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JUNE 2026

Love-Centered
Theology
Reflection

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Love-Centered Theology Reflection

PART 1

by Pastor Ty Orr

My original thoughts on this topic were to explore the Theology of Love, but after engaging with the readings and biblical material, it became clear that a Love-Centered Theology might be a more powerful approach. It seems to me that love should be the perspective through which we develop our studies and faith practices in all areas. (There are moments in our debate over biblical positions that can make us more focused on being right than on being loving.)

THERE IS **OBVIOUS** CONFUSION ABOUT LOVE IN OUR CULTURE

Without trying to paint with too broad a brush here, there seems to be a lot of talk today about the desire for “love” in our culture. However, people, including Christians, are deeply divided over countless issues, far too many to mention here. Spend a few minutes on social media, and the new normal of conflict over *almost* everything becomes quickly evident. Sadly, from politics to religion, tensions are high, and so is the *fear* that continues to ignite cultural tensions. John says, **“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love”** (1 John 4:18).

We are living with, teaching, and preaching to a deeply tormented culture that desperately needs Gospel Transformation. Fear seems to be ruling the day. Many

are demanding love yet live in contradiction, drowning in fear. Thus, whatever love people are seeking seems to be empty and powerless to help, as media voices and religious fearmongering drive Western culture toward the edge of spiritual oblivion, using fear to influence a people who obviously do not know and live in God’s love.

So, where is the love that so many are chanting for, and why does their vile speechmaking and forceful protest about the need for love and justice seem to work against it? Maybe the deeper question is, what do they mean by love? It appears they are seeking permission to live licentiously without consequences, worshiping their humanity rather than our creator God, who gave them life (Romans 1:18-3:20). For there is nothing new under the sun. They continue to believe *the lie* that humanity knows better than God (Genesis 3:5). From their rhetoric and behavior, it is unlikely they are referring to the love of God but rather to the *love of self*. Maybe in some cases, family and neighbor, but without question, the love of self and the love of sin seem to be their focus. But can this kind of *creature-centered love* make the world a better place? Not at all.

Paul McCartney and John Lennon had a point when they wrote the lyrics “All you need is love, love. Love is all you need.”¹ Yet their call to see some sort of love as the fix-all for humanity has been around for over half a

¹Paul McCartney and John Lennon, *All You Need Is Love* (© 1967, Sony/atv Tunes Llc, Shapiro Bernstein & Co Inc, Mpl Communications Inc).

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

- 1 John 4:18



century, with no solution in sight. Could “love” remedy all the world’s woes and remove the fear that fuels much of today’s cultural conflict? Some seem to think so, as they paint “Choose Love” on the grass in the end zone, seeking to persuade the culture with the “idea” of love without any clarity of what love is. The difficulty we face depends on how individuals in any community understand and apply love. For some, that simply means helping the homeless with our spare change (not a bad thing, by the way) or fighting for the immigrant; for others, it becomes a license for licentious living; since for them, “*love is love*.”²

Here is another recent example. During Super Bowl LX, Bad Bunny sang at halftime, and behind him on the big LED screen was the statement: “The only thing more powerful than hate is love.” So, as Inigo says to Vizzini, “You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.”³ This seemingly common misunderstanding of love applies to our current conversation here. For *this* is also a problem throughout much of the Western world today. It seems that people

live under the deception that love is all about our feelings and *self-satisfaction*, devoid of God’s law and accountability in close faith communities.

MISUNDERSTANDING OF LOVE IN THE FAITH COMMUNITIES

This is truly sad, but confusion about the *love of God and others* is not just a problem for those outside the walls of the local Church, either. We have problems in our own ranks. Therefore, as Peter points out in the first century, there needs to be clear, directed, and *corrective* teaching whose goal is to perform a refining work in the Churches (2 Timothy 3:16). This burning away of the chaff is deeply needed today before we seek to address the issues of the culture standing at our threshold, for, as Peter writes, “**judgment begins in the house of God.**”⁴ We need clarity about what a healthy view of God’s love should be for the Church today.

It is easy for anyone to point fingers at the shortcomings of those outside the Church, but we need

²In 2016, Lin-Manuel Miranda popularized the repeated phrase “love is love is love is love is love is love is love is love” in his Tony acceptance speech for Hamilton. James Baldwin (1924-1987), a civil rights icon who advocated for freedom in love, has a quote attributed to him stating, “No one has the right to tell another human being who they can love,” a sentiment echoed by “love is love”. LGBTQIA+ Rights Movement used this phrase serves as a core slogan, asserting that romantic love between same-sex couples is as valid as heterosexual love, making opposition seem unloving. When anyone makes sin their identity, any confrontation with truth elicits a vile response, for it is taken as a personal attack, regardless of how loving the approach.

³William Goldman, *The Princess Bride*, (Ballantine Books, 1973), 73.

⁴1 Peter 4:17-19 “For the time *has* come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God? Now “*If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?*” Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

to take a long, hard look at ourselves first. The confusion being caused by a minority of religious leaders in the post-modern context is only adding fuel to the long-burning fire of sexual confusion that is generations old. Sadly, this is connected directly to how they see God's love. Therefore, seeking to be loving, we have become *affirming* of behavior that God clearly condemns as deserving of God's wrath (Romans 1:18-3:30).

Surprisingly, or not, a ten-year-long study ending in 2014 noted that acceptance of same-sex relationships is rising across the broad spectrum of American Christianity.⁵ We can only wonder what has happened in the years following this study. This paper is not necessarily about sexual ethics; however, using "love" as a cover for sin speaks to the larger topic of our misunderstanding.

For there is *real* cultural pressure upon the post-modern Church to give in to an emotionalism that acts as a banner for accepting anything and everything into the Church. All this in the *name of love*. Why? We are serving the God of love, but don't seem to understand what that means in light of God's holiness. Nonetheless, the question stands: have we allowed compromise in the Church in the name of love? If so, it must be addressed with all biblical haste. Therefore, recognizing the need

for this type of conversation and the need for some real introspection on our part as Church leaders and teachers is critical. Some, with seemingly passionate intentions and pleas, have compromised biblical truth in the name of "false love," which is not love at all. It is deeply sinful.

Tragically, this misunderstanding has led some to modernize their faith in Church settings today, though in an upsetting way. By giving their faith a label through hyphenating their Christianity, they do this with a personal identity that often conflicts with the sexual ethic revealed in the Scriptures. Here is the problem. When their newly created identity is challenged by biblical truth, they react as if it were a personal attack. Why? Because they have made sin their personal identity and demand to know from the Christian, "Where is the love of God you preach about?" However, we must never separate God's love from His truth (Exodus 34:6-7).

Consequently, we feel pressure to either *affirm* their delusion or the sin, or we are told that we *hate* them when we stand for biblical morals. Of course, neither should be true for the people of God. To *affirm* or *hate* a sinner is not at all loving. More on that next month as we continue our study on *Love-Centered Theology*.

⁵Pew Research, Most U.S. Christian groups grow more accepting of homosexuality, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2015/12/18/most-u-s-christian-groups-grow-more-accepting-of-homosexuality/> (Accessed 2/2/26).

⁶Bi-Christian, Nonbinary-Christian, Trans-Christian, or Gay-Christian for some examples.



Coffee with the Pastor

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REVIVE



by Ryan Fugh

Hello Watersprings,

As we make our way through the non-Pauline epistles of the New Testament with Youth Group we have come as far as 1st Peter.

Throughout the gospels none of the apostles have as much recorded dialogue as Peter. We get to see his triumphs, like when he makes the bold claim that Jesus is the Messiah. His mistakes, like when he tries to keep Jesus from the cross. And we get to see his interactions with Jesus and the lessons he learned on the way and how they play a part in his later writings.

The same man that cut off Malchus' ear in the garden of Gethsemane is the same man that writes in Chapter 2 of 1st Peter that we need to submit to authority, good or not. Did he learn his lesson? I believe so.

Peter wrote his first epistle around A.D. 64-65 while he was in Rome. He didn't write it to a specific church, but rather wrote it to be distributed throughout all of Christianity to encourage them in a time of immense persecution under the wicked Emperor Nero. Under that persecution he urged the church, and us as well, to stand firm in our faith. That our salvation in heaven is our outcome, not the circumstances we go through on earth.

The study through these epistles has been enlightening because all of these men, Peter, James, John, and Jude, interacted closely with Jesus during His earthly ministry. James and Jude are His half-brothers, and Peter and John were two of his closest followers. These men knew Jesus personally, and testified to the point of death and persecution that He is the Messiah, the Son of God.

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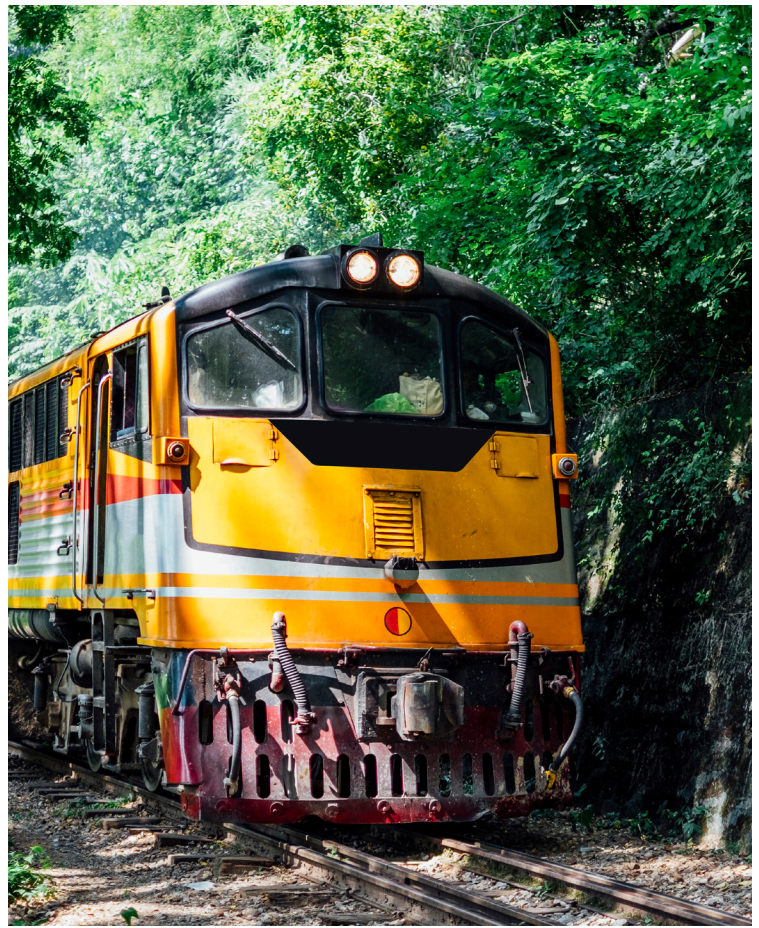
PUT THE NEW (Wo)MAN ON

by Melanie Verhoeven

"and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."

Colossians 3:10-14 (NKJV) explains about what we are to put on when we are in Christ. It's like changing your clothes. When you spill chocolate drizzle on your shirt, do you just leave it there and hope no one notices? If you have the chance you run home and change into a clean spotless shirt! Paul is saying that we are to take off the dirty sins that we deal with, each time we commit that sin whether that sin is a white lie or physically hurting someone, and change into the clothes that Christ calls us to wear! We are to be renewed in His wardrobe of grace! He has new clothes for us to wear and we have to be watchful when we are convicted to change out of the dirty and into the new. We are to be





being renewed. We are to continually go to the Father to be renewed in all things. We are always messing up and need to be renewed in the ways of God's holiness.

We are new creations and it doesn't matter what your background is. Paul says our ethnicity, social status, financial status, educational status, age, nothing matters—these barriers that exist in the world do not exist in the Kingdom of God. Christ broke them down and we should not put them back up! We are the elect of God, chosen to be something special in His plan. This should comfort us and give us hope in what He is doing! Within relationships, for most of our lives we have looked at how we treat others and the quality of our relationships with them. Person to person.

Because we are God's elect we are to PUT ON: LOVE, tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, and longsuffering. Right in the middle of the things we are to put on, Paul shares that we are to forgive others and bear with them in Christ, because Christ forgave us, therefore we are to forgive others.

When we sin we should be quick to confess and ask God for forgiveness. Don't just sweep it under the rug so to speak. To quote a dear friend, "Help me by your Spirit to not do that sin (name it) again. Please forgive me and change my heart."

Think of being on a train. When you are happily riding along on the tracks of life you are comfortable and cozy in the sleeper car. Then you step off the train into the sin you commit. What do you need to do to get back on the train? You have to call to the conductor (Jesus) and He will slow the train so you can jump back on. Then you are off on the next adventure with God! You must not remain in the space of that sin. You must call to the conductor, the engineer of the train so that you can jump back on.

He loves you so much that He already has the plan ready in motion for you to jump back on! Above all these things we are to put on LOVE!!! Here at Watersprings we are always talking about loving one another and forgiving each other. When we love others the body of Christ THRIVES!



I'm A Christian... **Now What?**

by Pastor Dave Coleman

Sometimes, when people first give their hearts and lives over to Jesus, they have a kind of epiphany after the fact. It's kind of like jumping out of a plane at 30,000 feet because you knew the thing was going to crash and burn, but then you realize, *"Wait a minute! I was given this great parachute, but I've never used one before! What do I do next?"*

Well, that actually depends on you...

HOW'S YOUR SOIL?

One day, Jesus was teaching a group that had gathered around Him near the Sea of Galilee, and He illustrated for them how different people respond differently to hearing the Word of God. We often refer to this teaching as the parable of "The Four Soils."

This teaching is found in the first three of the Gospels: **Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:4-15.**

In His teaching, Jesus said a man was sowing seed for a crop. Jesus clarified that the seed represents the Word of God. The soil is the heart of the hearer. As the man was sowing the seed, some seed landed on the pathway, some on rocky soil (very shallow), some among thorns, and some landed on good soil.

The seed that landed on the hard ground of the pathway was quickly snatched away by the birds of the



air. Jesus described the birds as Satanic influences that snatch the truth away before it can take root.

The seed that landed on the rocky, shallow soil, enthusiastically sprang up quickly, but it withered quickly in the heat of the sun because it had no depth of soil.

The seed that landed on thorny ground also sprang up, but it got choked out by the thorns; what Jesus called the cares, riches, and pleasures of life.

Finally, some of the seed landed on good soil. Good soil is soil that has been toiled and tilled; turned over and prepped to receive the seed and let it take good root and get established.

The difference in each of these circumstances is the condition of the soil; the condition of the heart. Who's responsible for the condition of the soil? The landowner. Each of us is responsible for the condition of our own hearts. As we hear the Word of God, we must each check our own hearts...

Is your heart hardened to things of God?

Is your heart rocky and shallow? Do you like emotional experiences that don't last long?

Is your heart more concerned with the thorny cares, riches, or pleasures of this life?

Or have you broken up the fallow ground - tilled the soil - ready to receive the Word of God and let it go deep into the good soil of your heart and take root?

It really is up to you. Exciting worship music and enthusiastic preaching is not enough. Have you opened your heart to the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to do His work in you?

God told Jeremiah how He operates: **“Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant,”** (Jeremiah 1:9-10).

God’s way is to take the time to prep the soil - root out, pull down, destroy and throw away - weed the old stuff out before planting. We’re not talking about cleaning the fish before you catch it, but we are talking about getting serious with God and His Word. We’re talking about surrender; not playing games with God and pretending to be a Christian while still prioritizing the junk of this world.

If you are a New Christian - or even if you’ve been a Christian for a long time - how’s the condition of your heart? Are you serious about being a Jesus-follower, or are you hoping to get into Heaven and avoid Hell by the skin of your teeth? Are you looking to Jesus to merely be your fire insurance against Hell, or are you ready to be fully surrendered to His Lordship and experience the abundant, Spirit-filled life? There is more - MUCH more - to being a Christian than merely repeating a prayer and then waiting to die and go to Heaven.

Becoming a Christian means, first of all, we surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Then, we submit to His Lordship through baptism.

Next, we grow in His Lordship through sanctification.

Surrender - Submission - Sanctification.

DEMAS: A PICTURE OF SPIRITUAL DECLINE

In the New Testament, a guy by the name of Demas is a sobering example of regression in the faith - someone who began strong but later fell away. Paul first refers to Demas in Philemon 1:24 as a “fellow laborer,” then later

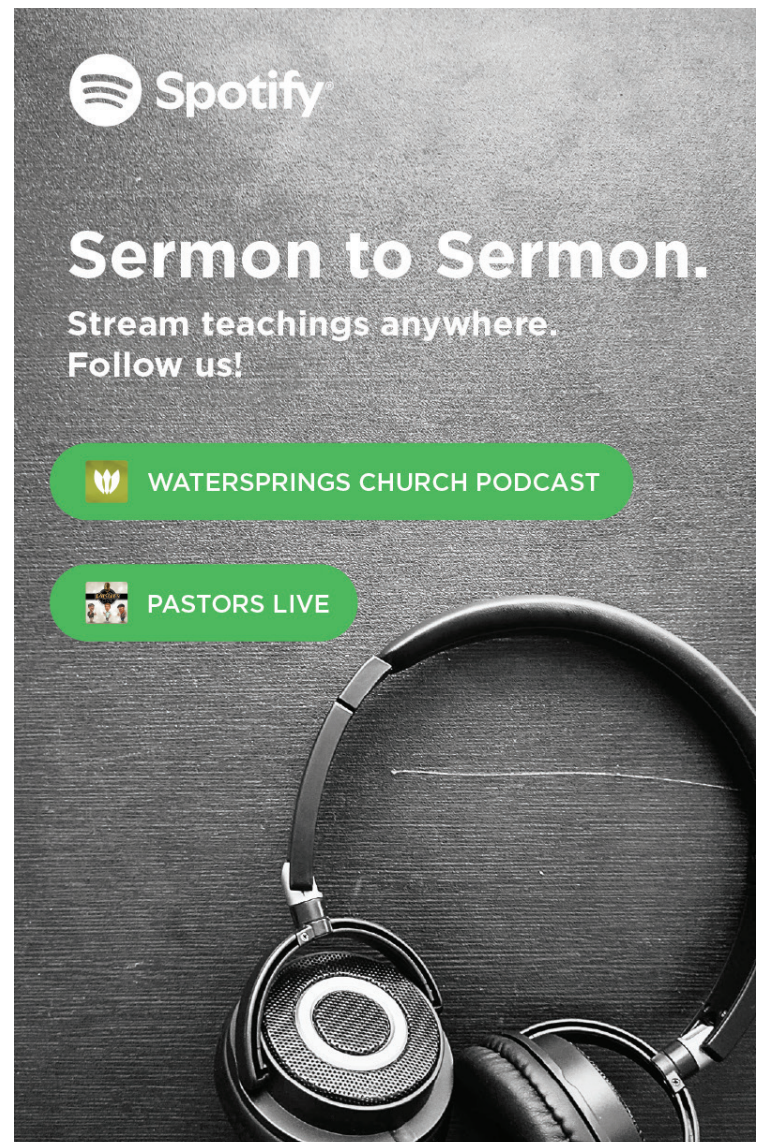
in Colossians 4:14 simply as one who “greeted you,” and finally in 2 Timothy 4:10 with great sorrow: **“Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.”** This downward spiral - from fellow minister to deserter - illustrates a warning about the lure of the world and the danger of spiritual decline.

In contrast, a strong example of progressive sanctification - growing in godliness and Christlikeness over time - is the Apostle Peter.

PETER: A PICTURE OF PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION

Peter’s life was marked by bold beginnings, deep failure & restoration, and ultimately by Spirit-empowered maturity.

Early in his faith, Peter eagerly followed Jesus, walking on water (Matthew 14:29), and confessing Christ as the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). But, he also displayed



pride & misunderstanding of Jesus' mission (Matthew 16:22-23). At Jesus' arrest, Peter denied Him three times (Luke 22:54-62). However, after the resurrection, Jesus graciously restored Peter (John 21:15-19), affirming his role as a shepherd of the flock. Consequently, at Pentecost (Acts 2), Peter boldly preached, leading 3,000 to salvation. From then on, we see a growing maturity and courage, even when facing persecution (Acts 4-5). His letters (1 & 2 Peter) reveal deep pastoral wisdom and hope.

Peter's sanctification didn't happen overnight - it was a process. He was shaped through trials, correction, and the work of the Holy Spirit. He matured into a faithful shepherd, even laying down his life for the Gospel.

While Demas represents a tragic falling away, Peter stands as a hopeful testimony to the transforming power of God's grace. His life models the reality of progressive sanctification - how God takes imperfect people and shapes them into vessels fit for His glory.

Paul encouraged Timothy in this same way: **"Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of clay, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, fit for the Master's use, having**

been prepared for every good work. Now flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

[2Timothy 2:20-22]

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

What we're talking about here is each of our own personal, progressive sanctification. Thus, Paul wrote to the Thessalonian believers, **"We ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. For you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification... For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification."** [1Thessalonians 4:1-3a, 7, LSB]

And to the Roman believers, Paul wrote, **"I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification... But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life..."** [Romans 6:19, 22, NASB95]

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THE PHILIPPINES

Excerpt from Brad & Haley Dick's Newsletter

ADOPTION

Adoption can be a beautiful thing. When done correctly and handled by capable persons, adoption can truly change a person's life. Adoption can also be very messy. When either the parent or the child decides to not contribute to the sum of the whole in a positive way, adoption can truly hurt a person.

Historically there were many reasons for adoption. Securing family lineage; political alliances; labor force acquisition; child welfare; etc. The practice of adoption can be found in ancient texts such as The Code of Hammurabi in the 1800's and we see instances of it in our own Bibles such as the case of Moses and Pharaoh's daughter. This practice has been around for a long time. The writers of New Testament didn't introduce us to a new concept. Mankind had been adopting people for various reasons long before the New Testament was penned. This does, however, pose a question: "Are there differences in motive between humans and God in this area?"

Typically, if a person was to adopt another individual, there would be some legal process by which they would follow to complete the adoption. This is no different with God as He has His own legal process by which He adopts His children. Galatians 4:4-5 says **"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons and daughters."** God, the Father, sent God, the Son, to pay a debt for us that we incurred from our sins. Through Christ's



work on the cross we become debtless (and guiltless) before God. We, as believers in Christ, then meet the qualifications to receive God, the Holy Spirit, and salvation. God then imparts Christ's righteousness to us, because only those who have perfectly followed God's Law get to go to heaven, thus Christ's perfect record of Law following earns us a place in heaven. When we receive the Holy Spirit, He then adopts us into His family. This is how it works in God's court process. Those of us who have chosen to make God, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, then become brothers and sisters in God's family.

Adoption in our world does not work this way. It is typically misunderstood and abused. Historically, adoption almost always benefitted the Adopter in some way. In Ancient Rome, adoption ensured that a person's estate would not fall into the hands of the state and guaranteed family lineage. In early America, adoption would often mean that a person would gain laborers to help with work demands. Today the state tightly controls the adoption process and often muddles it up. Adoption is aimed at the child's welfare with hopes of giving the child the best possible outcome for the future. Certain people take advantage of this and use state funding and resources to benefit themselves while providing very little to the welfare of the child.



Not all adoptions work like this. There are many success stories and examples of genuine people pouring their love into the children. However, through our adoption in Christ, it's always a success story. Upon inspection, we find that adoption for a believer exclusively benefits the believer. God does not gain anything that He lacked, rather believers gain everything. You see adoption is a privilege granted. God did not have to adopt us. Our justification in Christ would have been enough to keep us from going to Hell. But God is a God of abounding love and grace! He purposed it from the beginning to adopt us as His children. As it says in Ephesians 1:4-6, **“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved (Jesus Christ).”**

As adopted brothers and sisters, filled with the Spirit of God, we then ought to act towards one another with a love like that of our Father's. We should also give glory where its due, to the One God who did literally all the work in adopting us. Those of us who share in the privilege of becoming heirs to God's kingdom have a responsibility to uplift, encourage, teach, exhort, rebuke, hold accountable, and redirect our brothers and sisters in Christ. All with the assurance that one day Christ will return to take us home where we will truly partake in the



inheritance that God has gifted to us. Those of you who have made Christ your king, go and pour into someone who is, spiritually speaking, less mature than yourself. Pour love, grace, and knowledge into one another all the while gently creating accountability amongst one another. After all, we are God's children, should we not act like we are?

RELATIONSHIP OVER WORKS

This last month has been a busy month for us here in the Philippines as we love our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our partners, in the beginning of our mission here, told us something very important. They said “You need to partner with someone who cares more about you than the ministry. We will always try to do this with you guys.” They have definitely come through on their word. It has also served as an example of how we should treat each other as siblings in Christ. An example that we seek to reciprocate to them and imitate in the relationships that we have made here.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please pray for Jim and Keitha as they will cover our ministries while we are away. Please pray also for their health and wellness and the many ministry opportunities that they have coming up.
- Please pray for the many disciples that Christ has entrusted in our care, that God would grant them, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith; and that they, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that they may be filled to all the fullness of God.
- Please pray for Haley and our baby's health.
- Please pray for traveling mercies.
- Please continue to pray for Jeremy's (and his children's) salvation.
- Please continue to pray for Brad's siblings salvation.
- Please pray for the Children's Bible Study, that they would continue to learn and grow in their walks with Jesus.

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environment"*



*"We love Watersprings School
and that Jesus is a part of their
every day."*

O P E N E N R O L L M E N T

FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

by Megan Williams, Director of Admissions and Marketing

Open enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year here at Watersprings School is **OPEN!** There has never been a more exciting—or more affordable—time to consider Christian education for your family. Thanks to the Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit, more families than ever are able to access the kind of education they desire for their children. At Watersprings School, we offer small class sizes, caring and dedicated teachers, a closed campus for safety, technology integration, and thriving athletics—all rooted in a strong biblical worldview. Our students grow academically, spiritually, and socially in an environment that encourages them to pursue excellence while strengthening their relationship

with Christ. With classes available from Preschool (ages 2 - 4) through 12th grade, families can experience a consistent, Christ-centered education all on one beautiful campus.

On a more personal note, my family and I relocated to Idaho Falls about three years ago from the South. At the time, we had second, fifth, and seventh graders and were faced with the daunting task of uprooting them in the middle of the school year. Watersprings School became the final piece of

*"Watersprings School is like
having a whole other family and
that's huge for me!"*

*"Watersprings
School's foundation
is Christ-centered
and students are
welcomed and
loved."*

the puzzle that made us say "yes" to Idaho. What we discovered here was far more than a school. It is a place where teachers genuinely care about their students, where families support one another, and where faith is woven into every part of the day. For our family, Watersprings School has truly become more than a place for education—it's a family.

Families are saying great things about Watersprings School!

"When we were looking to relocate, Watersprings School was a primary point of consideration. We were looking for a Christian school that also had a football and track program. We are very pleased with the school. Our children are thriving here. Our high school child has grown leaps and bounds in his faith since joining Watersprings. This is the best environment for our children and we are thrilled that they have the opportunity to attend Watersprings School."

"My son has had amazing teachers every year he has attended Watersprings School. The facility and staff have also been amazing as well."

"My girls feel love from all the teachers and support throughout the day. They learn more than just core subjects. They learn to be a loving and godly friend."

"Great teachers and staff! Everyone is very competent in their roles and the school is well organized. Teachers are friendly but also keep order and are very approachable if a need arises. The tuition fees are reasonable and the school has a family feel, centering on teaching and growing kids in a biblical worldview."

I would love to give you a tour or answer any questions you may have. Feel free to email me at admissions@waterspringschool.net.

Apply now at waterspringschool.net



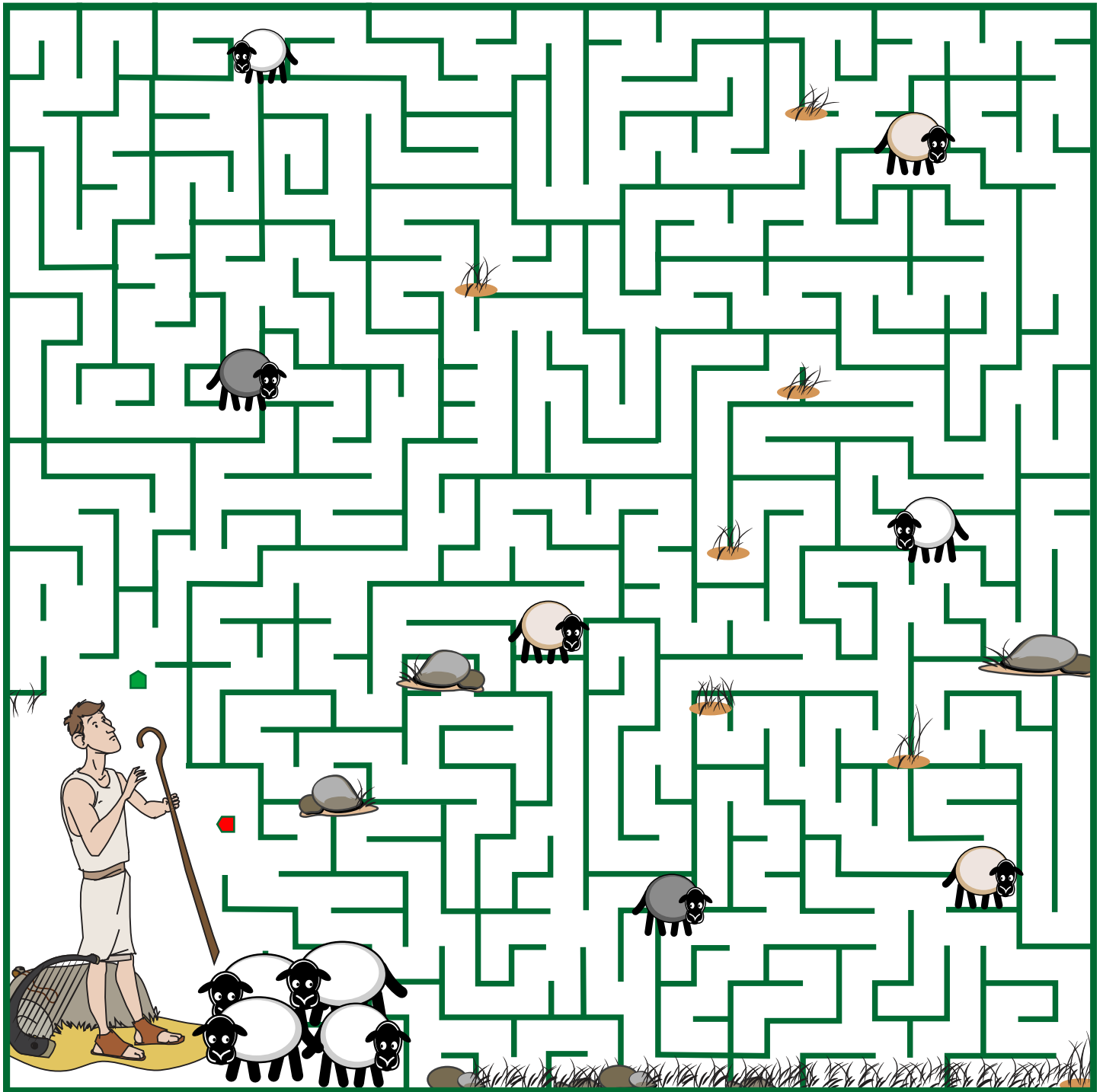
"Awesome facility and great teachers. My two sons love going to school every day"



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Maze for David Was a Shepherd Boy

Seven sheep have wandered away from the flock. Help David find all of them and return them to the flock. You may have to take more than one path to collect all of the sheep.





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HOTDOGS PROVIDED
A-G: Dessert
H-P: Sides
Q-Z: Chips

CHURCH ON THE TURF

10^{am} *Fountain Patio*
JULY 5th

NO SERVICE JULY 4th



MOBILIZE OUR MISSIONARIES

Vehicle Fundraiser for Brad & Haley



SCAN 2
GIVE



*all excess funds will go to future missions at Watersprings Church.

ALTAR CALL *Training*

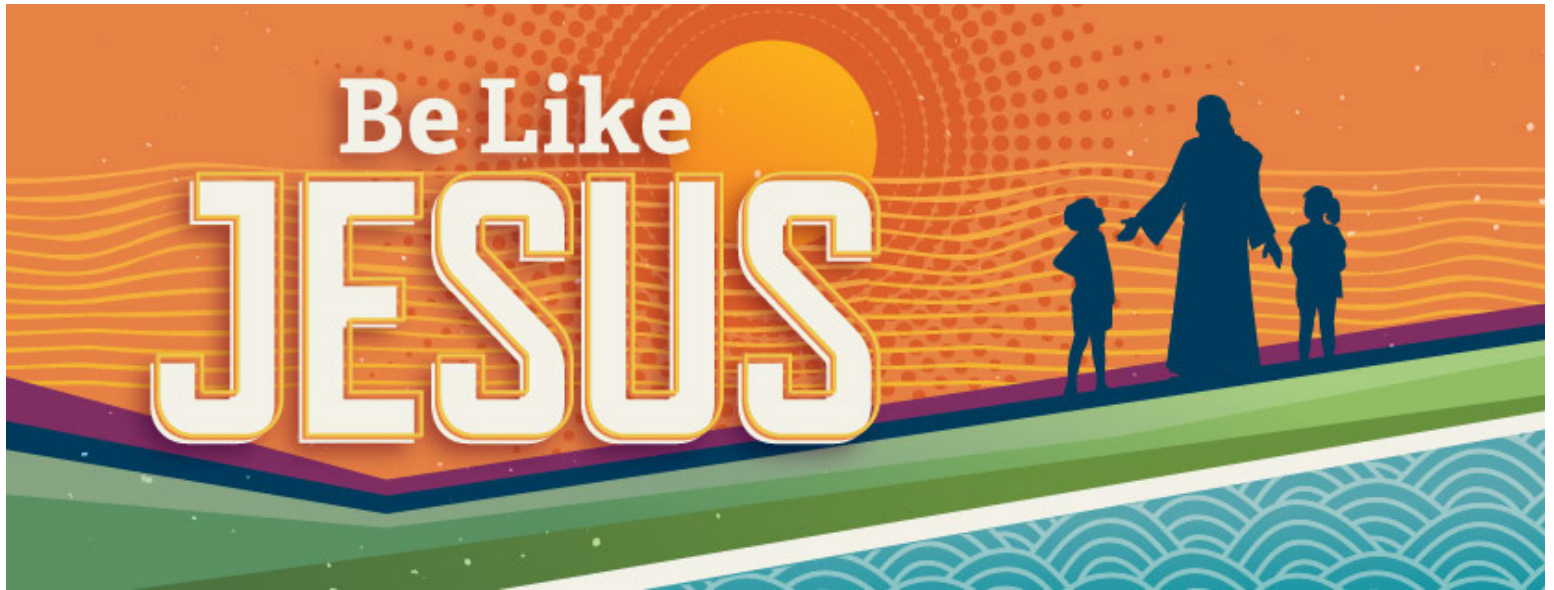
JULY 12TH

1:00pm



Register at watersprings.net

Wonder



What does it look like to be like Jesus? God invites us to look more like Jesus each month, year, and decade of our lives. Yet all our determination and best effort will not get us there. It is only with the help of God's Spirit that we become like Jesus. During this series, you'll explore teachings from the New Testament that will lift the burden of self-powered character development and reveal the freedom that comes when we partner with the Holy Spirit on the journey of becoming like Jesus.

**BUT THE FRUIT THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES IS LOVE, JOY AND PEACE. IT IS BEING PATIENT, KIND AND GOOD. IT IS BEING FAITHFUL AND GENTLE AND HAVING CONTROL OF ONESELF.
-GALATIANS 5:22-23A**

FAMILY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

- **Fruit Prayer:** Read Galatians 5:22-23a. Gather as many different fruits as you can find and take turns tossing the fruit to one another. Each time someone catches a fruit, name one fruit of the Spirit. End by praying together to ask the Holy Spirit to grow the fruit of the Spirit in your family.
- **Filled with Joy and Contentment:** Read Philippians 4:11-13 aloud. Gather a sponge, a bowl, and a cup of water. Hold up the sponge. **Without Jesus, we're empty inside.** Let someone wring out the dry sponge (nothing happens!). **No matter what we have, nothing can fill us with joy and contentment like Jesus. When we follow Jesus, He fills us with joy and contentment.** Pour water on the sponge and wring it out into the bowl. **Jesus fills us so we overflow. We can thank Him and find joy and contentment in Him.**



Infant - 5th grade

CAMP WEDNESDAYS



At-Home Bible Story Video



Spotify playlist

SERIES OVERVIEW

Bible Story	Bible Passage	Wonder Truth
Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5	God Helps Us Be Like Jesus
Unity	Ephesians 4	God Brings Us Together
Joy and Contentment	Philippians 2-4	God Gives Us Joy and Contentment *God Gives Us Joy
Faith	Hebrews 11	God Is Faithful and Good

FAMILY WONDER QUESTIONS

1. Which of the fruit of the Spirit is most challenging for you?
2. When do you feel most joyful?
3. Share about someone whose faith has inspired and encouraged you.



WORD OF WONDER

**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

—Galatians 5:22-23a (ISV)

*Early Childhood



**THE STRONG
BLUE LINE**



CALLING EVIL *Good* AND GOOD **EVIL**

by Tim Rupp

This past winter, I bought a new black Stetson cowboy hat and wore it to church a few times. When the weather warmed up, I wore my straw. The day I wore the straw, I was greeted by an older gentleman with, "I'm glad you're wearing your white hat, the one good guys wear!" I chuckled, knowing exactly to what he referred. In the early years of western films, the good guys wore white hats, and the bad guys wore black hats. Over the years the line between good guys and bad guys began to blur. Perhaps, Clint Eastwood's Spaghetti Westerns were the catalyst that encouraged the audience to cheer for the bad guy. Being raised on TV's *Gunsmoke* and John Wayne movies, I've always been a fan of western films. But I recall going to see *Young Guns* in the late 1980s in which the infamous outlaw Billy the Kid (born Henry McCarty) was portrayed as a hero and Sheriff Pat Garret as the antagonist. But let's consider reality.

On Monday, April 1, 1878, Sheriff William Brady and four of his deputies walked down the street in front of the county courthouse in Lincoln, New Mexico. Billy the Kid, along with five members of his gang hid behind an

adobe wall across the street. The unsuspecting lawmen were ambushed by the coward outlaws. Sheriff Brady and Deputy George Hindman were shot and killed in the exchange of gunfire.

This was not the first time Billy and his gang attacked lawmen. The gang was also responsible for the murders of several other law enforcement officers over the course of several years. But it was for the murder of Brady that Billy the Kid was convicted by a territorial court in April 1881 and sentenced to death. Shortly after being convicted, he escaped from the Lincoln County jail



and was subsequently found and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett when he refused to be taken into custody.

Sheriff Brady, 48, served as Lincoln County Sheriff for five years. He also served with the U.S. Army for 15 years including time with the 1st New Mexico Cavalry. He and Deputy Hindman were buried on private property on what was Sheriff Brady's ranch east of Lincoln. We have no record of Deputy Hindman's family, but Sheriff Brady left behind a wife and six children.

Contrary to how Hollywood chooses to portray these men, there is no gray area. Billy the Kid and his gang were coldblooded murderers, the lawmen, who were by no means perfect, were on the side of right—they were the good guys (No matter what color hat they wore!). Recently, we've seen law officers portrayed by some in the media and even in Congress as evil, while touting criminals as victims. The Bible warns against such labeling, **"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil"** (Isaiah 5:20a). When a society loses the distinction between good and evil it won't be around long.

BRINGING HOPE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Strong Blue Line Foundation—at no cost to officers or their agencies—brings hope to LEOs with training seminars that help them navigate a myriad of issues they deal with. One way we do this is by training chaplains. In the "Winning is More than Surviving" seminar and book, chaplains learn how to serve and minister to law enforcement officers by helping them understand the issues they deal with, their responses, and where they can find real hope. Please partner with us to make strong officers with strong relationships by giving them real hope for complete victory! To help, go to TheStrongBlueLine.org and click the "Donate" button.

ON THE ROAD

Our next road trip is scheduled for July when we'll head to Spokane, WA for the International Conference of Police Chaplain's annual training seminar. I was invited to present three training sessions for chaplains who come from across the United States and other countries.

Pray for your police.

A purple and blue poster for a church event. At the top left, it says 'AUG 2'. In the center, 'Church in the Park' is written in a large, white, cursive font with a leaf icon above the 'h' in 'Church'. Above this, 'Watersprings CHURCH' is written in a smaller font. To the right, 'FREEMAN PARK' is written vertically. At the bottom right, '10 AM' is written in a large font. At the bottom center, 'Bible • Baptism • Barbeque' is written in a white, cursive font.

A red and white poster for a radio show. At the top, 'ON AIR' is written in large, white, block letters. Below this, 'THE REV' is written in a large, white, block font. To the left of 'THE REV' is a circular logo with a stylized 'R'. Below 'THE REV', the frequencies '88.7 • 90.1 • 90.3' are listed. In the center, there is a circular graphic with a microphone icon and the text 'Pastors LIVE' above three cartoon caricatures of men. To the right of this graphic, 'TUNE-IN' is written in a white, block font on a black background. At the bottom, 'Weekdays 9am & 5pm' is written in a white, block font. Below this, a small microphone icon is shown, followed by 'Podcast drops at 10am'. At the bottom right, there is a QR code. At the very bottom, 'Find us at these stations!' is written in a white, block font, followed by '88.7 • 90.1 • 90.3'.

RESOLVE



5TH ANNUAL RESOLVE MEN'S CONFERENCE: PERSEVERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

On Saturday, April 25, nearly 500 men gathered at Watersprings Church for our **5th Annual RESOLVE Men's Conference**, and what a powerful day it was. This year's theme, "**Perseverance**," was drawn from Romans 2:7 (NASB95): "**to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.**" Throughout the day, we were reminded that the Christian life is not a sprint fueled by momentary inspiration, but a lifelong race marked by steadfast faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

The Lord blessed us with three outstanding guest speakers, each bringing a unique and timely message centered on perseverance.



We were honored to begin the day with Myles McPherson, former San Diego Chargers NFL player and founder / pastor of Rock Church in San Diego, CA. Pastor Miles challenged the men to live

boldly and intentionally for Christ in a culture that constantly presses against biblical truth. Drawing from both his athletic background and years of pastoral ministry, he called men to spiritual perseverance in boldly and simply sharing our testimonies and our faith in Jesus Christ. "It's as easy as A - B - C."



Next, Rob Salvato, Executive Pastor at Calvary Chapel Vista, California, brought a deeply practical and pastoral exhortation. Pastor Rob reminded us that perseverance often looks less like dramatic moments of victory and more like simple daily faithfulness—choosing obedience when it is difficult, trusting God when circumstances are unclear, and remaining steadfast through seasons of trial. His message resonated deeply with the men in attendance and offered practical encouragement for husbands, fathers, and leaders seeking to walk faithfully with Christ.

Closing the conference was Al

Pittman, Pastor Emeritus of Calvary Worship Center in Colorado Springs, CO. With his trademark warmth, wisdom, and biblical clarity, Pastor Al delivered a stirring challenge to finish well. He reminded us that perseverance is not merely about enduring hardship but about keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus and remaining anchored in His promises until the very end.



We were especially grateful that Pastor Rob remained with us through the weekend and ministered at all three Watersprings Weekend services, further blessing our church family with solid biblical teaching and pastoral encouragement.

The day was also marked by vibrant worship, led by Pastor Steve Redmer and the Watersprings Men's Worship Team, who ushered us into the presence of the Lord with passion. Their leadership set the tone for a day focused squarely on Christ.



Of course, RESOLVE is about more than teaching sessions - it is also about brotherhood, fellowship, and shared experience. During lunch, the campus was alive with energy as men participated in adrenaline-filled activities including archery, hatchet throwing, slingshot target shooting, corn hole, and the new *Perseverance Triathlon*.



Attendees also enjoyed outstanding food from BlackHawk BBQ Pit and Burley Burgers, while beverages and ice cream sales helped raise funds toward the purchase of a vehicle for our

missionaries to the Philippines, Brad and Haley Dick. It was a blessing to see generosity on display as men supported this important ministry need.

Adding to the excitement were several outstanding raffle giveaways, including a Christensen Arms .30-06 hunting rifle with scope & Ruger 9mm pistol package, and a compound hunting bow generously donated by Downwind Archery and Bud Robinson.

More than anything, however, this conference was about calling men to greater faithfulness. We thank the Lord for His presence throughout the day and for the many lives strengthened and encouraged through the teaching of His Word.

By God's grace, we pray the truths planted during RESOLVE 2026 will continue to bear fruit as the men of Watersprings and beyond *persevere* in the race set before them, fixing their eyes on Christ and pressing on for His glory.

Next year's RESOLVE Men's Conference will be on Saturday, May 1st, 2027 and our theme is *Transformation*.

*Living*WATER

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VBS WISHLIST

EMERALD CROSSING

THANK YOU!

AMAZON LIST

**DONATE ITEMS ON OUR WISHLIST!
AMAZON WILL SHIP DIRECTLY TO US OR
DROP OFF ITEMS AT FRONT DESK**

ITEMS NEEDED

VBS EXTREME
FORGED
 FAITH REFINED
 identity
 June 28 - July 3
 5TH & 6TH GRADE
 WATERSPRINGS.NET

Vacation Bible School
 KIDMIN
 Answers VBS
EMERALD CROSSING
 An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23
 QR Code
 July 26 - July 31

Church in the Park
 Watersprings Church
 Bible
 Baptism
 Barbecue
 FREEMAN PARK
 AUG 2
 10 AM

MAN CAMP
...Walk Like A Man
August 14-16
 at Old Faithful Christian Ranch
 Register at watersprings.net

UPCOMING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- JUN 12 **Ladies Craft Night** - Register @ watersprings.net
- JUN 14 **LIFE Class Begins** - Register @ watersprings.net
- JUN 28 **Coffee with the Pastor** - 1:00pm / Homestead
- JUN 28 **VBS Exteme Forged** - Register @ watersprings.net
- JUL 3 **Church Office Closed in Observation of 4th of July**
- JUL 5 **Church on the Turf** - 10:00am / Fountain Patio *No other weekend services*
- JUL 10 **Ladies Prayer Night** - Register @ watersprings.net
- JUL 12 & 19 **Altar Call Training** - Register @ watersprings.net
- JUL 19 **Pre-Baptism Class** - Register @ watersprings.net
- JUL 26 **VBS Emerald Crossing** - Register @ watersprings.net
- AUG 2 **Church in the Park** - 10:00am / Freeman Park

VISIT THE **CONNECT CENTER**
 The informational hub for all things Watersprings!


 Thank you for being a part of the Watersprings family!

 (208) 524-4747

watersprings.net
  
 @go2watersprings

 @Watersprings Church