

FBC NEWSLETTER

October 2025

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*Preparing people for
Wholeness in Jesus through
The Word of God.
Readying the remnant
For the rapture.*

Praying Against the Spiritual Evil For the Children of Our Communities

In the world around us, we must not think that things go altogether wrong when the powers of evil become strong. We would be foolish if we wept in despair because the tares are ripening for is not the wheat ripening too?

True, the dead become more corrupt, but if the living become more active, why should we lament?

Because blasphemy grows loud, because infidels seek to undermine the foundations of faith, or because the clouds of superstition grow to become denser, we must not therefore conclude that we have fallen upon evil times, the like of which were never seen before. Do you not know that in the world of nature the darkest time of night is right before the dawning of the day?

Even so, when evil is at its height, it is nearest its fall.

Charles Spurgeon 'Prayer and Spiritual Warfare'

This week's battles: what they celebrate, and the need for intercession. Lord may you free the captives!

Oct. 11th National Coming Out Day. The day, celebrated since 1988, honors the significance of coming out or inviting others in and raises awareness about LGBTQ+ rights. Coming out is a personal choice and often an important part of reclaiming the right to live authentically in one's identity publicly. The Human Rights Campaign says "coming out" is a common term for acknowledging being LGBTQ+, but it is not about seeking permission to be who you are.

Lord, break the chains that bind them.

Oct. 5-11th is the observation of 'Book Banning Week'. A quote from the website: In the 2024-2025 school year, PEN America recorded 6,870 instances of book bans affecting nearly 4,000 unique titles. School shootings, LGBTQ+, rape, sexual experimentation, with pornographic writings and illustrations designed for children. These are just some examples of what is now being deemed worthy of being read by our young children. **Lord, shed light on the lies!**

The month of October is now also being observed by LGBTQ+ groups as a month of celebration in the history of all things LGBTQ+.

Lord, perversion is what people are craving now, they see no cost to anyone! Lord, silence the cry of Folly as she calls more and more of the weak and broken to her.

Heavenly Father, these words of Charles Spurgeon are spoken in truth, when evil is the darkest; it is nearest its fullness and the time of its consummation-end. Quickly comes the day of your return Lord, when light breaks the hold of darkness, when lies are revealed and pain will not have a place where breath is yet drawn!. Father, until the day of our Lord's return, we ask that your hand work two-fold: that those speaking, are doing, and promoting such evil as can be found in the lies of the LGBTQ+ platform that they would have their platforms (whatever they may be) stricken from them; having no access to our young at all. Secondly, that the church (the people who are a part of her) that they would be awakened to what is happening behind closed doors and in secret. Lord, as you are now exposing the hypocrisy within the hearts of those governing us now; we ask Lord also that you may expose the same in those who are teaching what ought not to be taught to our young; thereby stealing life from them and trampling down their hopes for tomorrow.

You Lord, are the way, the truth and the life; may it be your face they seek, your hand that they reach for, and your love that frees them in their darkest hour! Deliver us from evil Lord both within and without.

Thank you Jesus. Amen

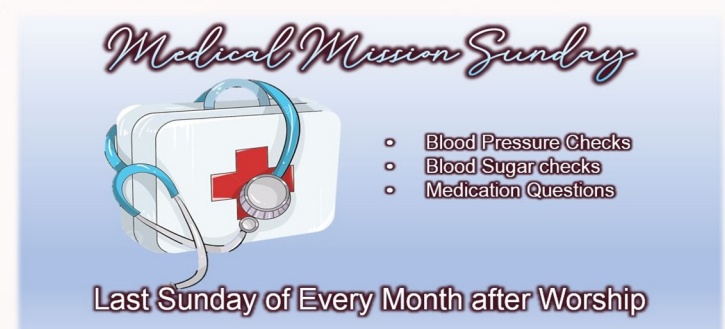
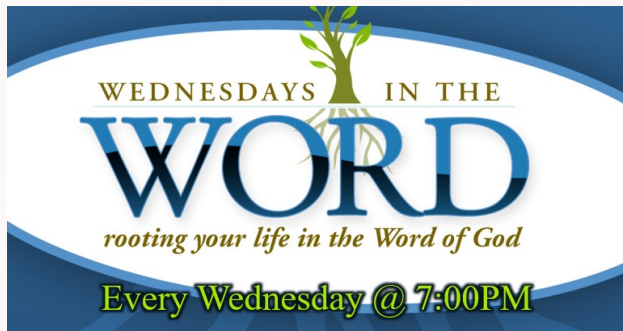
Upcoming Battles

Oct. 11 - "Coming Out" Day

Oct. 13 - Indigenous People's Day

Oct. 15 - International Pronouns Day

Oct. 16 - Spirit Day sponsored by GLAAD



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

23 – Doug & Raeleen Hill ~1976

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

01 – Stephanie O'Neil
 03 – Aurelia Cory
 06 – Mary Jo Hill
 08 – Raiya Sebesta
 08 – Bethany Walker
 12 – Erin Church
 22 – Brooklyn Hervey
 28 -- Cameron Barnett
 29 -- Todd Cory
 29 – Collin Nienhaus

Fellowship Hall Servers

05 -Potluck
 12 -Pastor Appreciation
 19 -Cherrie & Cyndy
 26 -Pastor Daren & Cam
 November
 02 - Phyllis & Sally

Upcoming Events

07 - Stewardship Meeting @ 7 pm
 12 - Pastor Appreciation Day
 - Time for Prayer during fellowship
 14 - CED Meeting @ 7 pm
 16 - Women's Bible Study at FBC @ 6 pm
 18 - Men's Breakfast at FBC @ 8:30 am
 19 - FBC Women's Meeting during fellowship
 21 - Spiritual Ministry Meeting @ 7 pm
 26 - Medical Missions during fellowship
 30 - Women's Bible Study at FBC @ 6 pm
 31 - Trunk -N-Treat at Parker Oaks @ 5 - 7 pm

Pastor's Pen

The Christian Attrition

The term attrition has 5 usages in the English language. According to Webster's and the Cambridge dictionary shares the following:

- 1: sorrow for one's sins that arises from a motive other than that of the love of God
- 2: the act of wearing or grinding down by friction
- 3: the act of weakening or exhausting by constant harassment, abuse, or attack
- 4: a reduction in numbers usually as a result of resignation, retirement, or death
- 5: the people who leave an educational or training course before it has finished

Now, maybe I am a bit sensitive to the shrinking reality our community faces these days, however – I have notice a trend. Less businesses, a decrease in population, shrinking congregations and church attendance, a lack of interest in going to bible study and Sunday school, a decrease in students enrolling in Christian schools in our area.... the list can go on.

I got to thinking – is it just a sign of the times? Is it that the difference between being nominal or surrendered? Is it that discipleship is just not happening? Is it that Satan seem's to be winning? Is it a priorities issue? Is it we are so ingrained with the world's systems that we treat Christianity as a welfare system?

I would venture to say a little of all of this, but it is deeper – it was prophesied by the Apostle Paul that this was going to happen – attrition among Christians. Look at the following verses:

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the **rebellion** occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

The Greek term for rebellion here is **apostasía**. It means defection from the truth, falling away, and forsake. Its root definition means something separative, that is, specifically divorce.

1 Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will **abandon** the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

Here the Greek term for abandon is **aphistēmi**. It means to remove, that is actively instigate a revolt, to desist, desert, depart, fall away, withdraw self. Its root definition means cessation, separation, departure, reversal from abiding, standing, covenant, continuing.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

And this verse contains what the characteristics of those who defect and depart from truth – even to instigate others to do so. Then they follow falsehood, demonic teachings, and become selfish and just plain narcissistic in every facet of life.

It occurred to me that part of the Christian attrition is due to the prophetic reality in which we live, but also that the selfish part is entering into the equation in the following ways:

a consumer mindset – what I get out of it more than what I put into it.

a self-centered purpose – using God for our own purposes instead of asking Him His purpose for us.

personal fulfillment – seeking fulfillment in what can give verse finding fulfillment in God.

prayers centered around decisions – seeking God's direction and bless what we already made our mind up about.

It may seem harsh – but this is the spiritual reality we are facing today. What can be done to prevent this Christian attrition, to stay the course, to not become part of the tragic statistic?

It goes back to what Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **(John 15:1-2)** He also said "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And Jesus also said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'" **(Luke 13:7-9)**

I also recently ran across devotional Adrian Rogers – and wow did it cut me to the heart like a pruning tool. I believe I have shared recently either at church and or elsewhere.

Commitment to Surrender. "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10)

"I was in Romania talking with my translator, Pastor Joseph, and said, "You've been to America many times. Tell me about American Christianity." He said, "The key word in American Christianity is commitment. Commitment is a relatively new word in the United States. It can be found in some dictionaries, but it came into usage in the 60s and American Christians have gotten stronger and stronger in using the word commitment." I asked, "What's wrong with commitment?" He said, "When a new word comes in, it always replaces an old word. I searched to find the old word that commitment has replaced. The old word is surrender."

In commitment, you decide what you're going to do and commit yourself to it. When you surrender, you lift both hands and say, "I'm under Your control." Do you see the difference? In commitment, you're in control. In surrender, God's in control. He is the King and He is supreme. We simply say, "Your kingdom come; Your will be done. I am under your control."

What are some ways you have sought control? What are some things you need to surrender to God? What does it look like to live in daily surrender to God?"

There is no doubt that we need to surrender to God's, His pruning so we can grow, bear fruit, and not fade into the obscurity of Christian attrition.

By Jesus' Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Dan" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Courage by Sharon Fowler

What does courage mean and what does it look like when put into practice? According to the Webster Dictionary, courage means, “the Quality of being brave; valor.” So then, what does courage look like? It could look like people volunteering to make sure congregants are safe while they worship; or paramedics who rush to the scene of an accident not knowing if it will be someone they know; or it could look like a 5 year old child diagnosed with cancer and battling chemo but keeps hoping that tomorrow will be better; or it could look like the person who gets daily death threats but continues to go out proclaiming the love of Jesus to thousands anyway. Courage is speaking truth.

I had never had the privilege of meeting Charlie Kirk, but I felt I knew him through watching his show, clips of his campus rallies, and some of the numerous interviews he did. I truly admired his courage and what happened to him on September 10th affected me more than I thought it would. His assassination has lit a fire in me as I hope it did in all of you. Charlie's definition of courage was, “Doing the right thing when you don't know how it's going to work out. Courage is committing yourself to the correct course of action regardless of the cost associated to it.” He said in an interview he wanted to be remembered for his courage for his faith. Is what you believe worth dying for? Charlie did.

How many times have we heard this question, “What has happened to this world?” That's actually the wrong question. The question should be, “What has happened to the salt and light?” We, as believers, can no longer stay on the sidelines, or remain spectator Christians. Curtis Bowers said, “For far too long, Christians have been lukewarm, fence-sitters, and ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.” At some point, believers have to open their mouths and verbally share the message of Jesus. We need to get busy and grow in our walk with the Lord. We need to maximize this time, this opportunity - let's not waste it.

Let's revisit what it means to be salt and light. As salt, we preserve a world that would otherwise be under the destructive rule of Satan and enslaved to sin. We preserve the world for enough time that God's purposes can be worked out. As light, we expose the darkness for what it is - and that's why the world hates us. We aren't preserving or exposing anything by sitting passively in our livingrooms. With what Jesus did for us on the cross, how can we possibly stay quiet. (Is. 52:14; Is. 53).

Several years ago, Jack Hibbs sat down with Dr. ED Hindson and David Hocking for a conversation while at a convention. Part of their conversation was on how the church is silent. They said Satan is always looking for a void, a vacuum. If Christians aren't going to stand up and speak about Jesus, then maybe some group, like the Muslims, are going to talk about Jesus. Islam is seizing the moment to get their foot in the door to proclaim their Jesus and their Jesus is not the same as ours. When Jesus said to occupy until He comes, (Luke 19:13), He didn't say to take a seat. He meant to get out into the world and preach the gospel (Matt. 28:18-20). But, while everyone else is coming out of the closet, the Christians are going into the closet. They're hiding, just waiting it out until the return of Christ.

Being a Bible believing follower of Jesus Christ will cost you and if it doesn't, you might be doing something wrong. In her book, "When Culture Hates You" by Natash Crain, she said, "We here in America have been comfortable. We don't have a clue what real Christian persecution is. But, everything is changing now. If we expect comfort to continue, despite what's going on around us, we are fooling ourselves." For some, the death of Charlie Kirk might just be shaking that "comfortable" out of us. (2 Tim. 3:12). We need to be continually mindful that we are accountable to God, not man. Someday we will stand before God and answer for the choices we made during our time here on earth (Rom. 14:10-12).

And, if you think you can't be used by God, think again. Look at Moses for instance - God uses crooked sticks to draw straight lines. We all have a calling. It's your job to find out what that calling is and then do it. Charlie did great things in great ways. We may not be able to do the things he did, but we can do great things in small ways. When's the last time you sent a "thinking of you" card or text message? When's the last time you called to "check-up" on someone who you haven't seen or heard from in awhile? Or gone out to lunch with someone to share the gospel, or let someone know you're praying for them? That act of kindness that you do for someone may seem insignificant to you, but it may be a big deal to the person receiving it.

So let's circle back to the word "courage". Do you have the courage to say, "Here I am Lord, send me" (Is. 6:8). Will we hear the words from our Lord, "Well done good and faithful servant." Courage is you and me picking up our torches and running into the darkness, running to the lost, to proclaim the love of Jesus and what He did for us on the cross. Courage is doing what's right and leaving the results to God.

(I encourage you to watch or listen to Matthew West's song "Do Something".)

