

***50 Day
church
'love dare'
for
The Tabernacle
of Danville***

Beginning on Easter Sunday, April 4th

Ending on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd

Inspired by the "Love Dare" in the movie *Fireproof*.

Written by Pastor Danny Campbell.

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Introduction

Let's face it – Before the Covid-19 Pandemic began in March of 2020, most American churches already felt how hard it is to get church members to model the kind of devotion to their churches that it looks like the brothers and sisters in Christ had in the early church. We Americans prize our options! We have come to treat church life like going to a buffet table – we select what we want and reject what we don't want. Churches that now cater to what people want often can draw a big crowd on Sunday mornings.

But what if church is about more than what we want? How will we respond if looking at the New Testament shows that our "buffet table" approach to church falls well short of what the Bible calls for? If the fastest growth in the human body is cancer, how can we define success for a church by only looking at the size of the crowd? I was once with some fellow church leaders in the area. In the course of the conversation, I commented on the high percentage of people in our area who volunteer in area churches. Several of the other leaders laughed, thinking I was joking. I had wrongly assumed they had as high a percentage serving as The Tabernacle does. Reflecting on that later, it made me so grateful to have so many members committed to ministering both inside and outside their church. But that was BEFORE the pandemic. Prognosticators predict that as churches get to the other side of the pandemic, churches will have at least 20% fewer attendees giving at least 20% less offerings and being far less likely to be involved in a ministry. I certainly hope that is not true here at The Tabernacle.

With that in mind, I want to challenge the ENTIRE church family to commit to this 50-day church love dare. Together let's learn or re-learn the main reasons God has us gather and then scatter!

Here is how to make the most of these 50 days:

*Each household in the church should get a copy of this church love dare on or before Easter Sunday, April 4th.

*If your household is just one person, ask one other person or household to go through this booklet with you on the phone each day, or get several people together in a ZOOM meeting each day.

*Have one person read the entry of the day, stopping when input is requested from the household.

*If the entry asks you to send input to the Pastor or someone else, act on that the same day if possible.

*Close each day with prayer!

"I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

-Jesus in Matthew 16:18

Day 1 – April 4th

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. -Colossians 1:16

Tomorrow we will talk about the importance of singing about our faith together. But for today let's focus in on the importance of the Teaching of Scripture, and letting it dwell in us so we can share it with others.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (what you should believe), for reproof (what you should not believe), for correction (how you should not behave), for instruction in righteousness (How you should behave).

-2 Timothy 3:16

Pick ONE of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone or make a social media post about it.

- A) Share a favorite Bible verse and why it is meaningful to you
- B) Share a favorite Bible chapter and why it is meaningful to you
- C) Share a favorite Bible book and why it is meaningful to you

During this church love dare, Pastor Danny would also love to hear of any topics or Bible books that you would like to hear him preach on.

E-mail any suggestions for preaching topics to Pastor Danny at dannycampbell@thetabernaclefamily.org

Be sure and pray today, giving God thanks for giving us the Bible to help us grow as believers.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing the Teaching of Scripture.

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Day 2 – April 5th

Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God. -Ephesians 1:19-21

We often emphasize the importance of singing to the Lord, but here Paul states that as we sing we are also “speaking” God’s truth to each other. Songs are easily remembered, so it’s important that the songs we sing will not only encourage us but instruct us in Biblical truth. When we sing together with thankful hearts, and joyfully interact with fellow worshippers, God meets with His people in a special way.

It’s a shame that there are ‘worship wars’ in churches about whether it’s better to sing hymns or choruses. Here Paul calls us to sing three different kinds of songs that express adoration and prayer. Hymns are a great way to engage our minds with doctrine. Psalms are a great way to express the emotions we are feeling. Spiritual songs are memorable ways to pledge our wills to believe in and follow Christ.

Pick 1 of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone or make a social media post about it.

- A) Share a favorite hymn and why it is meaningful to you
- B) Share a favorite modern chorus & why it’s meaningful to you

During this church love dare, our Music Director Eddie would love to hear of any hymns or choruses you would like us to sing. E-mail any song suggestions to eddiemcdonald@thetabernaclefamily.org.

Be sure and pray today, giving God thanks for blessing His church with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

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Day 3 – April 6th

We, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another (Romans 12:5). For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13a).

Baptists appreciate the return to good theology that the great reformers led to in the 16th century – that sinners are only saved by God’s grace alone through their faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. But Baptists also became convinced that the Reformers had not gone far enough – the major reformers still agreed with the Catholic church that the church should be intertwined with the state (the country).

Baptists and others began preaching that you are born a ‘member’ of your state, but you must receive Jesus and be born again to be eligible to become a member of a church. Believer’s baptism was the Biblically called for way to testify to others that you were trusting Christ alone for salvation and joining with others whose desire was to follow Christ in all things. Baptists rejected that parents could present their infant child for baptism. Instead, each person would have to come to a point they understood the gospel and received Christ as Lord and Savior. Only then would it be appropriate to be baptized.

Pick ONE of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone.

- A) If you have trusted Christ and been baptized, share about that
- B) If you have trusted Christ but not yet been baptized, pray about it. Ask any questions you have about things to consider.

The next time The Tabernacle will baptize is Sunday, May 23rd. If you would like to be baptized that day, e-mail Pastor Danny at dannycampbell@thetabernaclefamily.org.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Baptist Principles.

Day 4 – April 7th

**By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:35).
Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:19a).**

Here are 3 conclusions from those two verses. First, as Christians our love for our fellow disciples as members of God’s family should be evident to a watching world. Second, there is always room for new disciples to be included in this loving family. Third, we are not to wait for those outside the “family” to come to us, but are to go to where they are with Christ’s love and invite them to join us.

The call to ‘evangelize’ others is basically the call to share the same gospel (good news) that saved us with others who need the Lord. How people respond is between them and God, but to paraphrase Romans 10:14, “how will they hear unless someone shares with them?” Of course, there is a step before sharing the good news with others, and it is praying for the salvation of those who need Jesus.

Pick ONE of the options below and share it with someone you are with or someone on the phone.

- A) Name a family member or friend who needs Jesus
- B) Name a neighbor that needs Jesus
- C) Name a ‘prodigal child’ who needs to return to Jesus

Together pray and call on the name of the Lord, asking that the people you have mentioned would call on the Lord for salvation!

If you would like to pray by name for all your nearest neighbors, e-mail Pastor Danny at dannycampbell@thetabernaclefamily.org. There is a tremendous resource you can use for that!

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Evangelism and Missions.

Day 5 – April 8th

Owe no one anything except to love one another (Romans 13:8a). For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of ministering to the saints (2 Corinthians 8:3-4).

In 2 Corinthians 8 Paul commends the churches of Macedonia for making sacrifices to do their part in meeting the needs that had been presented to them. Paul praised them for their sacrificial giving.

The Bible speaks of giving in 3 ways – proportional giving, generous giving, and sacrificial giving. Proportional giving is giving God the tithe, or ten percent of our income. 2 passages on tithing are Malachi 3:8-12 and Matthew 23:23. Historically, churches have based their corporate budget on this basic level of giving. Generous and sacrificial giving would be gifts beyond the tithe to respond to specific things that stir our hearts. We already saw an example of sacrificial giving from 2 Corinthians 8:3-4. 2 Corinthians 8:14 speaks of how our abundance can be used to supply another's lack.

Pick ONE of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone.

- A) Speak about how you became convinced of the need to tithe
- B) Share about a time you made a sacrifice to increase a gift

If up to this point in your life you have not tithed, consider moving that direction by increasing your giving by 1%. If you already are tithing, consider a special 1% gift to either the church's Christmas missions offering or the upcoming needs our buildings will have.

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Day 6 – April 9th

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. -Romans 15:5-6

One of the great joys we have as Christians is supporting and joining arms with other Christians who are doing the work of God. As a church we have local partners, state partners, national partners, and international partners.

Our mission's opportunity desk on the west hallway side beside the sanctuary has information that will help you learn more so you can be involved in supporting those doing the work. It is worth your time to visit the desk often. Rosemary Martin does a great job updating the information and producing a monthly emphasis sheet.

Some of the local partners we have supported in various ways: Gary Reynolds' Nehemiah 7 ministries, God's Pit Crew, God's storehouse, the Salvation Army; Transitions pregnancy help services; Good News Clubs (Child Evangelism Fellowship); Gideons distributing Bibles; Good News Jail Ministry; Magnolia House help for families going through crisis; Haven that helps those affected by domestic violence; House of Hope for the Homeless; Danville church based tutorial program; Danville Life Saving Crew; Local Police, Fire, Sheriff, Social Services; Danville church based tutorial program.

Pick ONE of the organizations above and share with someone you are with, someone on the phone, or make a social media post about why you think their work is so important.

Together pray for the organizations you talked about.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Nurtured Relationships/ Partnerships.

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Day 7 – April 10th

Greet one another (Rom. 16:16). Receive one another (Rom. 15:7).

One of the great joys of pastoring is interacting with different ages of people at church. As I preach I look out and see children, youth, young adults, medium age adults, and senior adults. It is so neat to look out sometimes and see three or four generations from one family sitting together.

The Bible says that Christians are all part of God's family now. In the church we have extra mother and father figures around, and extra grandparents. As we grow in Christ we become father and mother figures to others. We rejoice in these intergenerational relationships. It is awesome after a service to see a child run to speak to an adult who has taught them in AWANA, Sunday School, or VBS. We do understand that offering age appropriate ministries helps people grow and be equipped for the challenges and opportunities they are facing at their stage of life, and that's why we offer relevant children's ministries, youth ministries, adult and senior adult ministries.

Pick 1 of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone or make a social media post about it.

- A) Tell about an age appropriate ministry you are thankful for
- B) Share how a favorite teacher impacted you in church
- C) Share a creative idea for ways the generational ministries can interact with each other at special times (like youth serving adults for a Valentine's Dinner, or adults praying for AWANA). E-Mail any ideas to dannycampbell@thetabernaclefamily.org

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Age Appropriate Ministries.

Day 8 – April 11th

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. -1 Peter 4:8-10

Today in church Brandon and Laura Neal shared with us about the topic of hospitality. Have each family member share one thing that stuck out to them from what Brandon and Laura shared.

As we have started this 50-day church love dare, you may have noticed that each day so far, we have included one of the Bible's 'one another' statements. In John 13 Jesus called us to love one another as fellow Christians the way He has loved us. That must have inspired the disciples, because they took that phrase 'one another' and put over 20 different descriptors before 'one another' in the New Testament letters they wrote to each other and to us.

Peter gives three straight verses with a 'one another' statement in today's passage above: Have fervent love for one another; be hospitable to one another; minister your gift to one another. Interestingly, even though we all have different spiritual gifts we bless the body of Christ with, all of us are called to be hospitable regardless of what our gifts are.

Hospitality can be defined as receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, and generous way.

Right now, make a plan to show hospitality to an individual or another family before these 50 days are up. It could be an invitation to your home or a restaurant after church or one day during the week.

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Day 9 – April 12th

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. -Hebrews 10:23-25

Why do you go to church? In our day many will answer that they go to church because of what they feel they get out of it. Some stop going to church and say, “I just don’t get anything out of it.” Today’s passage really challenges thinking like that. We do of course gather together to worship God and learn the Bible and meet with like-minded people. But today’s passage also teaches that we must come to church on a mission. We come together to “consider” our fellow Christians, and how we may “stir up” love for Jesus and good works for Jesus in their lives. This includes encouraging our fellow Christians as they find their place of service in the church.

With that in mind, Pick 1 of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone. Be sure and state why you see potential in the individual.

- A) A child in the church I see potential in is...
- B) A youth in the church I see potential in is...
- C) A young adult in the church I see potential in is...
- D) An older adult in the church I see potential in is...

Feel free to send Pastor Danny an e-mail describing the potential you see in your fellow Christians.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Leadership Development.

Day 10 – April 13th

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10). ...According to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love (Ephesians 4:16).

According to those passages above, when every member of a church body does their part, using their gifts to minister to others, it causes the body to grow in healthy ways. Sometimes when we see verses like those we need to stop and ask questions of the text. If “every member ministry” means the church body grows, what will be the result if many members are not doing their part, not using their gifts to bless the body? The only conclusion we can draw is that the work of the church will be hindered, and the body won’t grow like it could!

All that means that there is a lot at stake when we serve the Lord. We each are part of what God wants to accomplish through the church. The Tabernacle has a long history of members finding something around the church they can put their name on, and seeking to do the work ‘excellently’ because they are doing it for the Lord.

Pick ONE of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone or on social media.

- A) Share about someone who showed excellence in service to the Lord who has already gone to Heaven
- B) Share about someone showing excellence in ministry now

Feel free to send Pastor Danny an e-mail with short descriptions of the person or ministry you appreciated. You may also want to send a thank you to the living person you appreciated, or the relative of one who is now in Heaven. Certainly, say a prayer of thanks for each one!

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Excellence and Fun.

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Day 11 – April 14th

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. -Galatians 6:6

We are rightly thankful for the full-time Preachers who have preached God's Word to us over the years. But God also gives us wonderful small group teachers in Sunday School and beyond that impact our lives for Christ.

Pastor Danny likes to say that Sunday School is the engine of the church. It brings a deeper sense of connection to church members. It helps fulfill almost all the purposes of the church we have been discussing. It births most of the workers for the churches ministries.

Unlike full-time pastors, many small group teachers have full-time jobs that are very demanding. That makes the sacrifices they make to minister to their classes, study their lesson and bring us the word of God all the more meaningful. They do it because they love Jesus, they love the Bible, and they love their class!

Pick 1 of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone or make a social media post about it.

- A) Share about a teacher you had as a child
- B) Share about a teacher you had as a youth
- C) Share about a teacher you have had as an adult

After the time of sharing, talk together about what you think distinguishes really good teachers. Think of some way you can creatively say thank you to the teachers you have talked about. You can do something like write them a note, make a social media video extolling their impact, donate in their memory or honor.

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Day 12 – April 15th

And when he consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, & they went out before the army and were saying: *Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever.*” -2 Chronicles 20:21-22

King Jehoshaphat sent the choir of Israel out ahead of the army, and as they sang praises to the LORD, the LORD set ambushes against Israel’s neighboring bullies, and they turned on each other. Spiritually speaking, we face many enemies when we gather together as a church. Many ‘bullies’ still come against God’s people. But then we gather and look up and see the choir and musicians united in joyfully praising God, and God’s enemies get ambushed once again!

It is a shame today that choir involvement has waned, and that many younger people associate choirs with being for older people. The many voices of a choir blending together with vocal parts mixed in are a beautiful picture of unity amidst diversity in the body of Christ. When only a handful of people lead out in songs that are hard to sing along with it reflects our more individualistic and fractured society. In contrast, the Bible gives many examples of the entire congregation lifting their voices together AND of choirs leading out in praise.

Pick 1 of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone or make a social media post about it.

- A) Share about a choir member or musician who inspires you
- B) Share about someone you would like to see serve musically

If that person is you, e-mail Pastor Eddie and express your desire to learn more about serving in music ministry. If someone came to your mind you think should consider serving, contact them and tell them!

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Day 13 – April 16th

He (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church (Colossians 1:18a). And they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers (Acts 2:42).

Baptist churches have always believed in the “autonomy” of each local Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus. He alone is the true Head of every church. Each Baptist church operates “independently” of the control of any other human authority. No Prince, President, Pope, or prestigious Preacher can dictate to a local church what to do. Instead, each Baptist church follows the Lord’s leadership through what He has instructed in the Bible. We select leaders within our churches who are accountable to lead us in scriptural ways. We do partner with other like-minded churches to advance Christ’s Great Commission. But there is no “headquarters” on earth that tells us what we must do. Our “headquarters” is the Word of God.

Practically that means that each church member needs to follow Jesus our true “Senior Pastor” (See 1 Peter 5:4). We each need to know and apply the Bible in our lives. We need to be clear on the priority of Christ’s Great Command to love Him and each other. We need to be clear on the priority of Christ’s Great Commission to reach others for Christ. We all are responsible for what The Tabernacle is.

Pick 1 of the options below and discuss it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone.

- 1) Share what you appreciate about local church autonomy
- 2) Share how local church autonomy can be misused

Pray with each other that the Tabernacle will model the right kind of church autonomy under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

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Day 14 – April 17th

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. -1 Peter 3:15

If someone came up to you and said, “Tell me a reason you follow Jesus,” what would you say?

Right now, have each person you are with or someone you are on the phone with share one of the things they would say.

There are usually two components to sharing our faith in Jesus. The first is our testimony of how we became a Christian. The second is sharing the scriptural truths necessary for a person to turn to Jesus for salvation. Often a gospel tract like “Steps to Peace with God” or a resource like “The Three Circles” phone app can help (search under “Life on Mission”).

Today let’s talk about the three things to address when sharing your testimony. First, you want to share what life was like before you came to know Jesus. You want to emphasize how you came to know that as a sinner you needed Jesus. Second, you want to share how you became a Christian. You want to share the people or circumstances God used, and emphasize that you realized salvation comes not through your effort but through what Jesus did for you. Third, you want to share what God is doing in your life now. Emphasize how your relationship with Jesus helps you in day to day living.

Have each person you are with or someone you are on the phone or zoom with share their testimony now, following the above guidance.

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Day 15 – April 18th

But this I say: He who sows sparingly, will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So, let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. -2 Cor. 9:6-7

One of the most cheerful times of the year is Christmas, and for many years now the Tabernacle has made Christmas time a time to excel at being cheerful givers. I am speaking about our annual Christmas Offering, where we joyfully and prayerfully select several organizations to bless with financial gifts.

We have given to local ministries like God's Pit Crew.

We have given to local life-saving crews and fire and police departments.

We have given to organizations that meet pressing needs among the International Jewish community like the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

We have given to organizations ministering amidst serious issues like human trafficking.

We have given to missions' organizations evangelizing the world.

Share with each other now one of your favorite things the Christmas Offering has gone to in previous years, along with why it touches you so.

Now talk with each other about 3 things you would like to see this year's Christmas offering go to. E-mail your list of 3 things to Pastor Danny at dannycampbell@thetabernaclefamily.org.

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Day 16 – April 19th

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you with all joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.

-Philippians 1:3-4

In this passage Paul thanks the church in Philippi for their long partnership with his church planting team. He had planted the church in Philippi, and then went to do the same thing in other places. Over the years they had sent him their prayers, financial provision, and even personnel (Epaphroditus) to get the gospel out!

That reminds me of our being part of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) through the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV). Since 2003, we have partnered with the SBCV in all the ways Paul partnered with the church at Philippi. We have prayed for and with them, given financially, and one of our former church staff members, Brandon Pickett, is a Key Vice President.

Through that partnership we have: held training and evangelistic events here in Danville; supported church planting efforts throughout Virginia; supported much Disaster Relief work; supported the work of thousands of missionaries around the world through the International Mission Board; supported the work of thousands of church planters and chaplains in North America through the North American Mission Board; supported 6 seminaries training thousands of future workers.

Have each person share with each other or on social media why you think gospel partnerships are so key to fulfilling the Great Commission.

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Day 17 – April 20th

I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake; because you have known the Father (1 Jn 2:12, 13).

I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one; because you are strong, and the Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one. (1 John 2:13, 14).

I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning; because you have known Him who is from the beginning (1 John 2:12,14).

You may have noticed that I put together the statements John makes to little children, young men, and fathers. John shows a progression from the days of initial belief in Jesus, to the days of intense spiritual warfare as we grow in Christ, to the days of a mature faith.

Answer these questions together from those statements:

- 1) What did John want the "little children" to know?
- 2) What did John want the young people to know?
- 3) What did John want mature saints to know?

Notice that John pictures the new believer knowing that they have entered a relationship with God, a relationship that the older believer still prizes after a lifetime of walking with God; a relationship tested and strengthened through life's spiritual battles.

Have the oldest saint with you talk about how Jesus has helped them grow through the times of spiritual warfare. Thank God together that even though we lose individual battles in the Christian life, we have overcome through faith in Jesus (1 John 5:4).

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Day 18 – April 21st

Therefore comfort one another with these words (1 Thess. 4:18). Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God (2 Cor. 1:3-4).

There are some hurting people that we go to church with. Everyone reading this has either experienced hurt, is experiencing hurt now, or will experience hurt again in the days to come. The Bible tells us to comfort each other in the body of Christ. Many times, God uses the presence and wisely chosen words of believers to help fellow believers who are struggling, and *future* believers we engage.

Have each person with you identify a member of the church family who could use a little comfort right now. First pray that God the Holy Spirit would put the right person on each mind. Talk about a plan to call each person or send a note of encouragement to them.

Let's make it a little more personal for some of you. The 2 Corinthians passage above says that God wants to use us to comfort others as He has comforted us. That means that He met us in times of trouble when we experienced things we didn't want to, things like being bullied, having cancer, divorce, death of a loved one, loss of a job, having a prodigal child, etc. God has met you in your pain and is comforting you. As you pray today, be open to the possibility of letting God use you to comfort others facing what you have.

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Day 19 – April 22nd

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. -2 Timothy 2:1-2

Those verses show the baton of faith being passed to 4 generations of believers. Paul is the first generation. He had experienced Jesus' grace. He writes to Timothy, who he had passed the faith along to like a relay runner passes a baton. He envisions Timothy passing the faith along to a third generation, the faithful men who will then pass along the faith to others still in the fourth generation. This same process happens today. Doug Barr poured the faith into me; I poured it into young men like Shannon Kiser; he has poured it into others who have poured into others. When you think of "faithful men," think of Timothy's response to Paul. Others were apathetic when Paul shared, but Timothy was particularly responsive. As you go through life, share with everyone you influence, but be ready to pour even more time and influence into those "Timothys" God gives you to mentor.

The ministries of the church give lots of opportunities to identify and mentor the next generation of church leaders. The next time you have a ministry assignment, why not include a Timothy? For example, a deacon visiting a family could take a potential future deacon along. Ushers could include a smiling grandchild as they work their shift. Someone volunteering at God's Pit Crew to put together blessing buckets could invite a new church member to do it with them.

Talk about ways you have seen the baton of church ministry being passed from one generation to the next. Talk about ways you can include others in hands on growth opportunities.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Leadership Development.

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Day 20 – April 23rd

A merry heart does good, like medicine (Proverbs 17:22). When any Ephraimite who escaped said, “Let me cross over,” the men of Gilead would say to him, “Are you an Ephraimite?” If he said “No,” then they said to him, “Then say ‘Shibboleth!’” And he would say “Sibboleth,’ for he could not pronounce it right (Judges 12:5-6).

I do not know if you have ever seen that passage before, but it strikes me as absolutely hilarious! The way the Gileadites identified their enemies was to have them pronounce a word they were prone to mispronounce! It makes me think of how you can identify people from different English speaking places when they talk.

I bring that up because when you spend time with other church attenders, funny things happen and get said. I think we even see examples of that when Jesus lived among His disciples. In Luke 24 Jesus walked with Cleopas and a companion, but they couldn't recognize Him. When Cleopas incredulously asked Jesus if He was the only one around Jerusalem that didn't know the things that had just happened in Jerusalem, Jesus said “What things?” I bet Jesus was laughing inside as He said that! Jesus never made fun OF His disciples, but He did have fun WITH His disciples. To get them to think He would put hilarious images in their mind, like trying to fit camels through needle eyes! Yes, Jesus was called the Man of sorrows. There is indeed a time to weep, and a time to laugh (Ecclesiastes 3:4). As Warren Wiersbe stated, “Blessed are the balanced.” That balance includes times of weeping and times of laughter!

Have a time of laughter now! Have each person who is willing share something funny they heard at church or that happened at church. If no one has anything, call Tom Collins or Barry Neal!

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Excellence and Fun.

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Day 21 – April 24th

Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you do well, because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth. -3 John 5-8

In this passage the Apostle John speaks of how well the church had treated teachers and missionaries he had sent their way. They had treated them as honored guests, and the church was privileged to learn from these men of God and support them in prayer and provision as they continued on their way. Over the years the Tabernacle has been greatly blessed by our guest speakers. We have heard from great Pastors, Evangelists, and Missionaries. We have heard from leaders of Ministry Organizations and College and Seminary Professors. We have heard inspiring testimonies from Military leaders, Politicians, and Overcomers of great challenges.

In addition to blessing us with their teaching, guest speakers are also able to help us know how we are doing as a church. They have often been around hundreds of churches in many states and countries. They have seen church practices that honor the Lord, and they have seen church practices that dishonor the Lord. One Professor who spoke here for well over an hour commended our people for being such receptive listeners like the church in Berea (Acts 17:11).

Have each person share with each other or on social media two or three of their favorite guest speakers over the years.

You may want to e-mail some of the responses to Pastor Danny (or make suggestions for guest speakers to invite).

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing the Teaching of Scripture.

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Day 22 – April 25th

Moreover, David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals.
-1 Chronicles 25:1

Isn't it interesting that the text reads that these musicians that David's team set apart would be "preaching" or prophesying about God through their music - even the guys joyfully smashing the cymbals!

Music preaches! Every time a song is played and sung, the musicians are communicating their love for God and biblical truth. Here we read that David and his team carefully selected those who would "preach" to the people through music.

Yesterday we looked at how The Tabernacle has had many special guest speakers over the years. We have also had special guest musicians bless our church family – solo vocalists, duets, quartets, choirs, instrumentalists, bands and orchestras. Additionally, we have had many wonderful singers and musicians bless us from WITHIN our own church family.

Have each person share with each other or on social media two or three of their favorite guest singers and musicians we have had here.

Have each person share with each other or on social media two or three of our own singers and musicians who have blessed us with special music.

You may want to e-mail some of the responses to Pastor Eddie (or make suggestions for guest musicians to invite).

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Adoration and Prayer.

Day 23 – April 26th

They entered a village... But they did not receive Him...And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from Heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner or spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.” -Luke 9:52-56

Baptists were among the earliest promoters of religious liberty for all. Historically Baptists were persecuted in both Catholic and Protestant countries. Even here in Virginia, when the official church was the Anglican church, Baptists were imprisoned for preaching biblical faith. Baptists did not respond by seeking to form states where they would use the power of the state to force Baptist ideas on others. They responded by being strong advocates for freedom for all – freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion. Baptist advocacy for such things helped secure the 1st amendment to our constitution.

As Baptists we may annoy people who do not believe our preaching, but we never seek to annihilate those who reject our message! This has also led to Baptists trying to stop not only the persecution of Christians worldwide, but also of Jews and others. Currently we are shining the light on China’s horrible abuse of over a million Uyghur Muslims. Religious liberty is also under attack in the U.S. by leaders trying to impose their godless views on others and ‘cancel’ those who embrace biblical teaching.

If you have online access pull up opendoorsusa.org together. Read through some of the headlines together, and then pray for people affected by persecution. Other helpful resources can be found at: erlc.com and familyfoundation.org.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Baptist Principles.

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Day 24 – April 27th

Then He said to them, “Thus it is written and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission (forgiveness) of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” -Luke 24:46-47

Do you know how to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with someone? It is not as difficult as many Christians think! There are many gospel sharing plans available in booklet or online form. Over the years I have used several different plans as I have shared Christ.

Here are the four key truths most gospel plans cover:

1. God has a wonderful **purpose** for each person’s life (John 3:16)
2. People have a sin **problem** that keeps them from knowing God and His plan for their lives (Romans 3:23; 6:23)
3. God has made **provision** to deal with our sin problem through Jesus Christ’s atoning death on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Each person needs to make a **personal response** to God’s offer of forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-11)

At the church we keep copies of Billy Graham’s little booklet, *Steps to Peace with God*. It follows that approach, with more detail and example given as each “step” is talked about. You can access it online at stepstopeace.org. I have also grown to love the 3 Circles approach to witnessing. You can download the free app on your smartphone by typing in Life Conversation Guide. The main thing is that without a plan to witness we will witness very little or not at all!

If one of you already is comfortable sharing the gospel, share how you do it now with those you are with. Pray together for opportunities to share with others!

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Evangelism and Missions.

Day 25 – April 28th

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful (Titus 3:14). That now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack (2 Corinthians 8:14).

We often relate the use of our time, talents, and treasure to what we do for churches and Christian organizations. And that certainly relates to this passage. Paul was urging the Christians in Corinth to give to a relief offering for the saints back in Jerusalem. At the present time the Corinthian church had an abundance of resources and could meet the needs of the Jerusalem church. Paul suggests that in the future the roles might be reversed!

What is true of one church helping another is also true for one believer helping another. Paul's teaching reminds us of Luke 3:10, "He who has two coats, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." We should all have our eyes open to meet urgent needs as they come across our paths. I think of the many times someone has said to me, "Pastor Danny, I need a reliable vehicle." Then someone else calls and says, "I think God wants me to give away an extra car." It's a joy to be able to connect the need with a provider.

When God lays someone with a need on your heart, respond! It may be to send a note of encouragement and a gift card to a college student. It may be to help remove snow or debris from a shut-in's driveway. It may involve taking someone groceries or babysitting.

Have each person share about a time someone met a need they had, or a time they met a need someone else had. Pray today about what needs of others you see that need meeting. Pick a way to meet a need you see and can help meet!

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Radical Generosity.

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Day 26 – April 29th

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister of the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God.

-Colossians 2:24-25

I find those verses fascinating! Paul speaks of the suffering he undergoes as filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ for the sake of the body. What does that mean? It can't mean that for people to be saved it takes Christ's suffering + our suffering! What Christ did on the cross is sufficient to save without any help from us. So, here is what Paul has in mind – Christ suffered to ACTUALIZE salvation for all who believe. We suffer to give people ACCESS to that saving message. Paul is basically saying to the Colossian church, "I am suffering to get the message to these people here on your behalf, sponsoring church. I am getting this done as part of the ministry that you are supposed to be having here – don't forget to support me!"

On Day 9 we talked about our local partners. On Day 19 we talked about our Southern Baptist Partners. Today let's look at some of our other regional partnerships. The Tabernacle supports Jeff & Kim Abernethy as they minister to college students at UNC – Charlotte; Teen Challenge drug recovery program in Greensboro, NC; Pregnancy Support Services in Chapel Hill, NC. Equipping the Saints in Weyers Cave, Virginia that equips missionaries worldwide; Liberty Baptist Fellowship out of Lynchburg, Virginia, that supports independent Baptist church health and chaplaincy; AWANA area missionary Wendy Shields; Evangelist Billy Martin; 5,000 + missionaries in North America through the SBC & NAMB. Have each person pray for one of those partners now!

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Nurtured Partnerships/ Relationships.

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Day 27 – April 30th

You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD (Lev. 19:32). Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world (James 2:27).

One of the greatest resources any church has is its older members and the memory of those who are already in Heaven. By faith they built up many of the ministry institutions that bless us in ongoing ways. Things that we take for granted are only here because they were and are faithful in service to Christ. Some still are able to come to church and tell us their story of faith. Others are no longer able to come to us – we must not forget to go to them and learn from them. Others are already in Heaven, but we need to keep telling their stories with grateful hearts. They deserve to have us learn their stories and say thank you! They deserve to have us consider how we can meet needs that they have, or the needs of their spouses who remain.

Pick 1 of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone or make a social media post about it.

- A) Share about an older person still able to attend church that you admire
- B) Share about an older person unable to attend that you admire
- C) Share about someone already in Heaven that you admire

Think of some special way that you can minister to the person you spoke of. Pray for those who are still living. Pray for the loved ones of those who are already in Heaven.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Age Appropriate Ministries.

Day 28 – May 1st

If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift (Matt. 5:23-24). Moreover, if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother (Matt. 18:15). Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you (Eph. 4:32).

All relationships among humans involve sinners who are prone to selfish and prideful behavior. When relationships are strained, we tend to justify why we are in the right and the other person is in the wrong. We often speak about our problems with another person to third parties hoping they will agree with us and not the other person. The longer this goes on the more it grieves the Holy Spirit and saps the church's joy. Did you notice Jesus' words above? He basically said, "if your brother in Christ thinks you've done them wrong, go to them and work it out. If you think your brother has done you wrong, go to them and work it out!" Either way, what are we to do? Meet up and work it out! Sometimes this means humbly agreeing to disagree about the subject of our disagreement. In Philippians 4 Paul told the church leader to get the two ladies to come back together by agreeing in the Lord. They may never agree about which had the cutest grandbaby – They would have to agree to disagree about that! But they could agree in the Lord and have sweet fellowship. Where sin had happened, they needed to give and receive forgiveness.

Have each person you are with who can share about a time a relationship was restored. If the Holy Spirit reveals to you someone you need to humbly approach, come up with a plan to get it done.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Congregational Love and Encouragement.

Day 29 – May 2nd

These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hands of his servants. -2 Samuel 21:22

How many giant-killers were there in Saul's army? The answer is ZERO! David killed Goliath BEFORE he was in Saul's army. How many giant-killers were in David's army? According to 2 Samuel 21:15-22, at least FOUR! Why did David's army have at least four giant-killers when Saul's army had zero? Because...IT TAKES ONE TO MAKE ONE!

There are many traits we want to see in in our Christian leaders:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| *Love for God/ man of prayer | *Man of faith/ vision |
| *Holiness of life/ ethics | *Sexual purity |
| *Love for God's Word | *Lifelong learner |
| *Love for spouse | *Love for children |
| *Led by God's Spirit | *Boldness in preaching |
| *Love for God's people | *Pastoral Care |
| *Love for the lost | *Courage in witnessing |
| *Capable leader | *Decisive Leader/ man of action |
| *Example to others | *Equipper of others |
| *Able to bring Christians together | *Able to send workers out |
| *Good reputation with outsiders | *Other: |

Have each person state which of the above traits they would especially like to see be true in their own life. Pray for each other!

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Leadership Development.

Day 30 – May 3rd

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him (Col. 3:17). And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ (Colossians 3:23-24).

You may have heard Pastor Danny speak of 5-G Living. Can you remember the 5 G's off the top of your head? Do everything you do for the Glory of God; for the Good of your fellow man; to get the Gospel to the lost; to help your fellow believers Grow; and do it all with a Grateful heart.

Your job matters to God! If you are a student right now, that's your job. In due time your studies will help you prepare for the various jobs you will have in life. Diligence now will be rewarded later. Every job that isn't inherently sinful helps make the world a better place, and Christian workers should be able to make the connection with how what they do helps make the world a better place.

Children need parents and grandparents – you make sacrifices as homemakers for them. Kids need teachers and coaches – you are there for them! We all need to eat – you grow it, sell it, cook it or serve it! The world needs cars, you sell them! Cars need tires, you make them! We all need homes to live in – you build 'em, sell 'em, or insure them! Sick people need health workers, you work long shifts in PPE! You make or sell things we need, or provide a service that helps us and our economy! What you do matters!

Have each person share about their current job now or the job they retired from, and how doing that job with an eye toward excellence matters. Have students share about the future job they would like.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Excellence and Fun.

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Day 31 – May 4th

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and His Kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season, Convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. -2 Timothy 4:1-5

These words speak directly to the time and place we are living in. Here we are challenged to speak God's eternal truth from the Bible whether it is popular or not, whether people respond in large numbers or not. We live in days when some who once embraced biblical truth are walking completely away from ALL churches. Others have re-aligned themselves with churches and preachers that tell them what they want to hear, but don't call them to repentance for things the Bible calls sin. I shudder to think how awful the judgment will be for preachers that lead people astray for the sake of building themselves a crowd. I can almost see those deceitful preachers in Hell encircled by those they deceived shouting at them, "Why did you lie to us? Why didn't you reinforce the truth about our sin? Why didn't you tell us what the evangelists did – that there is no forgiveness without repentance? Why didn't you point us to Jesus?"

Have each person you are with or on the phone with discuss what the different words "convince, rebuke, and exhort" are calling us to. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you each do those things with others.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing the Teaching of Scripture.

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Day 32 – May 5th

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

-Matthew 6:6

SHHHHHH – It’s a secret! I love Jesus’ teaching on prayer in this verse! I especially love that the word ‘secret’ is used twice. Jesus wants us as individual Christians to picture our Heavenly Father ‘wooing us’ away to a secret place to spend time with Him, even though we won’t be able to physically see Him there. Oh, but He will be there with us in that set apart place, that “woo room” that is also a “war room.” I say it is a “woo room” because during that time our sense of God’s love for us and our love for Him will grow, like when a husband and wife spend time together. He speaks to us through what we are reading in the Bible, we speak to Him in prayer. During that time, His Holy Spirit may impress action items for this day or the next that line up with what’s in the Bible. Sometimes those impressions seem louder than a human voice! Our hearts begin to burn with love for Jesus in those rooms. And then we begin our prayers for all the people and situations we are called to be prayer warriors for. Newer Christians may find it hard to spend 5 minutes in the secret place, it’s all so new to them. But as we grow in Christ we see the time is getting longer – 15 minutes, 30 minutes, an hour or more. And we emerge from the “woo room” that is the “war room,” and only Heaven has witnessed what has transpired.

Although our personal prayer times are a secret between us and God, all younger Christians long for direction in prayer. Have someone share some things that have helped their individual prayer time grow.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Adoration and Prayer.

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Day 33 – May 6th

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.
-1 Thessalonians 1:8

Did you notice the verse is “1:8?” Back in Acts 1:8, Jesus had said that the first Christians would be witnesses first in Jerusalem (their city), then Judea (their province) and Samaria (the neighboring province), and then the ends of the earth. That’s why we call churches that take missions seriously “Acts 1:8” churches. The church in Thessalonica was an “Acts 1:8” church, as documented by 1 Thessalonians 1:8! They took the gospel to their city, country, and the world!

Baptists are probably best known historically as being serious about missions, not only where they live but to the ends of the earth. Let’s see if you can identify some notable Baptist missionaries (The answers are after the descriptions).

(1) Brother-in-laws who brought the gospel to Sandy Creek, NC, in the 1750’s, one of the main catalysts for *Southern* Baptist growth.

(2) Born a slave in Virginia in 1752, this Black man was the first American Baptist missionary, going to Jamaica in 1782

(3) First British Baptist missionary, sent to India in 1792

(4) Single lady from Charlottesville who went to China in the 1870’s.

(5) From High Street Baptist in Danville, Virginia, one of first Black missionaries to Africa, sent by both black and white Baptists in 1878.

Answers: (1) Shubal Stearns and Daniel Marshall; (2) George Leile; (3) William Carey; (4) Lottie Moon; (5) Solomon Cosby

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Baptist Principles.

Day 34 – May 7th

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men, for not all have faith (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2). Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me (Romans 15:30).

According to Romans 15:20, Paul had made it his ambition to get the gospel to the places where Christ was not yet named, because Christ was not yet known. Yesterday we looked at some of our great Baptist forefathers and foremothers who were pioneering missionaries. We give thanks that God is still raising up missionaries today. Notice above that Paul BEGGED the church in Rome to pray for him as he took the gospel to the unreached. In her day Lottie Moon begged Baptists to support the work in China with prayer and money. Don't wait to be begged, brothers and sisters - learn, pray, give, and go!

Today's assignment is two-fold: First, one of these Sundays after church, go to the mission's opportunity desk on the west hallway besides the sanctuary, and look at all the prayer resources there. Continue down the children's hallway and see the maps of where our missionaries are, as well as the display cases in classrooms.

Second, if you have a smartphone, download one of the great mission's prayer apps and begin using it regularly. Here are three suggestions: Operation World, which gives a country to pray for every day; Joshua Project, which gives you an unreached people group to pray for every day; IMB Pray, which gives specific prayer requests from every region of the world. If you are a more video-oriented person, go to prayercast.com, and pray with the video.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Evangelism and Missions.

Day 35 – May 8th

Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

-Matthew 6:19-21

Wise people rightly plan for their retirement days, investing when they are younger in interest bearing accounts and continuing to add to those accounts so that they will grow and be ready to help the investor in life's latter years. Wiser still are those that are also faithfully investing in their Heavenly retirement account! Jesus Himself called it "laying up treasure in Heaven!" Faithful giving over the long-haul really adds up! If a person making \$20,000 a year tithes for 50 years, they will have given over 6 digits to the Lord's work in their lifetime! That's a lot of treasure in Heaven!

The Tabernacle has been able to have a tremendous impact in ministry and missions over the years because of its members being faithful tithers and givers beyond the tithe. Those gifts have also allowed us to build and minister in these 90,000 square feet of buildings on 22 acres. Church leaders are able to set a ministry budget based on faithful giving. Here is our 2020 Budget Distribution:

Category:	Tabernacle:	Average church:
Staff salaries, benefits	47%	40-60%
Missions	24%	5-15%
Church Grounds	13%	10-20%
Ministries	8%	5-15%
Administration	6%	5-10%

At the Tabernacle, we like to keep other categories low so that missions giving can stay high! As you pray together today, give thanks for all that we accomplish together for Jesus at The Tabernacle!

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Radical Generosity.

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Day 36 – May 9th

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

-Proverbs 31:30-31

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers!

Today Pastor Joey Bray spoke to us on this special day. Take a few moments to discuss with each other what stood out to you from Joey's message.

Notice Proverbs 31 ends by saying "Let her works praise her in the gates." To me that has a bit of a double meaning. There of course are specific deeds we remember our mothers doing that should be celebrated. But also, each child she birthed is a piece of her "work," even if like me they are a "piece of work!" To me that means that I as her "work" should take some time on Mother's Day and praise some of my mother's "works."

Share with each other or make a social media post praising some of your mother's work. If your mother is in Heaven, keep her memory alive by "Praising her in the gates."

If your mother wasn't very nurturing with you, I am sorry that was your experience. Still, she gave birth to you and there are probably some good things you learned from her. Share what you can, and maybe also share about how other "mother" figures have come alongside you in church life.

If you are adopted, thank God that your birth mother gave birth to you. She didn't give you up, she gave you a future she couldn't give you. Also thank God for your adopted mother making you her own.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Nurtured Partnerships/ Relationships.

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Day 37 – May 10th

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world (James 2:27). Wash yourselves, and make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; Seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow (Isaiah 1:16-17).

The law of Israel directed the Jews to give particular care to meet the needs of their most vulnerable citizens, including orphans and widows. Isaiah called the people to repentance for their failure in this area, and challenged them to recommit to doing the right thing. James spoke of ministry to orphans and widows as “pure religion.”

Being created in the image of God, every child deserves to be born, and so The Tabernacle supports pro-life advocacy, legislation and ministry efforts. We support the work of groups like the Family Foundation, Transitions Pregnancy Help Center in Danville, and Pregnancy Support Services in Chapel Hill, NC.

At The Tabernacle we also believe that every born child should be loved, helped in life, and have an opportunity to receive Christ. And so, we reach out through at-church ministries like AWANA, and in-school type ministries like the Good News Clubs. We are also thankful for our members who work with social services, and for those who have become foster parents and have adopted.

Think together of someone in the church who is involved in one of these ways of practicing pure religion with children. Identify a way you can do something special for to encourage them and help them. If you don't know anyone, consider getting a gift card and asking one of the church ministers to pass it along to them for you.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Age Appropriate Ministries.

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Day 38 – May 11th

Now we exhort, you brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. -1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

We simply are not to treat everyone in church the same! In this passage the Apostle Paul speaks of several different kinds of church members. There were some who were unruly and upsetting people through their divisive behavior. They needed to be rebuked and warned by church leaders. Titus 3:10 tells us to “reject a divisive person after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.” I have seen many times when reasonable church members tried hard to reason with an unruly person, only to be hurt by their harsh tongue. But there are others in the church who are faint-hearted. They struggle to have faith to overcome their fears. In these days of coming back together after the pandemic, a comforting word as they think about returning will make such a difference! And then there are the weak – physically weak, emotionally weak, spiritually weak – the church should never forget them. They may not be able to actually come to church at all anymore, but we do not forget them – we uphold them!

Pick 1 of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone.

- A) Talk of an example you’ve seen of patience with an unruly person
- B) Talk of an example of someone comforting the faint-hearted
- C) Talk of an example of someone upholding the weak

Pray together for anyone you think you need to reach out to.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Congregational Love and Encouragement.

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Day 39 – May 12th

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. -Ezra 7:10

I love this passage! Over the years we all have seen far too many examples of people teaching what they haven't practiced, and teaching what further study would have thrown into question!

Ezra models for us the order leaders of God's people must follow:

First, study God's word with a humble, spiritually prepared heart.

Second, put what you have learned into practice in your own life.

Third, teach to others what you have been learning and applying!

If you were going to cut down a tree with an ax, you could just pick up the ax and start swinging away. Unfortunately, a dull ax will not be nearly as effective as if you took the time to sharpen the ax first. Then having sharpened that ax, you will be much more effective in chopping down the trees. As people see you doing that, they will follow your example.

Pick 1 of the options below and share it with someone you are with or with someone on the phone (don't use names).

- A) An example of someone teaching who hadn't studied
- B) An example of someone teaching who hadn't put what they were teaching into practice
- C) An example of someone following the Ezra 7:10 example well

As you pray today, pray that you will be among those who follow the Ezra 7:10 model – study first, live it out, share with others.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Leadership Development.

Day 40 – May 13th

Not that I have already attained or am already perfected, but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended, but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
-Philippians 3:12-14

I often talk to believers who started their Christian life with a great sense of joy, but who have become very frustrated! They thought that by this time in the Christian life, everything would be a lot easier. The word that seems to define them right now is “struggle.” They say, “If I am really saved, why do I feel like this, why is this such a struggle, why isn’t this easier?” If that describes you, let me suggest a different way of looking at why the faith seems harder than it did at first. When I was younger, I played the video game “Mario Brothers.” The game had 8 rounds of challenges, with 4 levels within each round. You started at round 1 level 1. To save the princess you had to get to round 8 level 4. The reward for conquering one level was proceeding to the next. But here’s the catch – even though all the rounds had similarities with what came before, the things you had to overcome became more formidable. It took time to “conquer” some of those rounds and that was frustrating, but also an adventure. It is similar in the Christian life – as we grow and serve we reach new levels to progress through as we press onward toward our prize!

Discuss with each other what is helpful in the above illustration. In what sense should we also approach the Christian life as an adventure we are to progress in like Pilgrim in *Pilgrim’s Progress*.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Excellence and Fun.

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Day 41 – May 14th

Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able to admonish one another. -Romans 15:14

I have learned so much over the years from preachers, professors, evangelists, and Sunday School teachers. But here's my confession: some of the very best things I have learned about serving Jesus were taught to me by men and women who never formally taught anything.

It makes me think of the great John Bunyan back in the 1600's. He was a very lost "tinker" or metal worker in England. He was sitting in a room one day, and overheard several common women talking to each other in the next room as they worked. He thought he would hear some gossip about townspeople. Instead, the ladies were sharing with each other about Jesus and how He had saved them. Their "gossiping" of the gospel led to Bunyan's conversion!

I learned to tithe as a senior in high school not from a preacher's message but from the fellow senior friend that led me to the Lord. I saw him putting money in an envelope and asked about it. He shared a few scriptures about it and the Holy Spirit impressed on me to begin tithing. I learned my greatest lesson on both lament and civility from my godly grandmother. One of my earliest memories was of the television showing President Nixon at the airplane, leaving office in disgrace. What I really remember about that was my Grandmom, a diehard Democrat, weeping in that moment beside me. That day I learned there are far more important things in life than politics.

Take a moment to share with each other something you were taught by brothers and sisters in Christ who were not official teachers.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing the Teaching of Scripture.

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Day 42 – May 15th

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication... (Acts 1:14). They raised their voice to God with one accord and said...And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:24, 31). As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them” (Acts 13:2).

One of the clearest things the early church did a lot of that we fail to do enough of is to gather for prayer with other believers and actually pray out loud together. The ordinary course of action in most American churches is to try to do things in our own strength rather than pray. That is probably among the biggest reasons we have such little impact. When we pray together, we are inviting the power of the Holy Spirit to empower and guide us, and He does! Corporate prayer unites our hearts and focuses our efforts.

I often tell people that if they will begin to pray out loud with others, it is one of the things that will really help their faith take a step forward. An irony here is that often corporate prayer suffers from two opposite directions. There are those who pray too much, and often in a loud “look at me” way that Jesus condemned. But others refuse to pray at all, and the church misses out on their humble prayers. Let’s not give up on corporate prayer at The Tabernacle! Let every small group meeting include a time for prayer. And may many more of our people lift their own voice with others in prayer!

Have each person share about one of the more powerful times of corporate prayer they experienced.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Adoration and Prayer.

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Day 43 – May 16th

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about 3,000 souls were added to them. -Acts 2:41

REVIEW: Baptists have historically been known for at least 4 things:

- 1) Regenerate (born again) church membership. Only believers are to be members of the church, so only those who have testified to belief through baptism (meaning immersion) can be church members. Catholics and Protestants both considered most citizens of the state to automatically be members of the state church.
- 2) Autonomy (independence) of the local church. Every Baptist church is to be under the direct Lordship of Christ, and not under the control of a Prince or a Pope, a Country or a Denomination.
- 3) Religious liberty for all. Baptists desire freedom of speech, assembly, and religion for all, not just those we agree with.
- 4) Evangelism and Missions. Baptists believe that everyone on earth will die and go to Hell unless they turn to Christ for salvation. Giving everyone on earth the opportunity to hear the gospel and respond to Christ is worth our best efforts.

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace." -Romans 10:14-15

As you talk today, have each share how these Baptist principles helped define the United States of America.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Baptist Principles.

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Day 44 – May 17th

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on earth.” **-Revelation 5:9**

Where you look and see a terrorist, God may look and see a future King. Where you look and see a communist, God may look and see a future priest of God. Where you look and see a lady superstitiously praying to Mary, God may look and see a future Queen. Where you look and see a nation playing Cricket, God may be look and see future children of God.

I love the passage above, and the one like it in Revelation chapter 7. Both tell us that every single people group on earth will be represented in Heaven. Luke 15:7 lets us know that every time a sinner turns to Christ for salvation, there is rejoicing in Heaven! That is true when a youth gets saved at church, when a child gets saved at their school’s good news club, and when an adult gets saved in India. We all need to continue to impact our area for Christ, but let me also encourage you to think of four major areas of world lostness:

There are over a billion lost Muslims in the world; There are over a billion lost Chinese in the world; There are over a billion lost Indians in the world; There are over a billion largely lost Roman Catholics in the world; Make sure your personal missions strategy involves the strategic support of at least 1 missionary or organization in each area.

As you talk today, discuss and pray for the missionaries you know who are reaching out among those major areas of world lostness.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Evangelism and Missions.

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Day 45 – May 18th

For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account...And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:16, 19

Review: The 3 kinds of giving the Bible calls for:

- 1) Proportional giving – The tithe (Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 23:23)
- 2) Generous giving – Giving from our abundance (2 Cor. 8:13-15)
- 3) Sacrificial giving – times the Holy Spirit leads us to sacrifice to give

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and BEYOND THEIR ABILITY, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and fellowship of the ministering to the saints. -2 Corinthians 8:1-4

Most people in the world are hoping to increase their standard of living as they live life. That is not a bad desire. But the Bible indicates God is much more concerned that our standard of giving increase. What if instead of buying more stuff you are supposed to give more to make ministry happen? In Philippians 4:16, Paul said their giving led to an increase in their account. He wasn't talking about their account at his ministry headquarters, where a big gift would mean he would send them a bobblehead! He was talking about how God in Heaven will reward what's done to advance His cause on earth.

Have each person share an example they have seen of sacrificial giving, and then pray that God will be pleased with your giving.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Radical Generosity.

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Day 46 – May 19th

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established – that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. -

Romans 1:8-12

Did you see that Romans 1:8 above shows that the church at Rome was also an Acts 1:8 church! I love everything about these verses! We don't just support missionaries – we nurture mutually beneficial relationships with them. We have already looked at local and regional partners. Here are some of our International Partners (Several in sensitive areas of the world omitted):

Ed & Karen Lytle in Norway House, Manitoba, Canada; Bob & Judy Ambrosius reaching the Philippines; Brandon and Laura Neal with TWR (international media ministry); Brent & Sarah George in Romania; Christ for the Island World reaching Indonesia; Judson & Raquel Hatcher in Brazil; David & Natalia Brady in Argentina; Emma Napier assisting Australian Baptist churches and church planting; Julio & Susy Esquivel in Brazil; The Friends of Israel; The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews; 3,400 International Mission Board missionaries supported through our Cooperative Program Giving.

Have each person pray for one of those partners now!

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Nurtured Partnerships/ Relationships.

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Day 47 – May 20th

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another (Prov. 27:17).

We have already established a rationale for having age-appropriate ministries. Although we love the times like Sunday morning worship when the generations come together, it is appropriate to re-gather in smaller groupings for age appropriate needs. It looks like this:

Children's ministries

Youth ministries

Young Adult ministries

Men's & Women's ministries

Senior Adult ministries

When I think of men's and women's ministries, I think of Titus chapter 2 in the Bible. Paul instructs Titus to speak respectfully to the older men and exhort the younger men in specific areas of responsibility. It wouldn't be proper for Titus as a young man to spend time with the younger women, so Paul told Titus to instruct the older women to speak to the younger women in specific areas of responsibility. Our men's ministry loves the above verse about how men sharpen each other like iron sharpens iron. One of our women's ministries mottos is "Seeking Him; Serving Others!" I like both of those mottos, and love the growth and service opportunities these ministries provide!

Have each person describe one benefit from having times of just men gathering with men, and women gathering with women. Pray for our men's and women's ministries to fulfill their mottos!

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Day 48 – May 21st

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or “Sit at my footstool,” have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?” -James 2:1-4

Have each person describe their reaction to James’ words there.

Have each person share a way they have seen sinful partiality express itself in church settings over socioeconomic or even racial issues.

Have each person share a way they have seen Christ-like love in action in church settings.

Have each person grade themselves from A to F on how good they are at welcoming visitors of any kind in a church setting.

Talk about specific ways you all can help the Tabernacle be a more welcoming place to the guests the Lord brings us.

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. -James 2:8-9

Pray together that our Tabernacle will continue to grow in practicing Christ-like love for all He brings our way!

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Day 49 – May 22nd

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

I said: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”

But the Lord said to me: “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you will speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you.,” says the LORD. -Jeremiah 1:4-8

We just read the account of the call of the Prophet Jeremiah. God still calls young people (and older ones) to the ministry today. And some of the ones God will use in a great way still respond like Jeremiah here – with reluctance and excuses! Moses responded to God’s call the same way, although he was 80 years old when God called him!

If you feel God calling you into the ministry, it’s important to let your church know. God’s call is affirmed in two ways. There is an internal sense of call – the Holy Spirit gives you a burning desire inside that won’t stop. There is also an external confirmation through the church family. As they know how you think God is leading, your church family and leadership will give you opportunities to serve that will give them opportunity to affirm externally what you feel internally. But your church family can’t do that if you struggle with the call alone.

If you are sensing a call to ministry, tell the person you are talking to right now. Pray with each other about that! Also send an e-mail to Pastor Danny at dannycampbell@thetabernaclefamily.org.

The Mission of the Tabernacle is to reproduce faithful and fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we seek to do this is by emphasizing Leadership Development.

Day 50 – May 23rd

Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. -James 5:16

Ultimately nothing we do as individuals and as a church family matters at all if we refuse to deal with our sins and get right with God.

We far too often hide our sins; We far too often justify our sins. We refuse to look behind the mask sin wears and see how hideous it really is. We refuse to see sin the way God does, as rebellion against Him and as that which keeps us from experiencing God's best for us. If we don't deal with our individual and corporate sin, nothing we do will make an eternal impact. In the Bible we see God withhold his blessing from an entire group of believers until an individual's sin was dealt with, as he did with the sin of Achan in Joshua chapter 7. We also see God call entire churches to repent, such as the church of Ephesus in Revelation chapter 2. They had lost their first love, and nothing else mattered until they got back on track with Jesus.

“When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.’ And you forgave my iniquity.” -David in Psalm 32:3-5

We can of course pray directly to the Lord and receive forgiveness, as we learn from 1 John 1:9. But if you find yourself in an *ongoing sin-confess-sin again-confess again* cycle, you probably need to confess your sin to another Christian and let them pray for you and help you. Let's be the body of Christ, ya'll!

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