3-9 where the Apostle and Elder Peter wrote "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In God's great mercy he has caused us to be born again into a living hope, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Now we hope for the blessings God has for his children. These blessings, which cannot be destroyed or be spoiled or lose their beauty, are kept in heaven for you. God's power protects you through your faith until salvation is shown to you at the end of time. This makes you very happy, even though now for a short time different kinds of troubles may make you sad. These troubles come to prove that your faith is pure. This purity of faith is worth more than gold, which can be proved to be pure by fire but will ruin. But the purity of your faith will bring you praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is shown to you. You have not seen Christ, but still you love him. You cannot see him now, but you believe in him. So you are filled with a joy that cannot be explained, a joy full of glory. And you are receiving the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet*

*believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls"*(NCV).

Disciples of Christ find their power, identity and joy in Christ. After all, Acts 4:12 says "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

### SEE

What fuels your life? If someone were to observe the way you live your life, what conclusions would they come to? Do you find your identity in band, sports, video games, or fashion etc.?

These "fuels" will ultimately result in catastrophic failure in the Christian life. Not that these things are sinful, however Satan is good at convincing us that the activities we choose to be involved in define who we are. The truth is that band, sports etc. can never bring the lasting and complete joy found only in Christ. Christ is the "high octane fuel" for our lives.

Do you want your life to operate more efficiently? Would you like to see more power in your faith? Are you tired of the "junk", low octane fuels this world offers? Make a change today! Give Jesus a try. Psalm 119:11 says, "Your Word I have hidden in my heart that I may not sin against you". A life fueled by God's word will produce optimal power, efficiency, and performance.

In Matthew 19:16-22 Jesus tells the parable of the Rich Young Ruler. Have you ever not noticed verse 22? The young man left Jesus in a state of sorrow. Why? Because he was using the wrong fuel. Fill up with Jesus and experience the difference today!

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2022

## In Need of Healing

By Chris Miller

### SEE (Introduction)

Danny is waiting for a kidney to become available so that he can receive a transplant and his body be healed. He, like many others, continues to wait with high hopes for this to happen. Currently those waiting for kidney transplants make up 83% of all transplants on the waiting lists, with those awaiting livers at 10%. Recently, the medical field went through a ground-breaking process to help these kidney patients. At the University of Alabama in Birmingham, doctors were able to successfully transplant a genetically modified pig kidney for the first time into a man who had wished that his body be donated for medical research upon his passing. Those kidneys functioned for the 3 days that doctors had dedicated to this research. This man, Jim Parsons, was a motocross racer who raced with my son. Last fall, he had an accident which took his life, but through his great generosity many will benefit from the research that was done. (Search [www.uab.edu](http://www.uab.edu) for a detailed article about the transplant). Medical advancements continue to amaze society. Medical advancements continue to provide opportunities for healing. Most people want to get better if possible. The study today, though, doesn't involve a medical breakthrough. Luke 5 tells the story of Jesus Christ, who could speak and people were healed.

### Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/8r81KQYEmwI>

### WHY

As you work through Luke 5 and study the healing of the paralytic, make sure to consider the placement in Luke's gospel account. When you think about what surrounds this passage it quickly becomes evident that there is a strong emphasis on healing, physical and spiritual, of people who would have been looked at as outcasts in society. Think about the following passages:

#### Luke

- 4:31-37 – healing of the demon-possessed man in the synagogue
- 5:12-16 – Jesus touching and healing the man full of leprosy
- 7:38-50 – the sinful woman forgiven

These examples, along with others, point to how Luke, a Gentile writer of one of the gospels and inspired by the Holy Spirit, spent much effort focusing on how Jesus helped and healed people who often struggled in society. They wanted a better life. And right in the midst of those passages is where we find the healing of the paralytic who was carried to be healed. His need was great. He wasn't able to function in life like the people he would see every day. But everything from breaking through the roof to lowering the man into the room to the crowd surrounding him to what Jesus does first was all about prioritizing the needs. Did this man know he had a need greater than physical healing? Did he see spiritual healing as something he needed more than the immediate ability to walk? Would we ourselves struggle to prioritize

## WHY (continued)

how great our spiritual need for forgiveness far outweighs any great physical need we may have in this life? A test to consider is to look at the great lengths we go to in order to fill our needs. Do a serious examination of your life and think about where you spend your time, money, zeal, etc.

Now compare those things to the efforts you put into spiritual things. Where do these measure up? Jesus identified in this man's life that he had a struggle that was of greater importance than even the need to walk. And that need was the forgiveness of his sins.

His sins were forgiven because Jesus told him that was the case.

It would be important at this point to think on our own spiritual healing and how that happens today. Jesus isn't here physically to speak the words of forgiveness to us like He was present on that day in Luke 5. He had the power to speak forgiveness while He was alive on earth, as He also does later in Luke 7:47-48 and even on the cross to the criminal who was crucified beside Him in Luke 23:43.

Once Jesus died, His will became our law (Hebrews 9:16-17). When He gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, that became the operating orders for all future disciples. Those orders included baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In every case following His death, burial, and resurrection we find when a person wants

spiritual healing (forgiveness of sins) they repent and are baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

From that point on, once a person becomes a Christian, they have the spiritual blessing of continual cleansing from the blood of Christ when they confess their faults and pray for forgiveness (1 John 1:7-9). A Christian lives life spiritually healed.

## SEE

It is eye-opening to compare physical healing to spiritual healing and the lengths people will go to in order to find both.

A sick person will go through surgeries, take medications, travel far distances, pay large sums of money in hopes of getting better. And rightly so.

Some, in order to be washed in the blood of Christ will be baptized in the middle of the night, some will humbly walk in front of an assembly, some will go against other family members' beliefs.

This serves as a reminder of how Jesus continually addressed the most important thing first.

# IN NEED

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## In Need of Purpose

By Matt Heupel

### SEE (Introduction)

Imagine you are standing in front of one of those full-length mirrors you find in a dressing room in a department store, but instead of trying on a new outfit you just stand looking at yourself. Don't worry about your hair or the zit that just came out of nowhere, look deep into yourself and ask yourself the following question: What is my purpose?

That is a very heavy question, so if you are struggling with an adequate answer, don't worry! If we are totally honest about it, most of us struggle with that answer and yet we know that we need purpose. The good news is you really don't have to know right now. In fact, on some level your knowledge of your purpose in this world is irrelevant. The comfort comes in knowing that God knows your purpose and whether you have knowledge of it or not, will not change or adjust God's use of you. The Scriptures teach us that we are "His workmanship/craftsmanship" (Ephesians 2.10). That means we were created by God with a purpose in His mind. Every one of God's creatures has a clearly defined purpose. Chances are you are struggling to come up with your purpose. God senses that and that is why we have His Word to help us find it. Within the pages of Scripture, we find an example of someone who must have routinely struggled with his purpose. However, by the end of his life...he understood. Let's begin in Genesis 37 and examine the life of Joseph and see how God helps him to discover and understand his purpose.

### Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/w8GnBBJLh0A>

### WHY

Although he may not have been able to put his finger on it at the time, Joseph knew that God was going to use him to do something great. He was already his father's favorite and he had the coat of many colors to prove it. He also had these dreams that one day, God would make him be someone important, someone great (Genesis 37.3-9). Yet, it didn't take long for Joseph's dreams of grandeur to turn into one very long nightmare. It began with the hatred and jealousy of his brothers. It then continued with his mistreatment by Potiphar and his wife causing him to spend years in prison. In fact, the majority part of Joseph's life can be summed up by decades of pain and suffering. Oddly enough, sometimes God uses pain and suffering to help us realize our purpose. If it had not been for all this pain that Joseph was forced to endure, he would not have become the person that saved Egypt.

Haven't you ever wondered why so much of the book of Genesis is dedicated to the life of Joseph. Although he was a son of Jacob, he was not the child of promise, that came through Judah. Why does God spend so much time telling us about Joseph? Think for just a moment...if Joseph had not interpreted Pharaoh's dreams concerning the famine, there would not have been enough food for his family to survive. Without the survival of his family, the Promise of Abraham dies in the desert. We would have no slavery in Egypt, no Moses, no nation of Israel, no King David, and ultimately no Jesus. It seems very fitting that at the close of the book of Genesis we find that Joseph finally



## WHY (continued)

understands that his suffering was not about his purpose, it was about HIS purpose. When his brothers confront him about all of the pain and heartache they had put him through, he replied "...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..." (Genesis 50:20). Although we might view Joseph as a main character in God's story, he is just one brushstroke of many in the masterpiece of God's infinite plan. In the end, it really isn't about our purpose, but His purpose within us.

Chances are God is using some pain in your life to help you achieve your purpose. You may not have ten or so brothers hating on you, and you probably will not have to spend years in prison for a crime you didn't commit. However, you can well expect to have some type of pain in your life. Whether it is physical, mental, or emotional pain, we all must endure it. Yet just as in the case of Joseph, how we handle that pain will help us determine what God's purpose is for us.

Paul once wrote, **"...we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." (2 Corinthians 4:7)**. Being made for the dust of the ground (Genesis 2.7), we are those "jars of clay". Many of these jars are broken and contain cracks and rough edges that are caused because of daily use. These are symbolic of the pain that we as humans endure, but just as Paul reminds us that the power to endure comes from God and not us. Just as Joseph was able to use his faith in God to endure his pain, we too can allow God's light to shine through our cracks.

## SEE

Let's go back to that mirror...take a long hard look at yourself. What do you see?

What does your "jar of clay" look like? Do you have blemishes? Do you have cracks? Are you broken? Good...that is how you know God is working on you to accomplish His purpose within you!

You see, just like Joseph your experiences don't define your purpose...they only help you to see it!

Take a moment to reflect and discuss the following questions:

- What type of Pain have you endured?
- How can God use that to help accomplish His purpose within you?

# IN NEED

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## In Need of the Church

By Travis Creasy

### SEE (Introduction)

During a five-week hospital stay I began everyday listening to the song “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning” from Johnny Cash’s “My Mother’s Hymn Book” album.

It is a song that uses the lighthouse as an example of helping those who are struggling.

The higher light is God’s light that stands for eternity. The lower lights can be viewed as us as individuals but it is made even brighter when we allow our “little light” to come together in the church and become a “gleam across the wave”.

### Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/-NEvNwzIm-8>

- Constant- Hebrews 9:25,28; 10:14,18
- Humble- Hebrews 9:28, 10:12-14
- Understanding- Hebrews 4:15
- Reaching- Hebrews 9:28, 10:24
- Communal- Hebrews 10:20-22, 24-25: 11:16
- Healing- Hebrews 10:1-3

### WHY

At the beginning of class we used the illustration of a lighthouse and how we as individuals - but also the church - are lights to those who may be in the dark and/or struggling.

In the video I mentioned the box of encouragement he received during his hospital stay that is filled with cards from all over the United States. The “lower lights” are what we are called to be. The box of encouragement is a practical way that people helped me through my Leukemia diagnosis.

What are some practical ways you have helped or have been helped during difficult times? Is there a difference between how we reveal the DNA of Christ to Christians compared to non-Christians?

How have you or your church been consistent or inconsistent?

How have you or your church shown humility in attempting to understand someone’s feelings or perspective?

How have you or your church reached out or promoted the idea of community?

What are some aspects of healing you’ve seen through the church or your actions?

Where does it seem like you might’ve failed?

## SEE

In December of 2021, I ran in the St. Jude 5k. Part of the race was through the St. Jude campus. As it was early on a Saturday morning there were only a few of the young patients out to encourage us in our run. It was an emotional experience because I was there to encourage them and instead I was the recipient of their encouragement. The rest of my team was waiting on me at the finish line.

There is a difference between those who wait at the finish line (Hebrews 11:40-12:2), and those who are running alongside you or even those young patients cheering you on from the sideline.

Although their location along the journey may be different, their goal is the same. That goal is to encourage those they come in contact with whether through cards, calls, or to light the path through the hurdles and pitfalls we need the community of believers!

# IN NEED

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A Video Class Series

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## In Need of Growth

By Will Harrison

### SEE (Introduction)

**Attention Grabber: Unhealthy Habits vs. Healthy Habits...**

#### **Option 1**

Think about snacks that are unhealthy for us. For instance, mine is Oreos. I can get into a habit (rhythm) of eating oreos and milk every night. It's dangerous.

***Do you know what tends to happen [to my body] when I eat Oreos and milk every night?***

It's dangerous! ***It's an unhealthy habit... it stunts growth!*** ...Oreos are not going to make muscles get bigger!

Oreos are not going to make the waist get smaller!

**Connection:** we have many habits (like eating Oreos) that can prevent us from growing physically as we should! We also have many habits that keep us from growing spiritually! Today, we're going to examine why we need growth.

#### **Option 2**

Substitute your phone for Oreos. You can think about "screen time" on your phone. Maybe have everyone take a look at their "screen time" for the week.

### Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/a6Zaj1l6DDc>

### WHY

**What do you want to become? How are you growing spiritually?**

We, too, are challenged by Paul to grow! **We need growth.**

But how do we grow? How can we grow?

Something I find very interesting is **who** talks about growth in the Bible. We find Paul talking about growth with Timothy (1 Timothy 4:12). We hear Peter say at the end of his second letter, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

Paul talks about growth in this way...

"So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God.**"

Colossians 1:10

"And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

Peter talks about growth in this way...

"Like newborn infants, **long for the pure spiritual milk**, that by it you may grow up into salvation..." 1 Peter 2:2

"But **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

In these 4 instances, Paul and Peter encourage followers of Jesus to grow! The "how" is not always explicitly given, but the hints are in the text! God is the one who will bring the growth! Increasing in our knowledge of Him will bring the growth! Longing to be in His Word will bring the growth!

## WHY (continued)

What we see is that one way growth comes for people of God is to be in His word. ***This is a habit worth making.***

### **“Determined journeys” to hear God’s word.**

Do you know how followers of Christ studied “the Bible” in the early church days? Those days right after Jesus...

There wasn’t a “Bible”... They couldn’t print copies of the Bible yet!

They had scrolls of “The Writings” - what we call the Old Testament...

And so they would make these determined journeys to hear the words read...

Think about:

the cost to travel

the time given up in a day

the other things they could be doing

Gotta be away from work, soccer practice, debate practice (in today’s terms)...

And if they’re going to remember these words, they’ve got to commit these to memory! They’re not pulling them up on their phone.

**When I think about this, I’m in awe.**

**So...we need to be making determined journeys to hear the LORD.**

*So, how do we do that?*

### **Bible Study Methods**

[Teacher... at this point, take a few moments to talk practically about some methods of studying the Bible. I think it will be helpful

Disclaimer: If you bring up a method from below, be able to explain how it works and how it’s helpful.]

Here are some methods I’ve found helpful:

#### SOAP

Scripture - write it out

Observation - what stands out? What is being said?

Application - how can you live out this verse today?

Prayer - respond to what you read in prayer...

#### Discovery Bible Study

Read the passage...

Then ask...

- What do I learn about the Lord from this passage?
- What do I learn about people (myself) from this passage?
- How can I obey this passage?
- Who needs to hear this passage?  
Who can share this with?

I believe you can do this with almost any passage in the Bible.

## WHY (continued)

### Memorize scripture

#### Word study

This is where you read a passage and notice how certain words are used over and over in that passage.

John 10. How many times is the word sheep or shepherd mentioned?

John 17. How often do I see the word "give/given/gave"? The Father gave His Son. Jesus gave his life. Given hope, given love, given freedom, given His word... we are the receivers of many blessings from God.

And ask yourself, "What's the significance of that word being repeated?"

### Praying through scripture

There's a lot to this... But simply, praying scripture is taking a single verse or a passage a praying that scripture. Instead of forming the words on our own, we're praying what is already written in the Bible. An example passage that is good to see this is Psalm 23.

There are many more study methods than just these... We need to use these tools to help us grow!

## SEE

### *Here's the main point:*

Paul told Timothy...

(ONE) POSSESS God... allow God to take up space in your life

(TWO) PROMOTE God... set an example by the way you live...

(THREE) And now PRACTICE GODLY LIVING...

To become who the LORD knows we can become... we must grow. And spiritual growth comes through studying God's word.

Let's remember, we're establishing habits everyday. We've got to avoid the Oreos kind of habits... We must pursue habits that enable us to grow spiritually!

We also need to be equipped with the right tools to study His word... We've seen what some of those tools look like.

Now, let's use the tools we've got.

### **Spiritual growth is evidence of a healthy Jesus follower.**

***We need to grow. Not just to survive, but to thrive.***