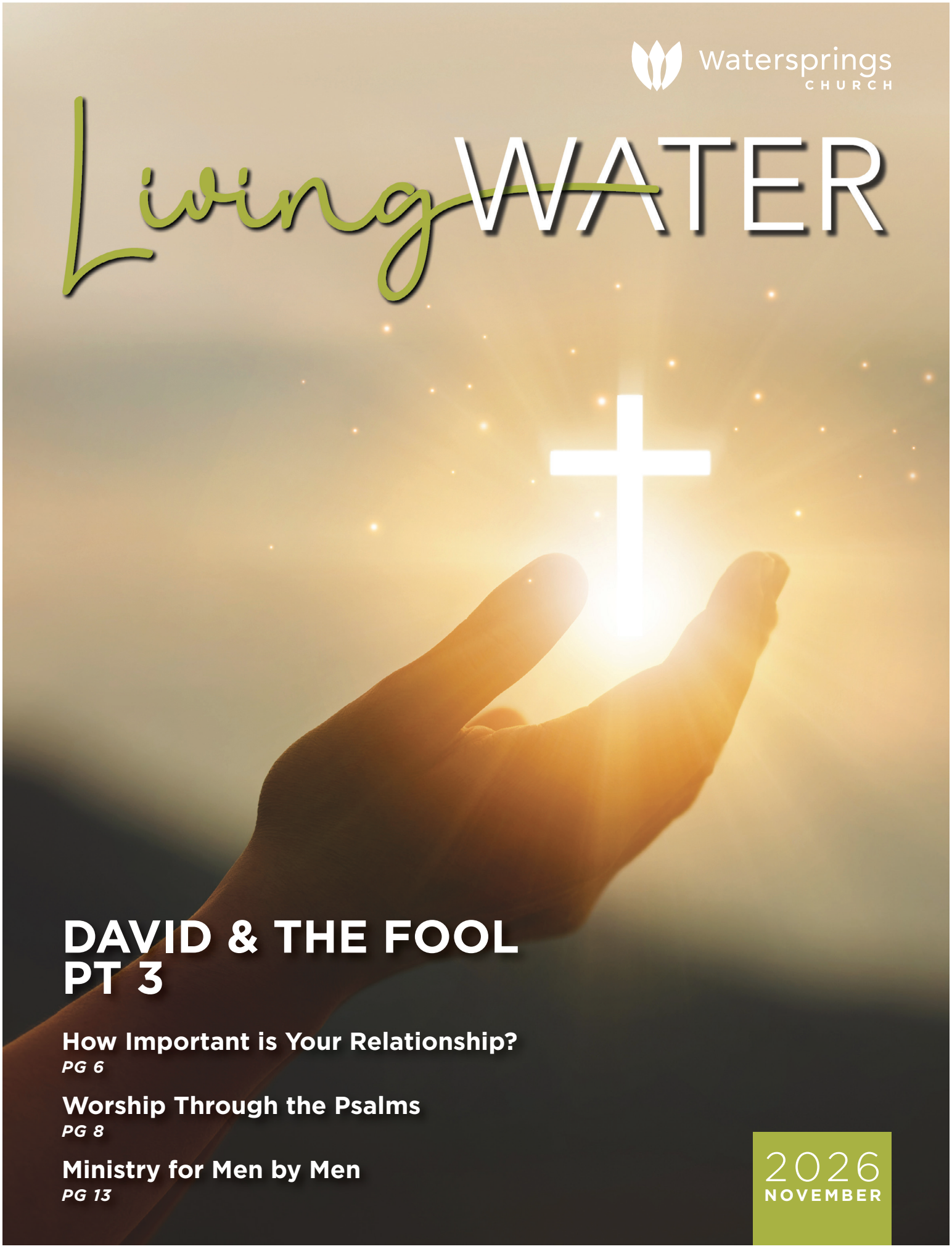
Watersprings CHURCH

Living WATER



DAVID & THE FOOL PT 3

How Important is Your Relationship?
PG 6

Worship Through the Psalms
PG 8

Ministry for Men by Men
PG 13

2026
NOVEMBER

DAVID AND THE FOOL

(PART 3)

Trusting God to Finish What He Starts

by Pastor Ty Orr

In Part 1 and Part 2, we followed David through one of the greatest tests of his character. After Nabal repaid David's kindness with contempt, David nearly abandoned the self-control that had distinguished him from Saul. Yet God graciously intervened through Abigail, whose wise counsel turned David from a disastrous act of vengeance. The final verses of the chapter answer the question that remains: What happens when we choose to leave justice in God's hands? As the story concludes, we discover that while David laid down his sword, God never laid aside His justice.

By the time David turns back, the crisis seems to be over. Abigail has intervened successfully, innocent lives have been spared, and David has laid aside his plans for revenge. Yet the chapter is not finished. One important question still remains: What happens when God's people choose to leave justice in His hands? The closing verses of 1 Samuel 25 answer that question with remarkable clarity. While David puts down his sword of vengeance, God never abandons His sword of justice.

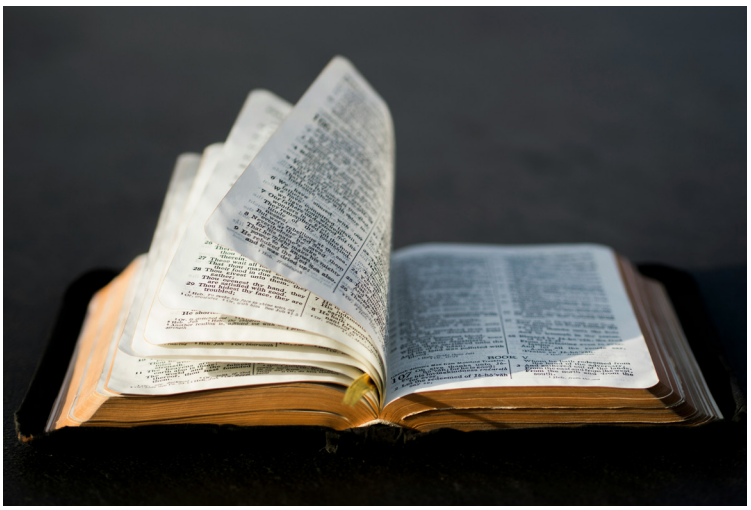
The story returns to Nabal, completely unaware of how close he has come to disaster. Ironically, the narrator describes him hosting "a feast like that of a king." The image is almost humorous. The man who mocked God's anointed king now behaves as though he were royalty. He feasts, drinks heavily, and celebrates his prosperity while remaining oblivious to the danger from which Abigail has just rescued him. Rather than confronting him while he is drunk, Abigail wisely waits until morning to explain what has happened.

His response is immediate and chilling. Scripture tells us that **"his heart died within him, and he became like a stone."** Then, after ten days, **"the Lord struck Nabal, and he died."**

One detail I had often overlooked before studying this chapter carefully is the ten-day delay. The narrator could simply have recorded Nabal's death, but instead he intentionally slows the story. That pause emphasizes that this is not an impulsive act or a random tragedy. It is the Lord's judgment carried out in His own time, and the delay clears David of any accusation. David also does not have to wonder whether justice has been done. The text makes it unmistakably clear that God Himself has acted.

For David, this must have been an unforgettable lesson. Had he followed through on his original plan, he would have destroyed an entire household and carried that blood guilt into his reign. Instead, he watches God accomplish justice without David lifting a sword. The lesson is profound: God's promises never require sinful means. The One who called David to be king was fully capable of removing obstacles without David compromising his integrity.

As I stepped back to view the chapter as a whole, I realized that God's providence is woven through every scene. Samuel's death creates uncertainty. Nabal's insult exposes David's weakness. Abigail arrives at the precise



moment. David's anger is restrained before innocent blood is shed. Finally, God Himself judges Nabal. None of these events seems spectacular on its own, but together they reveal a God who quietly governs every detail to accomplish His purposes.

The final verses reinforce that same truth. David sends for Abigail, and she becomes his wife, while Saul gives David's wife Michal to another man in an attempt to sever David's connection to the royal family. Saul is still trying to erase David's future, yet every effort only highlights the futility of resisting God's plan. While Saul schemes, God continues building David's household. Abigail's arrival, together with her servants and household, represents another quiet step in God's preparation of Israel's future king. What was Nabal's is now his.

One of the observations that stayed with me most was realizing that David wins two victories in this chapter. The first is internal. He allows himself to be corrected before anger turns into irreversible action. The second is external. He watches the Lord vindicate him without resorting to personal vengeance. Had David ignored Abigail's counsel, he would never have experienced the joy of seeing God fight his battle for him. His blood lust would have gained him nothing.

That truth speaks powerfully to our lives. Few of us will ever stand in David's sandals, leading hundreds of armed men through the Judean wilderness. Yet each of us knows what it feels like to be misunderstood, insulted, falsely accused, or treated unfairly. Those moments reveal what we truly believe about God's providence. Do we trust Him enough to wait for His justice, or do we feel compelled to secure it ourselves?

Perhaps that is why this chapter has become so meaningful to me. It reminds me that God's greatest acts of protection are not always against external enemies. Sometimes His greatest mercy is rescuing us from ourselves. David was a man after God's own heart, yet he still came dangerously close to making a decision that would have haunted him for the rest of his life. The good news is that God's covenant purposes were never hanging by a thread. The Lord remained faithful even when His servant wavered.

That same confidence belongs to every believer today. The God who preserved David's calling continues to preserve His people. As Balaam declared, **"God is not a man, that He should lie... Has He said, and will He not do?"** (Numbers 23:19). Paul echoes this certainty when



he writes, **"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen"** (2 Corinthians 1:20). Our confidence rests not in our consistency but in God's faithfulness.

The practical lesson is both simple and challenging. Before acting in anger, it is worth asking one honest question: **Am I trusting God, or am I trying to do His job?** David's crisis was never simply about losing his temper. It was about believing, for a brief moment, that justice depended on him. How often do we make the same mistake? We rush to defend ourselves, settle the score, or make things right because waiting feels too risky.

Yet God often works most powerfully in the waiting. He may send an "Abigail" into our lives—a spouse, a trusted friend, a pastor, or another believer who lovingly reminds us of truths we already know but have temporarily forgotten. The challenge is not merely hearing wise counsel but receiving it with humility. David's greatness was not that he avoided every failure. It was that when confronted with God's truth, he was willing to repent before it was too late.

First Samuel 25 offers us a comforting reminder: we can entrust our lives, our reputations, and even our deepest wounds to the Lord because His justice is perfect, His timing is flawless, and His promises never fail. That was true for David in the wilderness, and it remains true for us today.





NIGHT OF

Thanks & Giving



NOVEMBER 18TH AT 7PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Bring a dessert to share and help us pack Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!

HOW IMPORTANT IS *your* RELATIONSHIP?

by Pastor Paul Verhoeven

Here is a question for those who are married, engaged to be married, living together as if they were married, or thinking about getting married. How important is your spouse/fiancé/partner? The reason I ask this is because we tend to prioritize and put our focus and efforts into those things that are most important to us. Sadly, statistics show that marriages are all too often neglected, or at least not enough investment is made into making marriage relationships stronger and greater.

When you invest money into your retirement or investment accounts, you do research into where your money is going and what kind of return you can expect from that investment. Well, at least I hope you do that, because only a fool doesn't spend the time making sure they are making a wise investment. We do that with our money, but do we show the same diligence in our marriage? Come join us on Friday evening and Saturday morning, November 20-21, for The Relationship Experience for a fun-filled time of learning different ways to enrich our marriage relationships. We will laugh, learn, have games, prizes, food, and much more.

Bill and Pam Farrel from Love-wise Ministry will be joining us and interacting with us to teach us how to love each other and grow in our marriage relationships. Come discover with us new ways to enrich your relationship and make an investment that will pay great dividends. It doesn't matter if you are in your early twenties, or if you are old enough to remember the 1920's, there will be something great for you to learn and apply to your relationship.

Friday evening is from 6-8:30 pm, and Saturday morning is from 9am-12pm. Cost is $75, and registration is open. Make an investment in your marriage right now and see what great dividends it will generate.



Bill and Pam Farrel, International Speakers, Best-Selling Authors & Relationship Specialists




For married couples & relationships on their way to marriage!
THE
Relationship
EXPERIENCE
NOV 20TH & 21ST
A weekend of laughter, discovery, and connection that brings you closer.

Worship Through The Psalms



by Melanie Verhoeven

This year for our Ladies Night Out (LNO) series we have been led to visit the Psalms. We are looking at themes that resonant within this amazing book of poetry. We are touching topics such as "who is God and why we seek Him," as well as what they say about worship, thanksgiving and praise. This is what we are learning at our November LNO.

Worship and praise of our Lord God is very prevalent in the book of Psalms. We are looking and digging into a couple of the more well known Psalms. Plus, being thankful for what God does even when we don't understand it is a facet of these verses.

Praise could be defined as to express favorable judgment on or to commend, or to glorify God especially by the character of perfection. In the Psalms we see many of the authors expressing this through words that invoke feelings and emotions to follow.



Worship is defined as to honor or show reverence to a divine Being, to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor or devotion.

Thanks is defined as to express gratefulness, gratitude.

As believers we have the wonderful opportunity to participate in all these things regularly. Some of the responses we can have in praise, worship and thanksgiving are to read the Bible, joining others to discuss what you read in the Bible, giving of time, talents and tithes. We can also share our testimony with others and pray for others and ourselves, as well as sing joyfully and with hearts ready to give Him all we have inside.

When we worship, praise or give thanks to God there are some things that happen. We are changed from the inside out. Our hearts become more aligned to His will. When we bring Him honor and praise He reveals more of Himself to us, if we are looking.

When we practice these acts of love toward God we often are gifted with joy, peace and renewal. Romans 12:2 says we are transformed by the renewal of our minds. This shifts our focus from the worldly concerns and towards God's character and works. This deepens our gratitude and contentment. When we seek to glorify God in our worship, praise and thanksgiving, He does a work in us and for us!

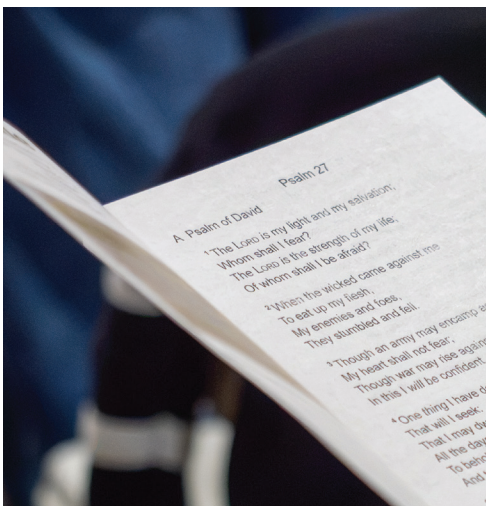


These attitudes and behaviors also foster intimacy and communion with God. Worship creates a space for God to speak to our hearts and sense His presence as we look to Him and remind our hearts of all He has done for us.

Worship, praise and thanksgiving are weapons of spiritual warfare. God's Word shows us that praise can shift the spiritual atmosphere and invite God's intervention. When we praise God for who He is and His character we don't let the enemy in to tell us lies, We are encouraged by God's hand to keep moving forward and to do what He has called us to do, therefore we can over throw the enemy's plans.

When we worship and give thanks, we open the way for God's presence. In Psalm 100:4-5, it describes entering the gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise, showing that worship is a key to experiencing God's nearness.

Praise, worship and thanksgiving honor God, who He is and what He has done, while transforming us into a more grateful, praise filled people who love Him more!



You can register today!!



We encourage you to join us on November 6th for this month's Ladies Night Out, and if you miss it please check it out on our YouTube channel!

Please join us on December 11th for our Christmas Ladies Night Out. This is a special time to celebrate Christmas. We encourage you to invite your friends and sisters, mothers and daughters. Our guest speaker is Joanie Stenzel and she will be preparing a message of joy and hope as we seek to follow Jesus!





Homecoming Week 2026

A WEEK TO REMEMBER!



by Wendy Putnam, M.Ed.,
Middle School/High School Principal

This year's Homecoming Week was filled with school spirit, friendly competition, and plenty of fun thanks to the hard work and creativity of our ASB! The week's activities began with an exciting Powderpuff football game, followed by a spirited Brawleyball (boys' volleyball) match and a school-wide pep rally. The festivities continued with our Homecoming football game and a Spirit Booth sponsored by the school's Parent-Teacher Fellowship, the crowning of this year's Homecoming King and Queen, and a bonfire that brought our middle school and high school students together for an evening of fellowship and fun. The festivities concluded with our annual high school Homecoming Dance. It was another great week to be a Warrior and to celebrate as an entire school community.



FAITH IN ACTION WEEK AT WATERSPRINGS SCHOOL

by Katheryn King, MS, Head of School

October 12–15 was designated as our Faith in Action Week. Our anchor verse for the week was 2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT): **"He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them."**

We kicked off the week with a special chapel service connecting 2 Corinthians 5:15 to our overarching yearly theme, Walking with Purpose (Micah 6:8). The message focused on heart attitudes, motives, and the practical "why" behind putting our faith into action. Students were encouraged to joyfully live for Christ, letting thankful hearts inspire every act of love and service.



Each grade prayerfully selected a specific service project to complete together. Throughout the week, students served both on campus and across our local community. Here are a few areas where we put our faith into action:

- Idaho Falls Youth Ranch
- The Humanitarian Center
- Goodwill
- Sand Creek Golf Course (City of Idaho Falls Parks & Recreation)
- Shepherd's Inn
- Idaho Falls Rescue Mission
- The Salvation Army

While Faith in Action Week has concluded, our students are excited to continue putting their faith into action throughout the entire school year!

Juniors Visit ISU

by Wendy Putnam, M.Ed.,
Middle School/High School Principal

Our juniors recently had the opportunity to visit Idaho State University and get a small taste of college life! Students enjoyed learning more about the admissions process and the variety of majors offered by the university, touring the campus and university housing, and eating lunch in the dining hall. It was a great opportunity to explore what life after high school might look like and begin thinking about future college possibilities.



Watersprings SCHOOL



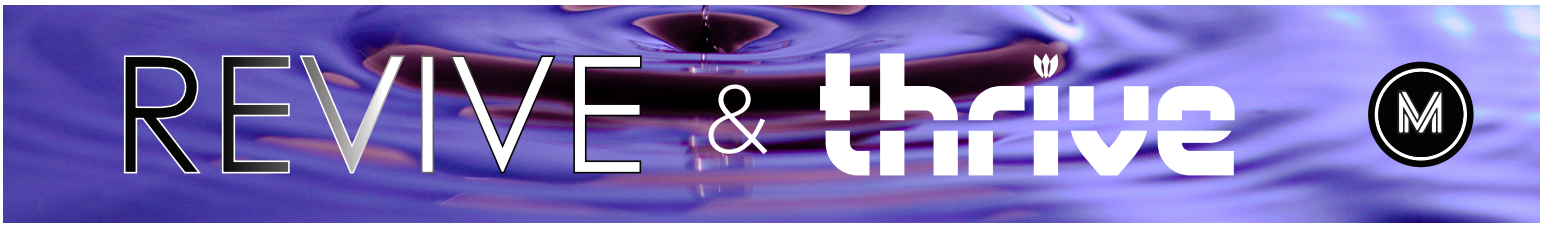
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently hiring for several positions!

Preschool and Elementary Aides

Part-time Middle School Art Teacher

Part-time Elementary PE Teacher



by Ryan Fugh

One of the primary ways we can understand the Bible is through understanding the context that it was written in. Though there are many, what I will call, "sub-contexts," there is one that passes over them all. The "Meta-Narrative" of the Bible. Part of that meta-narrative is God's redemptive plan, because we are all born into sin, we have a sin nature that separates us from a relationship with God. (Romans 3:23; 6:23) Nothing that we can ever do on our own can restore that relationship. Instead of leaving us to die in our sins, God put forth His plan of redemption through His Son (who is God) Jesus Christ.

That plan for redemption is seen throughout the context of the Bible. One of my favorite places it is seen is in the Old Testament book of Ruth. It's a historical account of a Moabite woman named Ruth who is redeemed by her late husband's kinsman named Boaz. There's a lot to unpack from this story, but I want to focus on how Boaz was able to redeem Ruth. In their culture there was a custom called the "levirate marriage," which God placed in His Law in Deuteronomy 25. This practice protected the genealogies of the Israelites in that a man whose brother died without having a son would take his brother's widow and raise up a son in his dead brother's name. At the beginning of Ruth, we see that Ruth's husband died, leaving her a widow with no sons to carry on his name.

Cue Boaz, Boaz was a relative of Ruth's husband and was therefore able to redeem Ruth. Boaz was able to redeem Ruth because he fit three qualifications.

1. He was legally able to. He was a near kinsman to Ruth's late husband, he had the legal right to redeem her.
2. He was physically capable. As seen in Ruth 4:13, Boaz was able to sire children. Since the point of the levirate marriages was to raise up a son, the redeemer had to be able to sire children, to be physically capable.
3. He was willing. In Deuteronomy 25, we see that even though it was a man's duty to redeem his brother's widow, he was not obligated to do so. He could opt out of if he wanted, though he had to lose a sandal in the process. Boaz was more than willing to redeem Ruth.

What does any of that have to do with anything? It tells us about how Christ is our redeemer, and how He was able to redeem us. Just like how Ruth was unable to redeem herself, we are unable to redeem ourselves. And Christ redeemed us through the same qualifications that Boaz did.

1. Legally. Because all of mankind sinned, all of mankind needed to be redeemed. That means that our redeemer had to be without sin. Jesus is that Redeemer. Jesus fulfilled the law, and was the spotless Lamb without blemish, so His redemption was sufficient for all of humanity.
2. Physically. There was a connection necessary for our redemption and that comes from blood. Jesus isn't some far off "phantom" or "spirit" that came down and interacted with humanity. He took on human flesh. Hebrews tells us that because of that we have a High Priest (Jesus) that sympathizes with us because He went through the same things we did. He died a physical death and had a physical resurrection (historical fact verified by eyewitnesses) so that we could be redeemed spiritually and physically.
3. Willingly. In 2nd Peter, we read that we are redeemed not by silver or gold or other perishable things, but rather the imperishable blood of Christ. Who was "foreknown before the foundation of the world," what that tells us is that Christ was willing to die for us before we were ever created. He knew that we would turn against Him in our sin yet chose to create us knowing that He would have to die to redeem us back to Himself.

All that to say that Jesus, in submission to the Father, has the right to redeem us. He fills out all of the necessary requirements, leaving the ball in our court. Will we choose to be redeemed? Once redeemed will we walk confidently in that redemption? There's no need to question it, our redemption is a result of His works, not our own, and therefore there is no need to question its power.

God bless you all

MENS MINISTRY

MINISTRY FOR MEN BY MEN

by Kevin Finnigan

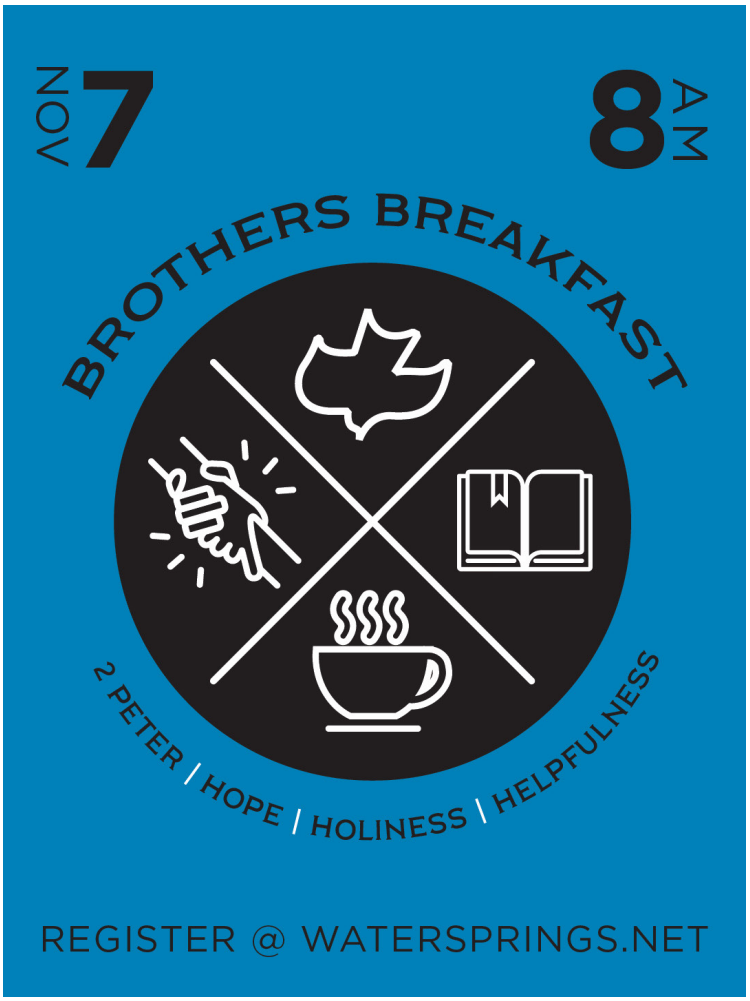
If Watersprings has been your church home for any length of time, you've probably noticed that we have different ministries that seem to be focused on different subsets of our fellowship. You might be aware of our Children's ministry aka KidMin. Or it's hard to miss the Usher/Greeter group of folks that minister in many vital ways. Suffice it to say that we have many dedicated groups of people whose spiritual giftings are being utilized for specific tasks and specific ministries.

One that you may not be aware of is the Men's Ministry. This ministry, as you may have guessed, is designed to meet the unique needs of the men in our congregation. But it goes far beyond events and work projects. Men's Ministry is meant to, as Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:12-13, equip men for the building up of the body of Christ. The goal of Men's Ministry is to provide opportunities for fellowship, instruction and exhortation so that the men of Watersprings will grow in their faith, become faithful leaders of their families, and increase in their abilities to share the Gospel with the world around them.

To those ends, we have various opportunities that include, but are not limited to, a monthly breakfast and teaching, weekly bible studies designed to provide a more intimate setting where men can grow in their knowledge of God's word and help one another with the challenges unique to men, and our annual RESOLVE Men's Conference that provides activities for fellowship as well as teaching from special speakers from other churches who lend their insight on topics that men can relate to.

But wait, there's more! As we gather and grow to know and appreciate each other, we gain insight as to where the spiritual giftings of our men lie. We want the men of Watersprings to grow in their understanding of God's will for their life and how the specific gifts He gives can be sharpened and practiced for the overall health of our church and surrounding communities. This is accomplished by encouraging regular participation in our events, home group participation, and volunteering for projects around the church facility and our surrounding areas.

Stay tuned to this monthly newsletter for more information on the activities of our Men's Ministry and how you can become involved and be blessed in it.





Brad & Haley in the States

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their wrongdoings against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
(2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

In the New Testament, a while after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, Paul writes two different letters to a church that he planted. Some scholars believe there were 3 different letters sent to this same church. In his second (or 3rd) letter to that church, Paul addresses an issue about his identity and ministry. In this address we find our text.

As Paul is writing about his identity as an apostle and the ministry that comes from that, he points out that the Corinthians identity is also tied to Christ's ministry. In verse 17 Paul explains that the Corinthians are a new creation and they're no longer the "old things" that they once were, **"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."** Then he goes on to explain how this happened: **"Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ..."** and **"namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their wrongdoings against them..."**

Basically, through Christ's earthly ministry believers are reconciled (brought back into right relationship) to God. This makes them into new creatures that are no longer tied to the destructive desires of the flesh.

They're not only new creatures, they're also ambassadors. Dictionary.com defines an ambassador as: a diplomatic official of the highest rank sent by a government to represent it on a temporary mission, as for negotiating a treaty. Simply put, ambassadors represent. As ambassadors of Christ we represent the interests of Christ to those in this world. Our mission is one of reconciliation. Helping others realize that God will bring them into a right relationship with Himself should they submit themselves under His kingship.

Our ministry is directly tied to our identity. They are inseparable. Followers of Christ help others step into a reconciled relationship with Christ. When I read this, it took a bunch of pressure, to try to say the exact right thing away. I only had to point out that God was trying to bring them into a right relationship with Himself. Praise His name that He did that with us already!

The aforementioned passage is part of what Bradley got to teach in an evangelism class recently. The class is called 411. It's a simple, short, and concise way of presenting the gospel when speaking with those that we don't know if they are saved. If you are interested in taking the class let me know. It takes about an hour to go through the material but gives you a tool that's easy to teach to others and easy to use.

While Bradley has been working at Watersprings Church and meeting with disciples, Haley has been



taking care of our new baby. Her recovery is continuing steadily. She is learning more and more every day about how to take care of a baby and has been connecting better with him each day.

During this last month Watersprings held a fundraiser to help us reach our goal of $20,000 for a vehicle. The event was called “Meat with Missionaries.” It was a smoked pulled pork dinner and a movie. During the fundraiser, five chefs competed to see who could smoke the most delicious pork shoulder. It was grueling, but in the end, only one came out on top. Casey White won the cook-off by a landslide. Not only did Casey take home the crown and the belt, but we also reached and exceeded our goal for the vehicle!

Shane explained to us that none of the ideas came from him. Instead, the Watersprings church body not only came up with the ideas but also contributed to and staffed each of the fundraisers.

We wanted to personally thank all of you who helped make the fundraisers a possibility and commend the body of Christ for their support in the mission work. Thank you. Thank you so much. For those of you who have continued to lift us up in prayer, thank you as well. Through the prayers and provisions of the saints, we will be able to reach even further in the ministry that God has provided in the Philippines. In the end, all glory goes to God, thank you Lord!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Healing for my wife, we await her recovery so that we can return to the Philippines.
- Our marriage as we navigate this new chapter in life with children and ministry.
- For the preaching Brad is presenting this month.
- For Firth Community Church as they continue to grow in Christ.
- For our siblings that are seeking to have another child.
- For the salvation of Jeremy and Bradley’s older siblings.



Wonder



God kept His promise and brought His people into their own land. God raised up leaders called judges. He also raised up prophets who gave the people messages from God and helped to remind them that He was in charge. God's people asked for a king to rule. In this series, your kids will discover what it means for God to be the only true God and how He invites us to follow and respond to Him.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Bible Story	Bible Passage	Wonder Truth
The Rise and Fall of Saul	1 Samuel 8–10; 13; 15	God Is in Charge
David Spares Saul's Life	1 Samuel 26	God Helps Us
Building of the Temple	1 Kings 8	God's Presence Dwells with His People *God Dwells with His People
Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	1 Kings 18	God Is the Only True God
Josiah and the Book of the Law	2 Kings 22–23; 2 Chronicles 34	God Delights in Our Obedience
Jeremiah and the Scroll	Jeremiah 36	God Invites Us to Respond to Him

Ink®

BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD. I WILL BE HONORED AMONG THE NATIONS. I WILL BE HONORED IN THE EARTH. THE LORD WHO RULES OVER ALL IS WITH US. THE GOD OF JACOB IS LIKE A FORT TO US. –1 CHRONICLES 16:15





KiDMiN

Wonder @Home SERIES

At-Home Bible Story Video

Spotify playlist

WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God.

—Psalm 46:10a *Early Childhood

FAMILY WONDER QUESTIONS

1. Who is in charge of you? How do you know that person is in charge?
2. How do you like to spend time with God?
3. What are some ways God speaks to us?

FAMILY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

- **Be Still in God's Presence:** Turn off the lights and build a simple fort out of a blanket or bed sheet and a few chairs. Sit in the fort (your "temple") and be still in God's presence. We don't need a temple now because our bodies are the temple, or home, of the Holy Spirit. Thank God for His presence with us.

- **Prayer Scrolls:** In Jeremiah 36, Jeremiah hears a message from God, and it's written onto a scroll. God invites us to listen to Him and respond to Him too. Spend time listening for God and write or draw on a paper what He says. Then roll it into a scroll as a reminder of the story and a reminder that we can listen to God.



5 TRAITS CRITICAL TO POLICING

by Tim Rupp

After more than four decades of law enforcement, both as an officer and chaplain, I've learned a thing or two. Actually, I've learned five things, five traits that are critical to law enforcement officers (LEOs) thriving during their career and in retirement. I recently shared these with an audience of active and retired law enforcement officers in Texas. I began with a story. A very important story to American law enforcement.

It was a January night when Whiting Sweeting fled on foot into the cold to escape the law. With arrest warrant in hand, Officer Darius Quimby pursued. The warrant was for trespass, a minor property crime, yet Sweeting vowed not to be taken alive. He ran into the snow-covered woods, jumped on a large rock, and threatened to kill the first man who touched him.



Undaunted by the threats, Officer Quimby came up behind Sweeting and pulled him from the rock to take him into custody. The two men engaged in a brutal fight. Sweeting overpowered the officer and struck him down with a fatal blow. That was January 3, 1791. The New York constable was the first American law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. Yet, more than 230 years and over 27,000 line-of-duty deaths later—in the midst of ever-increasing violence—American law enforcement officers are still on the job, risking their lives to protect ours.

Two centuries later, the world is more violent, America is more violent. The ancient psalmist writes, "I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war!" (Psalm 120:7). Men have been fighting (and killing) each other since the dawn of time. And there's no indication things will change anytime soon. So, as the war between good and evil continues to rage—the battle lines are skewed by people who insist that all humans are basically good and are only interested in benevolence.

Law enforcement officers know better.

The proliferation of violence is cause for alarm. Not only does it way heavy on officers, but it also weighs heavy on their families and friends. How do officers face such danger daily and remain sane? In the police academy, cadets are taught criminal law and police tactics. But there's more to policing than knowing the law and using proper tactics. There's also the human component that includes a soul and a spirit.

There are five traits that I believe are critical to the health of every LEO. The first three I borrow from former Los Angeles PD sergeant and author Joseph Wambaugh. In a 2016 interview, Mr. Wambaugh is quoted as saying, "...there are three qualities...that a good cop needs: common sense, a sense of humor and a bit of compassion."[1] Over the next few newsletters we'll take a look at these—stay tuned!

BRINGING HOPE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT



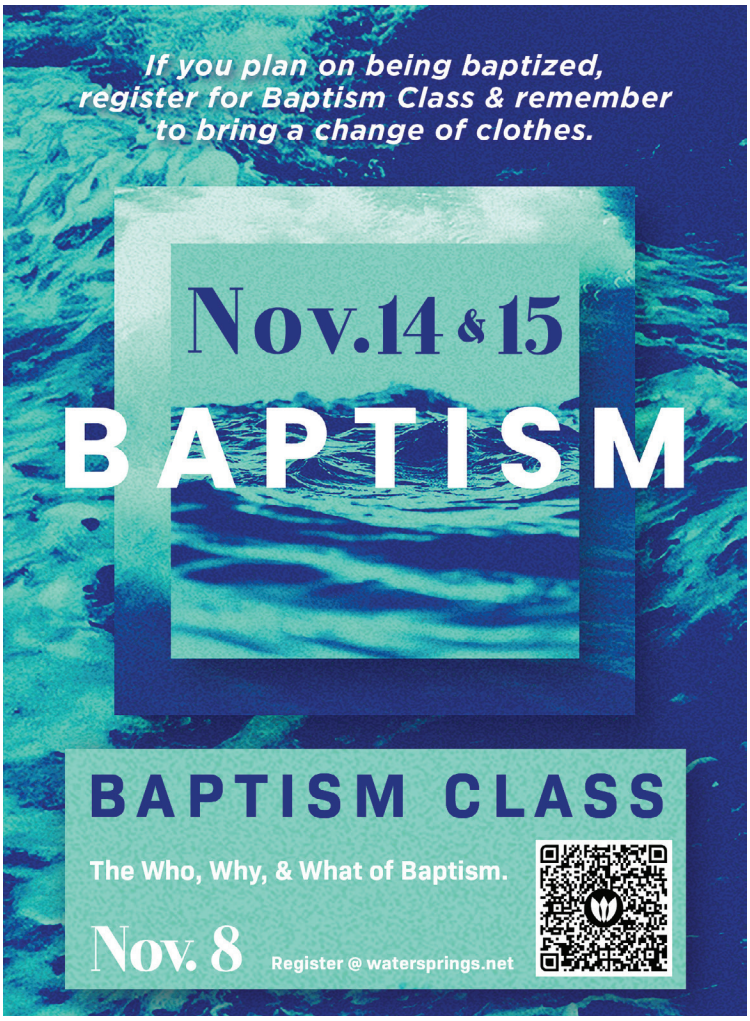
The SBLF—at no cost to officers or their agencies—brings hope to LEOs with training seminars that help them navigate a myriad of issues they deal with. One way we do this is by training chaplains. In the "Winning a Gunfight" seminar and book, officers learn how to win a gunfight tactically, mentally, and ethically—or body, soul, and spirit.

As important as it is to survive a gunfight, winning is much more important. Winning means you come out of a gunfight as a victor. Winning is having a holistic victory. It goes beyond a tactical victory. It also means being victorious mentally and ethically. It's complete victory—body, soul, and spirit. 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

In late September, Dave Evans, a SBLF board member and retired San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) sergeant, and I had breakfast with the newly appointed San Antonio Police Chief Jesse Salame. We shared the SBLF's mission and our Adopt a Cop prayer initiative. He is all in! Chief Salame expressed his excitement about the initiative and will allow us to promote it at all roll calls and with the cadets in the SAPD Academy. After talking to the Chief and attending the special prayer group some officers (both active and retired have formed), Dave and I are extremely excited about the future of the SAPD.

Pray for your police.





[1] (Source: https://www.baltimoresun.com/sd-me-dickey-column-0926-story.html)



HANUKKAH: The Festival of Lights and the Light of the World

A Christian Reflection on the Feast of Dedication

by Pastor Dave Coleman, Your CUFI Representative for Eastern Idaho

DECEMBER 4–12, 2026

As December approaches, Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. At approximately the same time, Jewish families celebrate Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights.

Although these celebrations commemorate different events, they share remarkable historical and spiritual connections—connections that lead us directly to Scripture, biblical prophecy, and the person of Jesus Christ.

A VICTORY FOR FAITH AND FREEDOM

Hanukkah, meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, commemorates the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem in 164 BC, following its desecration by the Seleucid Greek ruler Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Antiochus sought to eradicate Jewish worship and replace it with Greek paganism. He prohibited Sabbath observance, circumcision, and the possession of God's Law. He plundered Jerusalem, desecrated the Temple, and established pagan sacrifices upon its altar.

His persecution sparked a courageous revolt led by an elderly Jewish priest named Mattathias and his five sons. Following Mattathias' death, his son Judas Maccabeus—whose nickname meant "the Hammer"—led the resistance against overwhelming military odds.

In 164 BC, the Jewish forces reclaimed Jerusalem, cleansed the Temple, and rededicated it to the worship of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The historical accounts are preserved in First and Second Maccabees. Although these books are not included in the Canon of Scripture, they provide valuable historical background.



THE MIRACLE OF THE OIL

According to later Jewish tradition, when the Temple was reclaimed, the priests discovered only enough consecrated olive oil to keep the Temple menorah burning for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted eight days, allowing time to prepare additional oil.

This tradition is remembered through the lighting of the Hanukkiah, a special nine-branched lamp. Eight lights represent the eight days of Hanukkah, while the ninth, called the shamash, or servant candle, is used to light the others.

Families celebrate with prayers, songs, games, and foods prepared in oil, including latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly-filled doughnuts).

Hanukkah celebrates God's faithfulness, the preservation of Jewish worship, and the triumph of light over darkness.

Love-Centered Theology

PART 6

by Pastor Ty Orr

LOVE FLOURISHES IN COMMUNITY

Just as God loves in His intra-Trinitarian unity, we experience and give love in community. Sadly, through individualism, many have bought into the deceptive decision-only Gospel, which Scot McKnight calls a "salvation culture," which focuses on "who is in and who is out," or, more personally, "Are you in or out?"[1] This *evangelical culture*, as McKnight calls it, focuses on the personal (individual) experience of salvation rather than on healthy corporate *Gospel culture*,[2] which is necessary to build a community of love founded on discipleship through sacrificial love expressed in devotion for God and others. Without community and discipleship, repentance is often overlooked, and thus love is misunderstood as a "me" thing.

Yes, there is a clear individual dimension to soteriology (John 1:11-12; Romans 10:13), but our personal salvation must not be separated from the faith community. For we are born again by the Spirit into the Body of Christ. Paul writes, **"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many"** (1 Corinthians 12:12-14). The Gospel community is where biblical love is expected to flourish as a divine witness of healthy discipleship (1 Corinthians 13:1-13). Jesus said, **"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"** (John 13:34-35).

Joseph Hellerman notes that for almost two generations, our Western culture has been wrestling with a mindset of *radical individualism* that has affected every facet of our culture today,[3] leading to how some now see love as "quid pro quo" rather than selfless and sacrificial. Consideration of how this has impacted Church communities over time is also significant, though we may not yet fully grasp its extent. But sadly, many say they no longer need the Church community.

Therefore, this fierce, independent spirit and individualized view of salvation must move the Church today to have honest, vulnerable conversations about real biblical love and how it shapes Gospel Transformation, salvation, culture, and healthy faith community. John writes, **"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love"** (1 John 4:7-8).

John's warning haunts my thoughts about the subject at hand and about our culture's confusion about what it means to love God, love the Church community, and love the lost.

However, no one, regardless of how self-sufficient or independent they are, exists "from themselves." Humanity needs God's love, as well as the love, devotion, and

[1-2]Scot McKnight, *The King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited,* Revised Edition (Zondervan, 2016), 30.
[3]Joseph H. Hillerman, *When the Church was a Family*, (B&H Publishing Group, Brentwood, Tennessee, 2009), 4.

companionship of others, to be whole as God intended. Consider for a moment that the one thing God said was *not good* was that Adam was alone.[4] Because of this, God made Eve, a helper comparable to him (Genesis 2:18). Eve was to be Adam's partner in life, and he was to be hers in service to God, to rule together and build alongside God as He commanded, empowered, and provided for them. It seems, for lack of a better term, that it was a divinely arranged marriage for building community.

But we should note that *love* is not mentioned in the text from creation to the fall, yet it is present at every wedding that uses this text. There may be more to consider here regarding God's love for His creation and those created to rule with Him in partnership. But without question, what was meant to be in the Garden was ruined by the fall, and sin has confused what love is meant to be in everyday life. Also, did they have affection and desire for one another? We would assume so, but whatever it was becomes twisted and broken by the fall.

So, I wonder whether Adam and Eve were "in love" as we understand it today, or whether what we know of human love is part of the curse after the fall. God created them in His image with what we would assume as emotion and desire, for God is not impassionate, but those must have looked and felt different before sin corrupted their whole beings.[5]

CONCLUSION: PULLING THINGS TOGETHER

In some ways, I see this as my own reflection in a broken mirror. The more I dig in, the more fractures I see in my own thinking and teaching about love, and in how my tradition, culture, and Church experiences have influenced me. The more we learn, the more we know what we don't know.

Love-Centered Theology appears, at first glance, to be a subcategory of practical [pastoral] theology in academic terms. However, I might strongly suggest that all theology must be *love-centered* or take a

[4] This idea has been weighing on me and, in some ways, it makes me sad. God, who has never known loneliness, sees Adam's loneliness and his need for help and community. Our God exists in community and calls us to community as well.
[5] Have we confused sexual desire with biblical love? Paul writes, "Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband." (2 Corinthians 7:2, c.f., Acts 15:28-29) I understand his context and do not disagree, but is this really the best reason to get married? How many have done this at the behest of Church leaders or parents and lived to regret it? Paul also said, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and of self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7, my translation)



love-first position. For in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, **"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing"** (1 Corinthians 13:2). How can we say we know God, who is love (1 John 4:8, 16), if we have no evidence of love in our personal lives, ministry, or Churches? Therefore, a love-centered relational paradigm with God and others seems unavoidable in healthy orthodoxy and orthopraxy.

We might also consider it this way: Love-Centered Theology is a rule of life that understands God, salvation, Scripture, and the Christian life in light of the reality that God is fundamentally and eternally holy and just through His loyal love and faithfulness. Therefore, *Love-Centered Theology takes first place as the relational reality of God's nature and His interaction with His created realm, in which we, as His image-bearers, are to love as we have been loved, thus, making love the centerpiece of our personal and corporate theological devotion and exploration of God's relational revelation to the world.*

Steven Cole makes a point in his study from 1 John 4-11 that I will quote in its entirety. "At its heart, biblical love is a *commitment*, and thus it may be commanded. But it is not a commitment without feeling, but a *caring* commitment. In other words, biblical love involves delight, not just duty. Also, this caring commitment is not just an attitude, but an action: it *shows itself* in deeds. Those deeds often require *self-sacrifice*, seen supremely in Jesus' going to the Cross. The goal of this commitment is *the highest good of the one loved*, which is that the person be saved and be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Thus, biblical love allows for loving correction when needed."[6]

For if we hate the sinner (Luke 6:32-36), we fail to love, and if we affirm sin and do not confront it, we also fail to love… either way, we cause harm (Leviticus 19:17). For Paul says, **"Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law"** (Romans 13:10). The "law of love" is not about rule-keeping but self-denying action to serve others on behalf of God.

We therefore can argue that biblical love can transform a culture through the Gospel. Just ask Elisebeth Elliot and her daughter, who lived among the Huaorani (or Waodani) people after they killed her husband and five other men.[7,8] But to say that the idea or feeling of love that so many are seeking can change the world is a pipe dream. Anything short of that divine love working through individuals in the Gospel community will fall short of knowing and being known in a loving community in order to be a witness to the world.

[6] Steven J. Cole, "Lesson 19: Why We Must Love (1 John 4:7-11)," in *1 John*, Steven J. Cole Commentary Series (Dallas: Galaxie Software, 2017), 1 Jn 4:7–8.
[7] Elisabeth Elliot, *Through Gates of Splendor*. (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale 2005)
[8] On January 8, 1956, Jim Elliot, along with Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Pete Fleming, and Roger Youderian, landed on a sandbar dubbed "Palm Beach" along the Curaray River to contact the "Aucas," a Quechua word used by neighbors to mean "savages" in what was called "Operation Auca." The five men were speared to death by a group of Huaorani warriors as they came in hopes of building a relationship with the tribe to bring the Gospel. Despite the tragedy, Elliot's wife, Elisabeth Elliot, and daughter, along with Rachel Saint (Nate's sister), later lived among the tribe and successfully established peace and continued missionary work.

LivingWATER

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UPCOMING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

NOV 6	**Ladies Night Out** - 7:00pm*
NOV 7	**Brothers Breakfast** - 8:00am*
NOV 8	**Baptism Class** - 1:00pm*
NOV 14	**Awana Grand Prix** - 9:00am / Aux Gym
NOV 14&15	**Baptism Weekend** - Baptisms at all services
NOV 18	**Night of Thanks & Giving** - 7:00pm / Fellowship Hall
NOV 20&21	**The Relationship Experience***
NOV 21&22	**OCC Shoebox -** Final collection at all services
NOV 22	**Coffee with the Pastor** - 1:00pm*
NOV 25	**No Worship Service/Awana in Observation of Thanksgiving**
NOV 25-27	**Church Office Closed in Observation of Thanksgiving**

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