

I believe that if Israel would have continued to worship and dance before the Lord, God would have given them the reason why they were going to Marah.

Israel was living in yesterday's victory, so even the very will of God looked as if it opposed them. They were not ready for this next move of God.

When a Christian today stops vocally worshipping, reading their bible, praying and fasting, sharing their testimony, and leading others to Christ, their spirit cannot discern the things of the Holy Ghost, and they become confused, and ready to give up. This is right where the devil wants you to be.

I can hear people as they read this saying, do you mean we have to do all this? I say to you that one compliments the other and when you are walking by the Spirit, these things flow out of you naturally.

Carnal things like watching TV etc... take up way more time in a person's life than the things I have listed.

Besides, I know what I am saying is true. I would like to encourage you to stay connected to Jesus, and you will be able to discern what is of God and the intended purposes of God.

Jesus didn't save you to leave you dry. (Without the Holy Ghost) Jesus saved you to send you a comforter that would

walk beside you your entire life, which would refresh you, and empower you. Consider these scriptures.

John 7:37 - 40 (KJV) *37In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) 40Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.*

John 14:16 - 17 (KJV) *16And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.*

The Lord Jesus Christ wants you walking in power, refreshed, with understanding. Give your best to God and he will give his best to you.

May you walk in the refreshing power of Jesus Christ this month. Remember, you are blessed to be a blessing.

In Christ,
Pastor Chris Kirkendall

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Faith Christian Center Connect

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Victory and Trials (Part One)



God loves you so much. The plan that he has for you is incredible. Have you ever gone through a time in your life that seemed like everything around you was going bad? You would get through one trial and get victory and then right around the corner another trial would occur. Well, you are not alone.

Everything that comes into our life is working in us a Christ-like character. If we are going to be used of God long term, or be successful in a

Christian way, we can not do it without character. It matters what character we have, we need character that is approved by God.

When Israel was in bondage, God sent Moses to lead them out. After several attempts, The Lord sent the death angel, and those that applied the blood to their homes were passed over. This caused so much grief that Pharaoh let Moses and the Israelites leave.

After he had time to think about it, he became so angry that he and his army pursued the Israelites so he could kill them. At the Red Sea, God performed another great miracle. He caused the sea to form a wall and Israel walked across on dry ground. Just about that time, Pharaoh and his army chased the Israelites into the Red Sea, and God let the waters fall on top of the Egyptians.

When this happened, Israel burst forth with a song of jubilee. (Exodus 15:1-22) Miriam and the ladies of Israel danced and sang like never before. Israel was on their way to the land flowing with milk and honey. Well not so fast.

It seemed that God new something they didn't know. Their bodies were full of parasites, and this was not good for them. So the journey of the divine began. You see, God sees the whole picture, and man does not. Sometimes our discernment is wrong, and we think we have got the victory so the trials are over. Well, we might need to remember that God may be working character in us, so he might be up to something good that will bring that about.

Walking in our own strength.

At a Glance

Sunday

Adult Sunday School 9:15am
Youth Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday Service 10:30am
Godly Parenting 5:30pm

Monday

Session 4 ISOM 6:30pm

Wednesday

Wednesday Service 7:00pm

Thursday

Prayer Meeting 7:00pm
2nd & 4th Thursdays

Exodus 15:22 (KJV) *22So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.*

After this amazing victory, the Israelites began their journey. God had demonstrated his power by destroying the enemies of Israel, and liberating a nation after four hundred years of bondage. What a wonderful move of God!

Isn't it strange that there is no mention of praise and adoration during these three days? I believe that Israel became kind of cocky. They began to feel like they didn't need to worship, that God would just take care of them. God was indeed taking care of them and he was looking for praise and adoration. The praise that Miriam led is what he was looking for.

This passage says that they went three days without water. Water is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

Worship means that we honor the worthiness of God. Today it would look like this: vocal worship, reading the bible, prayer and fasting, testifying, and witnessing to others bringing them to Jesus Christ.

Like the Israelites, if we are not careful, we will go in the momentum of our last victory, and we will neglect the things that bring us close to God. If we are not careful, momentum will replace the Holy Ghost.

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Doing The Same Old Thing: In A Brand New Way!

Just a Note

Faith Christian Center Worship Department

I love a good chase- We all do. Turn on FOX news much during the day and sooner than later- there will be a high-speed chase televised “LIVE”, so that you can watch. Something about the excitement of a pursuit captivates us. We get entertained by shows about it on TV (The Amazing Race). As kids, we play games like Hide and Seek, Freeze tag, and Cops and Robbers- something within us loves the chase. To pursue and/or be pursued- it’s in our DNA.

Our spiritual lives should be no different. We should pursue our prize (Jesus Christ) with a passion, zeal, an unstoppable desire.

Philippians 3:14 (NIV) *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

One of my favorite stories of Jesus that illustrates a pursuit is in **Mark 5: 25-34**.

Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

Now, you are probably thinking what does that have to do with a pursuit? Let me explain, when we read this at face value- it’s a cute story of a woman who got her healing by walking up to Jesus and touching his coat, but when we dig deeper into this, we see that there was so much more going on here.

This woman had been dealt a bad hand at this time in her life. This woman was sick. She had a hemorrhage that caused her to bleed uncontrollably. It was very painful and very exhausting; being that blood is the medium in which essentially “life” is delivered to the rest of the body.

This lady was poor. She had gotten to a place in life where her illness cost her all of her money- She was desperate to be made whole. She was also probably emotionally bankrupt.

This lady was a social outcast in society. In Jewish custom, someone with this “issue of blood” was deemed “unclean” and was ostracized from society, much like a leper or criminal. For more on that, Look up ***Leviticus 15:19-28*** She was separated from her family, her friends for over 12 years.

Think about it: For the past twelve (yes 12) years, this illness had cost her relationship with her family and friends, robbed her of monetary success, and caused her body to writhe in pain day after day.

I can relate to this woman on a spiritual level- I think we all can.

Some days, we are exhausted. One thing after another comes up and we just want to run and hide- Life throws us lemons- and we have run out of the other ingredients to make lemonade. It feels like all the *life* is sucked out of our bodies.

Other days, we are unstable. We don’t know what to do, where to go, who to run to- and it *costs* us: costs us our joy and peace- We are spiritually drained of our resources.

Then, sometimes, we feel alone. Things don’t go well with the husband or the wife, or the kids have just been unruly- and we feel completely cut off from anybody and everybody in our lives. We go through those seasons of life where we just feel “blah”.

This woman in Mark 5 makes an incredible choice, let’s pick up the story in Verse 27

When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”

This was a costly decision. It does not sound that way in the Scripture but it was. She had to make a choice to disobey Jewish customs (which could have resulted in death) and literally *push* herself through the crowd. That crowd could have been anywhere from 50 to 1000 people. She knew that what Jesus had could revolutionize her life for the better. She could finally be made whole- So when she did hear about Jesus- I can imagine her faith beginning to bubble up from her soul- but it was combated by her mind: “What if you get caught in the crowd?” “What if you contaminate more people?” “What if...” (I can totally relate)

She had to keep her eye on Jesus while she crawled through the crowd. I’m sure the disease was debilitating- each movement forward brought a new awareness of pain. I’m sure she was kicked, stumbled upon, talked about- but she didn’t care she was in a *pursuit*.

Fast forward to us, We have heard what Jesus can do for us, but just like the woman, we have to make a choice- make a choice to push through our circumstances- push through our emotions, push through our pain, push

through our fear and *pursue* Jesus no matter the cost because then and only then, my friend, can we be made completely whole.

Verse 29: *Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?” But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”*

Finally, her affliction was healed, but her pursuit wasn’t over. She had to come to grips with the fact that This Man she just touched may be outraged that an “unclean” woman contaminated Him, but He wasn’t (Isn’t Jesus just the coolest guy ever?)

Let me just let you in on a little secret: that Our Heavenly Father knows all of our junk- the stuff we try to hide - and He loves us in spite of. Need Proof? Grab Your Bible- Look up **John 3:16-17** and **Romans 5:8**

Our God loves us so much- He doesn’t want us to have any “issues” in life- whether it be a true physical sickness, emotional pain, mental turmoil or anything- He’s got a good plan for our lives ***Read Jeremiah 29:11*** but sometimes, we need to pursue him- press through all of our “issues” and get to the source of our strength and hope. There is no need to be embarrassed or fearful of our Lord- He’s here to help:

Hebrews 4:16 *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

This month, I just wanted to encourage you to pursue the Lord with all of your heart, regardless of circumstances- It’s easier said than done, I know: but this **pursuit** will be worth it all in the end!

Hebrews 12:1-2a *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”*

Running to Him,
Justin Kirkendall
Worship Pastor

HOW TO SAVE A LIFE.... LET THEM SEE JESUS IN YOU

Picture this: A lost teenager finally finds peace and consolation by turning to religion. However, his choice results in consequences—consequences he doesn’t want to face. For instance, his newfound zeal for the Lord makes his friends uncomfortable and wary around him, saying they don’t want to be around a person pretending and trying so much to be holier-than-thou. Trying to explain only causes arguments. His family feels the same way-too, thinking that a path to the Lord won’t make much of a good future. In the end, everyone he once leaned on abandoned him, leaving him with the God he loyally worships.

Typical scenario or exaggerated drama? I don’t think I might be wrong in saying that situations like these commonly arise among us—maybe a little less dramatic, or maybe even more. Trials are tough. Temptation is difficult to resist. But what hurts more is isolation and abandonment: being left behind by the people whom you deeply care about. And what really stings is the irony that they have left you because you have at last found the God to make you happy.



At times like these, it seems satisfying to blame God for taking away the ones you love. It hurts more since there is still a chance for you to see them, only for them to avoid you like the plague. It seems much easier to take out your hurts on God; even abandoning Him...after all, wasn’t it because of Him that they left you in the first place?

Why not take a different course of action? Surely, after you have experienced the peace of the Lord, you can not let go that easily. Why not try and get them on your side—instead of going to theirs? It’s difficult to actually describe the immense joy at having all your loved ones by your side.

The best course of action is undeniably prayer. It doesn’t need to be serious—just a heart to heart discussion with God can work wonders. Pray for guidance, counsel, a change of heart, and wisdom. Pray for their sake. Pray for their lives, their health, their future. Pray that they may understand and come to God with you.

Reflect Christ in you. Keep the lines of JESUS communication open. Keep going to them; this will result in more emotional blows at first, but be steadfast in the pursuit. Carry on. That blessed day will arrive. PRAY, SHARE JESUS, and let the Holy Spirit do the rest of the work.

God Bless,
Jamie Cullen