



2018

*I just had to pass this along ... Something more to be thankful for ...*

### **GRANDMA'S HANDS**

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, the more I wondered if she was okay.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was okay. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," she said in a clear, strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandma, but you were just sitting there staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were okay," I explained to her. "Have you ever looked at your hands?" she asked. "I mean *really* looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making.

Grandma smiled and related this story: "Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

"They braced and caught my fall when, as a toddler, I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.

"They dried the tears of my children and caressed the love of my life. They wiped my tears when my husband went off to war. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold our newborn daughter. Decorated with my wedding band, they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote the letters home and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse.

"They have held children, consoled neighbors, and shook in fits of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.

"But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when He leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again. When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband I think of Grandma. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

When you receive this, say a prayer for the person who sent it to you. Of all the free gifts we may receive, prayer is the very best one. There are no costs, but wonderful rewards.

*Let's continue praying for one another!*

*Love you! Happy Thanksgiving!*

*Contributed to be used in the Newsletter by Pat Gill  
in 2009, thought a repeat would be nice..*

***An Unlikely Vessel (by Marsha Schick)***

**Taken from: *Women in the Word/ Presented by: Kay Cheser, Women Ministry Leader***

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3: 23, 24

“Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” Hebrews 10:17

Regardless of your past, God forgives and welcomes you as His child, just as He welcomed the harlot Rahab. Her faith led to a changed life, and the Lord even gave her a place of honor among His people as an ancestor of Jesus.

Have you ever made decisions that caused you to wonder how God could ever use you?

Armed soldiers of Jericho pounded on Rahab’s door and shouted, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out at the country.” (Joshua 2:3) Rahab felt as if her heart would beat right out of her chest. She had never been approached by the king’s guards like this. Were the foreigners in her home a threat to her safety? Was the king wrong about the intentions of these men? What should she do?

Rahab had heard about the wonders of the God of Israel. She learned how God had miraculously dried up the waters of the Red Sea – blazing a path where none had ever walked – so that the children of Israel could make it safely to the other side. The people of Jericho had also heard about the two kings of the Amorites and how they were utterly destroyed when they would not allow the Israelites to pass through their land peacefully. The fear and awesome power of a mighty God filled Rahab’s heart, and she knew He was with these men. Consequently, this sobering realization meant that she was on the side opposing God. Rahab knew what she must do.

Quickly, she hid the two men on the roof of her house and answered the soldiers saying, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly for you may overtake them” (Joshua 2: 4, 5). And with that she sent the king’s soldiers on their way. Rahab’s mind was racing. Not only was the city of Jericho on territory that belonged to the Israelites, by God’s promises, but Rahab had another predicament with which to grapple. She had been living as a harlot. She had made a decision to take the priceless body God had given her and had degraded it to such a place where any amount of money was acceptable. How could she stand before a holy God?

She went to the spies she had hidden and petitioned them. She spoke of the miracle at the Red Sea and the destruction of the Amorites, telling them that her people had lost courage because of the Israelites. She expressed strong belief in the true God and begged the spies to show kindness toward her and her family, and to give her some token assuring her that their lives would be spared. Rahab acknowledged and feared the God of heaven, so much so that she begged these men to swear by the Lord. She was relieved when the men agreed. When Rahab gave them final instructions for protection on their journey, the Israelite men handed her a scarlet cord to tie into the window of her house. In this way, the Israelites would know which house to bypass during the attack.

In Moses’ day, during the first Passover, the Israelites too marked their homes with something scarlet. They were given careful instruction to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a lamb so that no destructive plague would touch them. In doing so, the Israelites demonstrated faith in God and acknowledged His power to protect them from harm. “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (James 2:17)

In the same way, Rahab needed to bind the scarlet cord in faith so that none in her household would perish. The cord was a symbol of God’s protection over Rahab’s home. If she and her family wanted to live, they had to stay within the protective covering God had provided. But if they chose not to, their blood would be on their own heads. (Joshua 2:19)

After the war on Jericho, Rahab, a former woman of sin, was welcomed into the Israelite family – and eventually went on to become ancestor of Jesus! (See Matthew 1:5) Rahab’s scarred past did not prevent God from seeing her full potential. Indeed, she is commended in the Bible in Hebrews 11:31, which says, “By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies, with peace.”

Today, God can work through us just as powerfully – as we, by faith, let go of our past and cling to Him. Right now, God has given us the opportunity to bind His scarlet cord into our hearts. Once we truly let God into every part of our lives, He is able to do marvelous things in us. The Bible says, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

You are so valuable to God that He sent Jesus, His only Son, to die on your behalf. What more could be given than the life of the Son of God? Scripture says that, “He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5). You are more precious to the Lord than you know! His grace and forgiveness is offered freely; it is yours for the asking. If you ever feel that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8). Will you accept His excellent gift today?

- “The righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3: 22 – 24)
- “‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’” (Isaiah 1:18)
- “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (John 6:37)



# PASTOR'S CORNER

We have been studying the book, *Daring to Ask for More* for about a month and a half. I hope that this book is more than just something we can look back on and say that we have done it. I hope that we will look back on this study as transformational. We dare not go back to business as usual.



Our world has experience rapid change for a number of years. I can remember people talking about this in the 60s and 70s when I was growing up. But never before has this been true. I have been reading lately a book entitled *Meet Generation Z*, by James Emery White. In it he talks about the change of society today. The book came out in 2017. Generation Z is the latest generation. Here are its characteristics:

- They are recession marked—in other words, the world has never had boom times or relative peace in their lifetimes.
- They are wi-fi enabled—they don't know a world without computers.
- They are multiracial—overall, multiracial children are the fastest-growing youth group in the United States.

While these are not the only markers of this generation, you can see that these alone are quite different than the experience of their elders. It is also true that many are turning away from organized religion in large numbers. The author calls this the rise of the **nones**. That is, when asked what religious persuasion they are, they will answer, "None." And while living here in the Bible Belt makes us somewhat isolated from this trend, the fact is, we live in an extremely mobile society that is influenced by the prevailing culture everywhere. Indeed, we cannot bury our heads in the sand and say that this will not affect us here. It already is doing so as we speak.

So my challenge to you this month is that we will pray more than we ever have before for the future of society and the church. We must remember that while we value the home influences that we are able to exert, our children still live in the world as it is. I know myself, I too have grandchildren. This generation needs all the prayer we can give it, and maybe even a little more. So join me in praying for generation Z as you never have before.

May God bless you and your whole family,

Pastor Dan Thompson

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# CHURCH HIKE—September 29, 2018



Here is a report from our hike to share: Gary Ernest member of the Social Committee.

Appreciate those that were able to make it out to our hike Sabbath afternoon. In the end we covered close to 3 miles during the 3 hour hike. During the hike we took breaks and discussed the keys wilderness survival. We looked at it from the spiritual and physical perspective. Thought all might appreciate the spiritual side of this which came from <http://candidlychristian.com/wilderness/>.

## 1) **Do Not Panic**

Don't let your imagination run wild. Don't ask a lot of questions like why is this happening? Doesn't God see me? Is God angry with me? No. Remind yourself that you belong to God and you are His. Do not fear. Do not listen to the enemy in your panic. Breathe and trust God. God is with you and watching everything that is going on.

## 2) **Assess Your Situation**

What is surrounding you? Just like a real wilderness, the person must assess their surroundings and look at their resources to see how best to survive. What resources do you have that you can use for survival? Prayer, the Word of God, and fellowship with other believers and the Holy Spirit. These are your resources. The power of God's Word is effective in any situation. The presence of the Holy Spirit is a great comfort to you just as He was to Jesus when He was in the wilderness. Stay in prayer and stay in fellowship with other believers. This is where you will gain strength.

## 3) **Find Shelter**

Well how do I find shelter in my personal situations when I am literally not out in a wilderness? You find shelter in God. When a person gets stranded the first thing they do is find shelter from the elements of heat or cold. A good shelter will help save their life. Same in a spiritual wilderness. The word of God says.. "Over everything the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain" (Is 4:5-6). As you are in your wilderness, the more diligently you seek the glory of God and His presence the more shelter you will be under and protected. Establish a habit of running to Him and remaining in Him.

## 4) **Build a Fire**

What kind of fire does one build in a spiritual wilderness time? That fire is passion. Passionate worship, passion for the things of God and His Word and His plan. This fire consists of giving your whole heart to God and fixing your gaze on only Him. Fall passionately in love with Him.

## 5) **Drink Water**

In the natural wilderness you must stay hydrated to live. Without water you will die. The same is for the spirit. Without the Spirit of God, His Holy Spirit you will die spiritually. We have to drink of the Holy Spirit. To have regular fellowship with Him and be in His presence. You must develop and intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you. I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water" (Ps 63:1). You must seek Him with all of your life. Drink of His goodness. You do this by praying in the spirit daily. You pray in the Spirit when you connect with His presence, partner with His leading, and permit Him to empower your prayers.

## 6) **Find Nourishment**

You must find something that nourishes your body, mind and spirit when you are in a wilderness season. Add things to your life that give your life energy and focus. Things that help you to be a better person will help you greatly. Maybe you need to start a hobby, help others, give out of your need, pray with others, journal, read the word of God more by starting a Bible reading plan. You will get nourished from the healthy things you input into your life.

## November Birthdays

- 1 - Joyce Campbell
- 6 - Brianna Clark
- 14 - Noah Clark (2016)
- 15 - Ladene Higgins
- 22 - Shawn Smith
- 25 - Jeanne Bates

No Known  
Anniversaries

Happy, Happy Birthday and Pray that you are blessed with many more. If I don't have your special day, let me know.  
Brenda



Only guess I will give for the reminiscing picture is she has a birthday this month. And of course that she was and is a beautiful woman.

Give me your picture to share next month.

Have a good month and looking forward to hearing from each of you with something to contribute. Brenda

Your steps for Christ  
Are needed to GIVE out

### Steps to Christ books

Sabbath, December 22 about 2:00 PM.

EVERYONE'S Steps are needed.

Judy Peck - Bible Study Coordinator will be giving out routes and taking volunteers names.



**Speaker Schedule:** Nov: 3 - Jerome Edmeade, 10 - Pastor Thompson, 17 - Ted Winslow, 24 - Pastor Streaming, Dec: 1 - Ted Winslow, 8 - Pastor Thompson & Communion, 15 - Brian Danese, 22 - Ken Girdner, 29 - Pastor Thompson



## Smart Shopper - The Devil Buys Groceries????

Once there was an elderly lady who loved the Lord with all her heart. She was well-known for her faith and for her boldness in talking about it. She would stand on her front porch and shout: "PRAISE THE LORD!" Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There ain't no Lord!!!"

As life goes sometimes, hard times set in on the elderly lady and she prayed for GOD to send her some assistance ... She stood on her porch and shouted: "PRAISE THE LORD" GOD I NEED FOOD!! I AM HAVING A HARD TIME. PLEASE LORD SEND ME SOME GROCERIES!!!"

The next morning the lady went out on her porch and noted a large bag of groceries and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD!"

The neighbor jumped from behind a bush and said, "Ha .. Ha .. I told you there was no Lord. I bought those groceries. God didn't."

The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and saying, "Praise the Lord, He not only sent me groceries but HE made the devil pay for them. "PRAISE THE LORD!"

**A smart person knows  
what to say. A wise  
person knows whether  
to say it or not.**



When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

All my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He ate every bite of that thing...never made a face nor uttered a word about it!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said,

"Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said,

"Your Mom put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides--a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

As I've grown older, I've thought about that many times. Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people.

I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each other's differences is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

And that's my prayer for you today...

that you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life and lay them aside.

We could extend this to any relationship. In fact, understanding is the base of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship!

"Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket--keep it in your own."

So, please pass me a biscuit, and yes, the burned one will do just fine.

Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

This was given to me to put in the Newsletter by my daughter Pamela Curry. No I don't think she wasn't reflecting on personal experiences but glad she wanted to share it with everyone. Don't forget you can share something that you feel would be beneficial to others. Thanks again for allowing me to put together the newsletter each month and thanks so much for sharing also. Brenda

- ◆ Websites Bill Weise has set up & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.  
[www.steppingupward.org](http://www.steppingupward.org) [www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org](http://www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org) <http://www.grandmastidbits.org>
- ◆ We have a website!! **UPDATED - Church Website:** <https://www.clantonsda.com/> Tony Plier has posted sermons, music & a lot of info, look under Newsletters to find this publication on line each month. Tony has made it so the previous couple years are there also. Remember if you don't want to get the Newsletter, Let me know. Thanks, Brenda

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**To:**       «AddressBlock»