



# The Steeple

A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church  
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois



**AUGUST 2020**

## Greetings People of Infinite Worth!

In late September of 2019, I remember agonizing about which 2020 planner to purchase. Have I mentioned that I love the New Year? I agonized between two types of planners: planner 'A' and 'B'. After I purchased planner 'B' an even better design surfaced, and it was cheaper than either 'A' or 'B'. I was upset with myself; I should have waited to purchase a planner until later in the year. As January 2020 unfolded, I kicked myself for not waiting to purchase planner 'C'. Now I laugh at how I obsessed about which planner to buy, because it did not matter in the long run. Most of my 2020 calendar pages are empty. How often do we obsess about things that turn out to be unimportant?

Very little has gone according to plan so far in 2020. Most events, meetings, services, and gatherings look astonishingly different than we had expected, if they occurred at all. If you have been in the United Methodist family for any length of time, you may be wondering, whatever happened to Annual Conference this year?

**Annual Conference (AC)**, for those who are not sure what it is, is a yearly meeting for the clergy and the laity (non-clergy), the bishop, and his cabinet. Thousands of us meet in Peoria, IL at the convention center. The purpose of the AC is to worship together, and to discuss and vote on church business. Normally, it occurs during the first week in June. AC was postponed this year because of the Coronavirus. However, it has been rescheduled for during the month of August. Like so many other gatherings, it will look markedly different this year than in years past.

The date for **AC is August 15th**. We will not all meet together in Peoria, however; several locations are available for those who want to gather in smaller groups to view the proceedings via the Internet. One or two churches out of each district will be open and available for people to meet so they can discuss and vote on legislation. Those who do not feel comfortable meeting at churches for AC, have the option to 'attend' and vote from their home computer screen.

What are some of the things that happen at AC besides discussion and voting? When we meet in person, we enjoy reconnecting with our colleagues. We might have a special lunch with our graduating class or fellow alums. The worship is outstanding and the speakers are the very best! Naturally, this year, we will miss out on the fellowship aspect of AC. We always honor and celebrate the clergy brothers and sisters who are retiring. This year, like years before, we will watch the short videos the retirees made about the highlights from their tenure or tell us about what they intend to do in retirement. We will remember and honor the ministries of churches that have completed their mission and are closing. This year there are ten churches closing. We will celebrate the ordination of new pastors and welcome the new candidates for ministry. I have chosen to attend the AC via my computer at home. It will be a strange experience to be sure.

As always, I pray for my dear church family as we weather this difficult time. I pray that you are feeding your souls as best you are able. Just a reminder that on Sundays we have in-person **worship at 8:45 a.m. and we meet outdoors** as weather permits. If the ground is wet or it is raining, we meet indoors. Our **Awakening service continues at 10:30 a.m., in the sanctuary** as usual. We are recording the Awakening service and the link can be found on Facebook later in the morning, or you can access it through our church website under the "sermons" tab.

**Blessings!**  
**Pastor Debra**

REFLECTIONS...



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Melvin “Mick” Barach**, husband of Marlene Barach who is a cousin of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; the family of **William “Bill” Gustin** brother-in-law of Kay (Don) Gwaltney; the family of **Dorothy Strohbeck**, 2nd cousin-in-law of Dorothy Kasinger, Marjorie Hall, and Ruth Champlin; and the family of **Mary Meyer** member of St. Paul UMC (write-up will be in the September Steeple). **May all who are touched by a loss know God’s comfort and peace now and in the days ahead.**
- **Thank you** all for the beautiful cards, the Facebook Congratulations, and the parade driving by the house to help us celebrate our 70th Wedding Anniversary! It was an extremely special day and we feel very blessed to have all of you in our lives! God bless you!  
**Ruth & Tom Voorhees**

**UMCOR**

Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

## UMCOR ANTICIPATES MANY CALLS FOR HELP

**Hurricane Douglas** is heading toward Hawaii. **Tropical Storm Hanna** is bringing heavy rain to the U.S. Gulf Coast and **Tropical Storm Gonzalo** is skimming the coast of South America as it makes its way to the Gulf of Mexico.

The 2020 hurricane season is well underway with a record-setting number of early and large storms impacting communities already strained by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Please help UMCOR respond to the urgent requests it will receive from those in need of relief. You are there** when you give to UMCOR. For 80 years, faithful friends such as you have helped people recover from the impact of disasters of all kinds, including storms and pandemics.



## In a world where you can be anything... Be Kind!

**KIND Youth** will continue to meet via Zoom. Parents/grandparents/youth - please contact Lauren if you are interested in being a part of our youth group. We will be doing **drive-by blessings** regularly to keep the youth engaged until we can again meet in person.

**Drive-by blessings** will include: a goody bag, a devotion, and a socially distant prayer for those who would like to pray together.

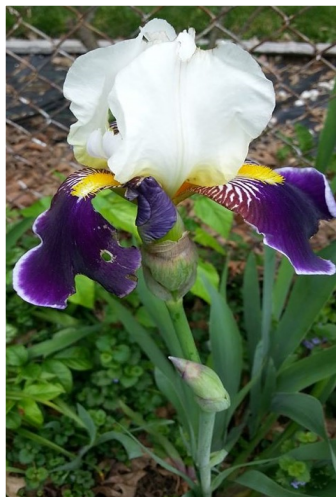
**Questions? Call Lauren at 660-7967.**

**We love you, church, and love your prayers for us! In God’s Love and Kindness,  
Lauren Friese - Youth Director**





**BUT SAMUEL REPLIED, "WHAT IS MORE PLEASING TO THE LORD: YOUR BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES OR YOUR OBEDIENCE TO HIS VOICE? LISTEN! OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE, AND SUBMISSION IS BETTER THAN OFFERING THE FAT OF RAMS.  
1 SAMUEL 15:22**

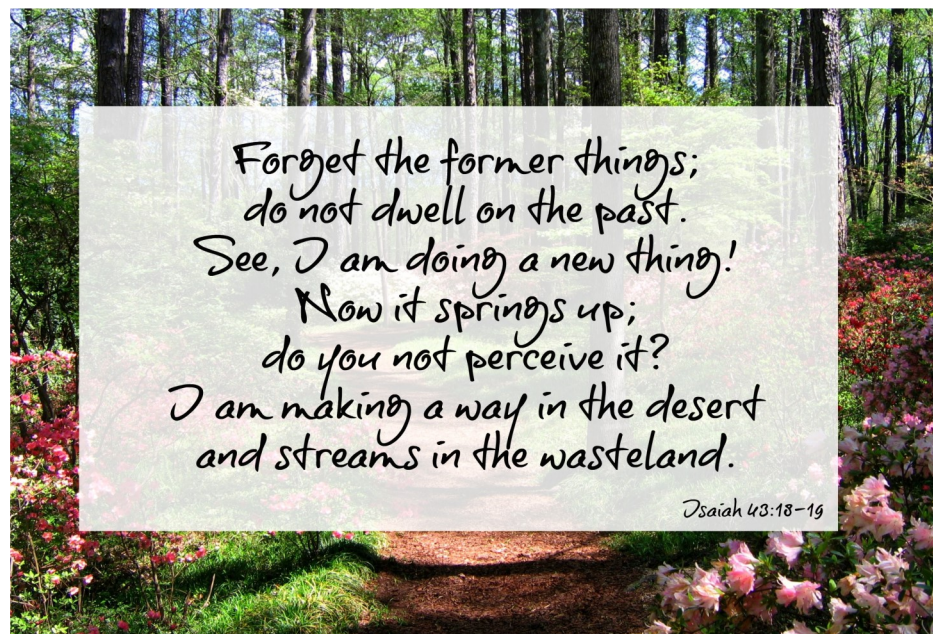


*The sheep is worthy of divine rescue simply because it is loved by the Shepherd.*



*Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up;  
do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the desert  
and streams in the wasteland.*

*Isaiah 43:18-19*



*We will  
never change  
the world  
by just going  
to church.  
We will only  
change it  
by being the church*

*Don't carry your  
mistakes around with you.  
Instead place them under  
your feet and use them as  
stepping stones to rise  
above them.*

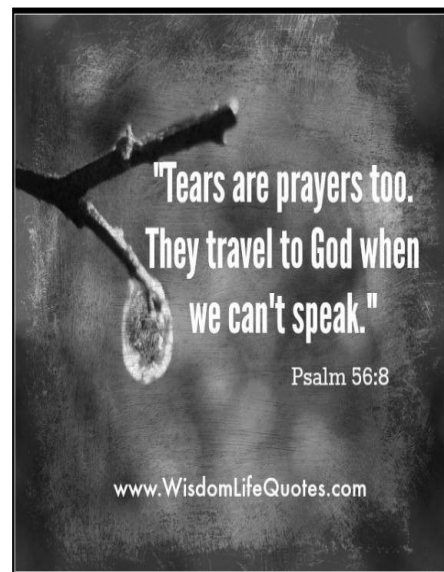
lessonslearnedinlifeinc ©



*"Tears are prayers too.  
They travel to God when  
we can't speak."*

*Psalms 56:8*

[www.WisdomLifeQuotes.com](http://www.WisdomLifeQuotes.com)







## Sunday Services at St. Paul in **AUGUST**

**INFORMATION:** We are now able to bring the message each Sunday to you inside and outside, on the Facebook Pages, and on the Website. The online service will continue even now we are back in the building for those who still cannot join us. The Facebook Pages are: St. Paul United Methodist - East Alton, IL and [AwakeningWorshipSTPUMC](https://www.facebook.com/AwakeningWorshipSTPUMC)  
The Website is: [www.stpaulwired.org](http://www.stpaulwired.org) - look under **Sermons** for the link.

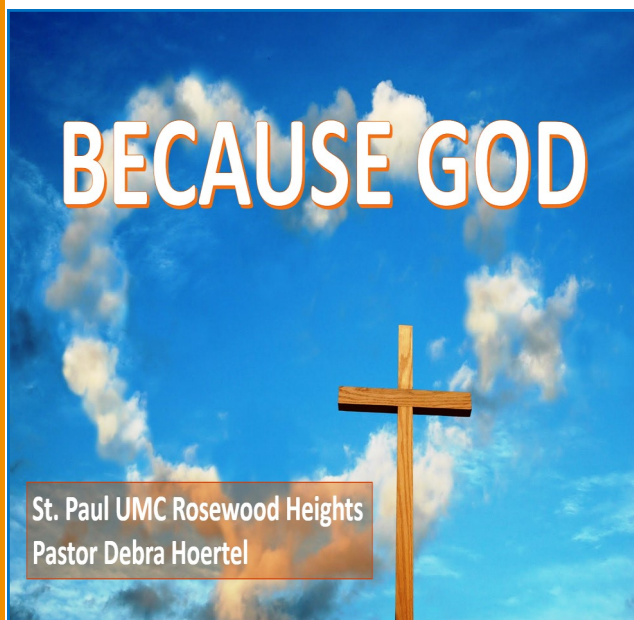


### **2nd:** SERMON SERIES CONCLUDES: BROKENNESS

Message: All-Inclusive!

Scripture: *Romans 9:1-5.*

In our new sermon series, *Because God*, we do not consider *how* events occurred in the life and ministry of Jesus, but rather *why*. What is God's "why?"



### **9th:** NEW SERMON SERIES: BECAUSE GOD

Message: The Word Is Near

Scripture: *Matthew 14:22-33.*

### **16th:** SERMON SERIES: BECAUSE GOD

Message: To The Lost Sheep

Scripture: *Matthew 15:21-32.*

### **23rd:** SERMON SERIES: BECAUSE GOD

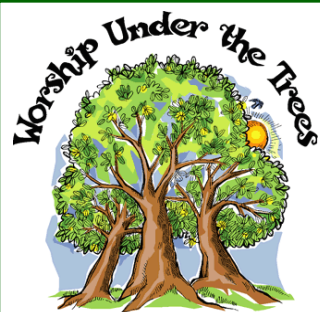
Message: Who Do You Say?

Scripture: *Matthew 16:13-20.*

### **30th:** SERMON SERIES: BECAUSE GOD

Message: Holding Fast

Scripture: *Matthew 16:21-28.*



## WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IS IN THE CHURCH

AMPHITHEATER AT 8:45 a.m.

IT WILL GO THROUGH SEPTEMBER!  
Watch for when we add more Sunday School  
classes back in the mix!

(In case of extreme weather or uncomfortable conditions, the service will have to be moved inside.  
Please watch email, Facebook pages, etc. for more information as things can change daily.)



**Our Annual Conference has been moved from the beginning of June to August 15, 2020. It will be held online.**



### **Things I am learning as I go thru this “fire”.....**

#### **1. Be honest with God about how you’re feeling.**

Relationships start with being real. So if you’re feeling forsaken by God, tell Him that. Ask God your questions and prepare your heart to hear His answers.

#### **2. Give God glory anyway.**

Our feelings don’t change the fact that God is worthy of being worshiped. In fact, it’s often through worship that we discover the cure for our worry. When we focus on who God is, our perspective will eventually shift—even if our situation doesn’t.

#### **3. Remind God of His promises.**

Throughout Psalm 22, David basically tells God, “I know who You are. And since You’re always true to character, deliver me like You’ve delivered Your people before me.” Reminding God of His promises is not only an act of faith, but it also helps **us** remember the faithfulness of God’s character.

Ultimately, God’s faithfulness was personified when Jesus was crucified. Jesus willingly suffered alone on the cross so that we could experience eternal companionship with God. Jesus is the prophetic fulfillment of Psalm 22. And, because He endured separation from God, we never have to.

Take a moment to reflect on Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice for you.

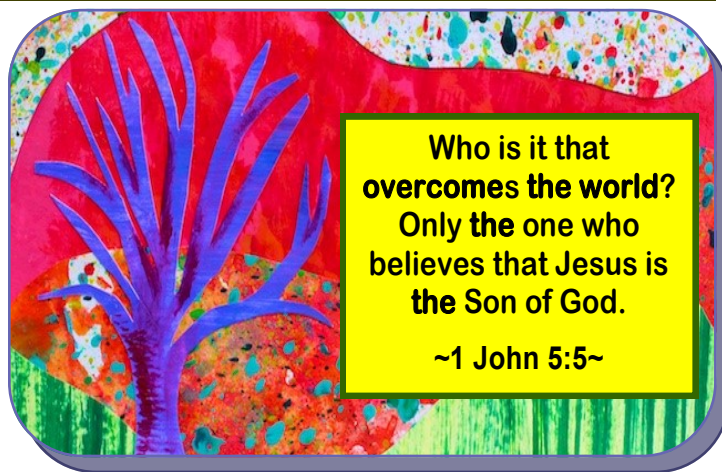
--Andy Richard Raines, The Passion Painter

### **WESLEY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

Teacher Iris Uzzell has restarted the Wesley Sunday School class. It meets at **9:15 a.m. in the Parlor**. If you would like to join them, wear a mask, plan to spread out, and know that the room will be well disinfected!

The class is studying “**Attitude Is Your Paintbrush**” by James Moore. If you have questions, give Iris a call at **259-8106** today!

There is room for more people!





## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

**"Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work!"**

01-Aug Savannah Cincoski  
 01-Aug Finnegan Plummer  
 02-Aug Josh Brown  
 03-Aug Nealy Budde  
 03-Aug Linda Tillery  
 05-Aug Ryan Scroggins  
 06-Aug Norris Dorsey  
 07-Aug Jessica Roberts  
 09-Aug Tracy Franks  
 09-Aug Nic Hale  
 10-Aug Lois Mitchell  
 11-Aug Betty Burns  
 11-Aug Alex Davis  
 11-Aug Erin Hall  
 11-Aug Mary Meyer  
 11-Aug Tyler Skinner  
 12-Aug Jaxson Helmkamp  
 13-Aug Elinor Blacklock  
 13-Aug Brandie Brown  
 13-Aug Jennifer Garrison  
 13-Aug Katie Herndon  
 13-Aug Grace McPheters  
 14-Aug Alicia Herndon Gregg  
 14-Aug Jim Stewart  
 15-Aug Chandra Redden  
 15-Aug Anika Richter

16-Aug Ryne Emerick  
 16-Aug Stephanie Redden  
 17-Aug Andrea Reed  
 17-Aug Tracy Scoggins  
 19-Aug Chance Foss  
 19-Aug Alan Uzzell  
 20-Aug Leta Harshbarger  
 20-Aug Jo Ann Hill  
 20-Aug Gracie Mortland  
 22-Aug Brooke Standefer  
 23-Aug Carol Carn  
 23-Aug Dave Herndon  
 24-Aug Michael Scroggins  
 25-Aug Lauren Friese  
 25-Aug Emily Hall  
 25-Aug Bethany Rain  
 26-Aug Teri Sabo, RN  
 26-Aug Terry Sitze  
 27-Aug Keith Armon  
 27-Aug Logan Scroggins  
 28-Aug Noël Schiber  
 29-Aug Kristin Cameron

29-Aug Doug Clouatre  
 29-Aug Danny Redden  
 29-Aug Joanna Scroggins  
 29-Aug Lori Seba  
 30-Aug Karah Phelps  
 31-Aug Mike Scroggins  
 31-Aug Juliana Sullivan



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

06-Aug Duane & Sandy Moore  
 10-Aug Rod & Virginia Croxford  
 12-Aug Randy & Mindy McLain  
 13-Aug John & Leona Hendricks  
 15-Aug Duane & Tamara Atchley  
 17-Aug Steve & Sarah Campbell  
 18-Aug Bill & Amy Hale  
 19-Aug John & Barbara Yunker



20-Aug Nathan & Lydia Chester  
 22-Aug Tim & Joni Bunt  
 22-Aug Keith & Ashley Sheppard  
 23-Aug Terry & Betty Sitze  
 24-Aug Scott & Jamie Gwaltney  
 26-Aug Jim & Maggie Funke  
 30-Aug David & Lisa Betts

**It is time to UPDATE our Church Directory for 2020-2021!**

The church office will be updating the Church Directory for 2020-2021! Please contact the church office if you have had a **change of address, phone number, or email address since the last printing!** The 2020-2021 Church Directory will be completed as soon as possible after we get back to coming to church again! Thank you!





## JULY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 7/31/2020	\$15465.00
Designated Giving:	through 7/31/2020	\$1992.00
	Capital Improvements	160.00
	Loose Change	47.00
	Flowers	20.00
	Upper Room	20.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	125.00
	Charles McKnelly	500.00
	Happy Bears	50.00
	Helping Hands	50.00
	Reimbursements	1020.00
Transfer from Reserves		194.53
Online Giving		375.00
Capital Campaign		800.00
Total:		\$18826.53

## OFFERING

AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Just a quick reminder... during this time when you may or may not be able to join our in-person services there are still ways to send your tithes & offerings. You can send it through the US Mail, through Bill Pay with your bank, through our website's Online Giving, and by handing it to us at the door to the building. If you plan to bring it by here, please, call first to make sure we are here. Thank you so much!

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

Organizers have confirmed that the next General Conference will now be on Aug. 29-Sept. 7, 2021 in Minneapolis. The organizers are still looking for ways to ensure delegates, even if they can't meet in person, can participate online in what many expect to be a historic legislative meeting.

**Keep this meeting  
in your prayers!**

**DEADLINE FOR  
SEPTEMBER 2020  
STEEPLE,  
Friday,  
AUGUST 21st!**



## MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

August's Loose Change Project is UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This ministry assists in disasters in our country and throughout the world. Help is given for flood, tornado, hurricanes, and fire. In addition this agency supports ongoing programs in parts of the world that have nutrition and food supply problems. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

## Follow the 3 W's



**WASH** your hands

**WATCH** your distance

**WEAR** your mask

#SlowTheSpread





## ST. PAUL UMC PHONE TREE, "OTTO"

We introduce you to "**Otto**," the automatic phone call system (our Phone Tree). Some of you may recall that in the past, the church has used an automatic calling system to inform members of event reminders or church cancellations due to inclement weather. We are in the process of updating our Otto phone lists for the call system. We will only use Otto in case of last minute changes or reminders for worship services or church meetings or activities/events.

On **Thursday, August 6th**, we will begin to test the system. Sometime during that day, you will receive an Otto phone call from the church; it will be a pre-recorded message from Pastor Debra. If you answer the call, you will hear the outgoing message. If your answering machine/voice mail picks up the call, it will be recorded.

### **There is nothing you need to do, unless:**

1. You want us to use a different phone number, (a cell phone **instead** of a land line or visa-versa)
2. You want us to use an additional phone number, (a cell phone **&** a land line or both spouses' numbers)
3. You do **not** receive a call from us on that day but want to be added to the list.
4. You would prefer not to receive any calls. (Not recommended)

If you desire a change, please contact the church and we will update our phone list to reflect your preference. This is a wonderful way for us to communicate with all of our church family.



## Mission Possible UPDATE ☺

We are continuing to lower the remaining debt to the Endowment Fund on a monthly basis. Please continue your prayers and generous giving as we seek to meet our goal of "no indebtedness." Hopefully, the end of our debt to ourselves will allow us to meet our apportionments to the greater United Methodist Church.

**Many blessings and thanks to all, from your current St. Paul UMC Trustees:**  
Mike Tappy, Scott Gwaltney, Ian Martin, Noël Schiber, Joe Hoertel, John Hendricks,  
Karen Challandes (secretary), Jim Herndon (chairman), and Pastor Debra Hoertel

## SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

Each year in August the Outreach Ministry Team sponsors the collection of school supplies. **This year it begins August 2nd and continues through August 30th.** This is so school supplies can be distributed to the children as school starts, whatever that looks like in each School District.

The school supplies go to schools in the districts of Bethalto, Roxana, and East Alton. These are then distributed to children who need supplies which families cannot provide.



**Paper, crayons, scissors, pencils, erasers, folders, and binders are always needed.** Place the supplies in the **coat area/hallway** where we traditionally gather items for various collections, if you **bring them on Sundays**. If you bring them **during the week**, we will have a large box for you to place them in at the bottom of the stairs from the back double outside doors. Just ring the doorbell and we will let you in.

Any amount is always appreciated!

**The school supplies will be distributed the week of August 30th.**





Current month info is posted below. There are still openings on: **NOV. 15 & DEC. 27!** This is a great ministry to honor or remember someone or a special day. Please, let's finish filling in the chart! Sign-up when you come to church, call the church office (259-5310), or send an email to ([info@stpaulwired.org](mailto:info@stpaulwired.org)) if you are interested. The cost to sponsor flowers is only \$10. Thank you!

## ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

**August 2:** Sponsored by **The Herndon Family** in memory of **Mary Herndon**.

**August 9:** Sponsored by **Dorothy Kasinger** in memory of **Beulah & Vic Strohbeck**.

**August 16:** Sponsored by **Rod & Virginia Croxford** in honor of their **Granddaughter's Wedding**.

**August 23:** Sponsored by **Jim & Maggie Funke** in celebration of their **31st Wedding Anniversary!**

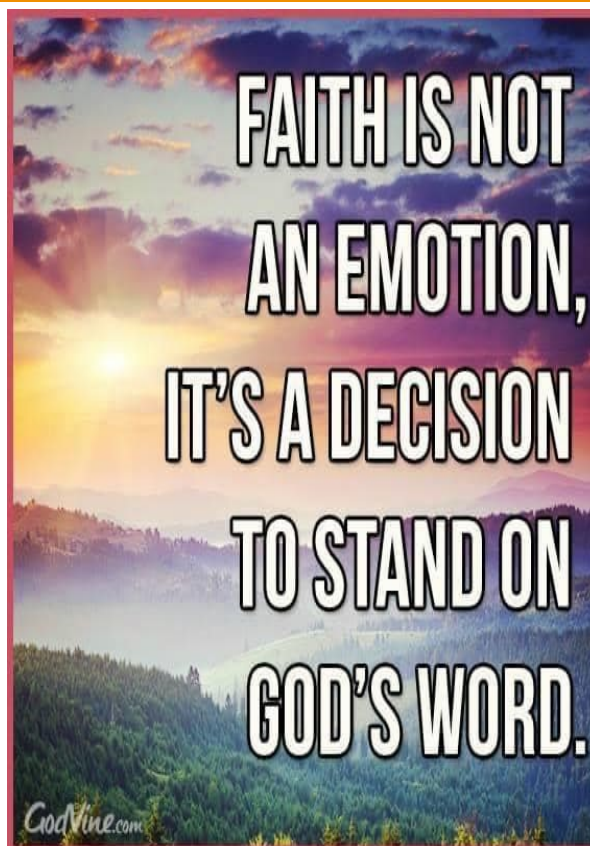
**August 30:** Sponsored by **Ann Hendricks & Karen Challandes** to say -- **Happy Birthday Dad (John Hendricks)!**

**September 6:** Sponsored by **The Dave Schiber Family** to say -- **Happy Birthday Grandpa Bunt (Don on 9/11)!**

**Thank you! And remember to pay your \$10 sponsorships as the dates come around!**

**"The other side of the pillow; bakery air; when socks from the dryer match up perfectly; finding your keys after looking forever; the friendly nod between strangers out doing the same thing; celebrating your pet's birthday even though they have no idea what's going on; when you hear someone's smile over the phone."**

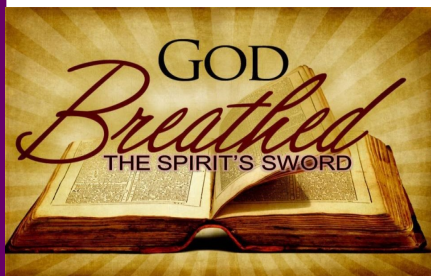
**~from The Book of Awesome,  
a compendium of the  
often-overlooked joys in life**





## Activating the Healing Power of God's Word

By James P. Gills



"Your words were found and I ate them. And Your word became to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart, for I am called by Your name, O Lord God of Hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

It is encouraging to find that many of the passages of Scripture that deal with healing point us to the healing power of God's Word. The reason it is so encouraging is that we have the Word of God in our

hands and so can plead with God to fulfill these promises in our lives by faith and the work of His Spirit. Solomon counsels us to cling to God's Word in our hearts. (Prov. 3:1)

The mercy and truth that God speaks forth to you from the Word are designed to work in you a life that will "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." (Prov. 3:5-6)

The truth embraced and lived is health. "It will be health to your body, and strength to your bones." (Prov. 3:8) The Message paraphrases it like this: "Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life!" The ways of God marked out for you in His Word are said to be "ways of pleasantness, and ... peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy is everyone who retains her." (Prov. 3:17-18, MEV)

Embracing God's truth activates all that is good, all that is honoring to God, and all that is concerned with true joy. Here is how you find the satisfaction, contentment and appreciation of God and His created gifts and joys. By doing so you implement what God calls you to and you know the fulfillment of God's promises. You will know the joys of serving your wife or husband, family and community. (Ps. 112) By embracing God's truth, you will know the love of God poured out into your heart. (Rom. 5:5) You will know how to deal with fear: "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord." (Ps. 112:7)

It is life renewed to enjoy daily the majesty of God in appreciation of all His gifts to us and callings that rest upon us in a life with anointed purpose.

The healing that comes from the Word of God is described in Nehemiah. The captives who returned from Babylon gathered to hear the Word of God read and explained. The effect of that day was to teach them that "the joy of the Lord is your strength." (Neh. 8:10c)

The message of the healing power of God's Word is found throughout the Bible. *Psalms 107:20* says, "He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destruction." God sends His Word to us. We are often jarred off-center when illness comes our way; we easily get discouraged and flounder in a disoriented perspective of our lives.

Prayer is the opposite of self-reliance. Joy is the opposite of self-pity. A thankful spirit is the opposite of cynicism. These negative dispositions are the things that destroy you; joy, prayer and gratitude are the graces that enliven you and keep you living in the presence of God who is your only source of lasting and satisfying peace. When this realization dwells in you, you see the folly and vanity of life and understand that everything is contingent upon divine goodness and grace.

When your heart is infused with God's Word, you observe a wholeness and balance, and understand that the love and joy you experience today, and the appreciation you can offer in worship now, are elements in your eternal life with Him. This is healing.

*This is an excerpt from God's Prescription for Healing by James P. Gills, M.D.*





**Be yourself.**



**No one can say  
you're doing it wrong.**



God gave you a  
fingerprint that no  
one else has, so  
you can leave an  
imprint that no one  
else can.

**CHARACTER IS  
HOW YOU TREAT  
THOSE WHO CAN  
DO NOTHING  
FOR YOU.**

*Being a Christian is less  
about cautiously avoiding sin  
than about courageously and  
actively pursuing God's will.*

-DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

**ALMOST EVERYTHING  
WILL WORK AGAIN  
IF YOU UNPLUG IT  
FOR A FEW MINUTES,  
INCLUDING YOU.**

**It's better to have  
LAUGH WRINKLES**



**than WORRY  
WARTS!!**

Not enough  
hours in the day?  
**Stop**  
doing things that  
don't matter.

**FORGIVE THEM EVEN IF  
THEY'RE NOT SORRY.**



**When I stand  
before God at the  
end of my life,  
I would hope that  
I would not have  
a single bit of  
talent left, and  
could say,  
"I used everything.  
You gave me."**

-ERMA BOMBECK

**Christians**  
they'll know we are  
by our love.