



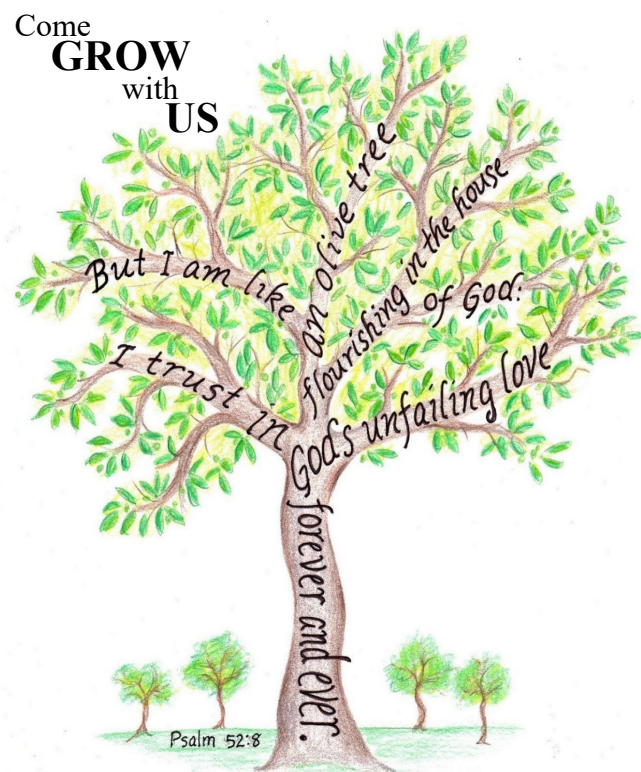
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May 2023: Verse of the Month

Put on the full armor of God so
 that you can stand against the
 schemes of the devil.
 Ephesians 6:11

**WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES
 AT OAKLAND**

- Sunday** 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Indoor Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service Online (Facebook)
- Wednesday** 6:30 PM Wednesday Youth (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Worship Online (Facebook)



CONNECTING TO GOD & ONE ANOTHER

May 2023

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Pastor David's Corner

Temptation, Struggle and Sin

There's no getting around it, we all struggle with temptation and sin (Romans 3:23). Even Paul lamented over his ongoing struggle with sin: "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me" (Romans 7:18-20). His struggle was real; so much so that he cried out, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?" (Romans 7:24).

Yet in the next breath, he answers his own question, as well as ours: "Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:25a). In this passage, Paul not only provides us with the very key to victory in struggling with sin, but explains the never-ending challenge between our sinful nature and spiritual nature: "So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin" (Romans 7:25b).

As long as we live in this world, our sinful nature and fleshly desire will remain with us. But we also have a new nature in Christ. This leads to a struggle between what we want to do and what we actually do, as sin continues to assault our earthly nature. This battle is a normal part of living the Christian life. Ugh!

A true Christian will naturally periodically war with Satan and his daily efforts to undermine us. The devil is the ruler of this world, and we are living "behind enemy lines" (Ephesians 2:2; Ephesians 6:12; John 12:31). With our focus on Christ, however, we will be able to cultivate a mindset that proclaims we're willing to fight to not hurt our God. When we give ourselves to Christ totally (Matthew 16:24), Satan will flee from us. When we draw near to God, He, in turn, will draw near to us (James 4:7-8). These are powerful promises!

Our key then, to victory in our struggle with sin, lies in the very promise of God Himself: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). This originates not in ourselves, but in God and His faithfulness to us: "The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth" (Psalm 145:18; see also Psalm 46:1). Take courage!

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Eddie & Candy Anderson
 Elise Byers
 Brenda Carnes
 Gary Clontz
 Terry Cox
 Marlene Crider
 Peggy Dean
 John Efird
 Cindy French
 Sam & Wanda Goodwin

Prayer requests continued on page 4.



Baptism Sunday
 April 16th

Let's celebrate:
Taylor Price
Alexander Joseph Keith
Shelia Horne

Welcome New Members
 Let us welcome our new members:
 Richard & Tammy Lovingood



Deacon's Meeting
 Sunday, May 7th at 1 PM in the sanctuary.

Happy Mother's Day
 Sunday, May 14th



April Attendance

Sunday, April 2 (55 Indoor + 137 Online)
 Wednesday, April 5 (107 Online)

Sunday, April 9 (71 Indoor + 112 Online)
 Wednesday, April 12 (101 Online)

Sunday, April 16 (65 Indoor + 175 Online)
 Wednesday, April 19 (80 Online)

Sunday, April 23 (57 Indoor + 68 Online)
 Wednesday, April 26 (61 Online)

Sunday, April 30 (55 Indoor + 87 Online)



Prayer Walk

Let's pray for East Elementary
 Tuesday, May 2nd at 6 PM
 515 Elizabeth Ave, Monroe

Join Heart for Monroe for a prayer walk inside East Elementary. The school has asked for people to come and spend time praying for their students, staff, and administration. We will gather in the auditorium before walking the campus. For those that will not be able to make it, please join us in Spirit and ask God for a great work to be done.



National Day of Prayer
 Thursday, May 4th

A Night of Prayer
 Thursday, May 4th

6:30-7:30 PM at the Hope House 1611 Sanlee Church Road, Monroe
 Everyone is welcome to join Heart for Monroe for this special evening of live worship music and prayer.

Slushies & Jesus



With the weather warming up a bit, the youth group will head over to either QT, Sonic or Pelican's Snoballs on the first Wednesday of the month for a sweet treat! If you know of a middle or high school student that would be interested in becoming part of a youth group, please invite & encourage them to join us for Sunday School or Wednesday night youth group!



Youth Rally
 The youth had a fun time at the youth rally at Calvary Baptist Church on Saturday, April 29th. They worshiped to Lift Worship's music and listened to a message from Jake Justice.



April 2023 Offerings \$16,219.00

Budget Needs for May \$17,787.33

UNITED
CALLED TO BE ONE
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Received through April: \$1,085.00



Ernie Haase & Signature Sound
June 17th at 6 PM
120 S Main St,
Monroe
Tickets & info at
gcmaconcerts.com

ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND Live!
AT THE HISTORIC DOWD CENTER THEATRE

Haley's Ministry Prayer Requests & Praises

- ▶ Please continue to pray that the Lord would grow my trust and reliance on Him and that this year would be a time for lots of spiritual growth, especially as I prepare for my full-time role with Unto's Agriculture and Refugee ministries.
- ▶ Praise God that he is "the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin" (Exodus 34:6-7).
- ▶ Praise God for three new Unto interns he has raised up, who will be starting in August with us!
- ▶ Please pray for the people affected by the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Pray for restoration of infrastructure and healing for those impacted, and for those who are still without clean water or somewhere dry and warm to sleep. Pray for the Unto relief going on in these areas of the world.



If you would like to connect with Haley to learn more about her ministry work with Unto, you can go to this website:
unto.com/beard

MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 PM Youth: Slushies & Jesus 6:30 PM Online Worship	4 Jail Ministry	5	6 10:30 AM Registration 11:00 AM Ladies Luncheon
7 Session 4: The Temptation to Place Something Else Before God 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 1 PM Deacon's Meeting	8	9	10 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	11 Jail Ministry	12	13
14 Mother's Day Session 5: Recovering from a Fall into Temptation 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	15	16	17 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	18 Jail Ministry	19	20
21 Session 6: The Strength to Stand Against Temptation 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	22	23	24 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	25 Jail Ministry	26	27
28 Special Focus: Avoiding a Critical Spirit 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	29	30	31 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship			

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ray Greene
- Sadie Griffin
- Doris Hannah
- Mike Helms
- Nan Helms
- Grady & Judy Hill
- Lillian Lewis
- Rich Majewski
- Lory Parker
- Louise Parker
- Robert Skinner
- Irene Welch

Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

DEALING WITH TEMPTATION

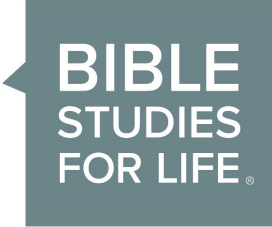
May 7: The Temptation to Place Something Else Before God

May 14: Recovering from a Fall into Temptation

May 21: The Strength to Stand Against Temptation

AVOIDING A CRITICAL SPIRIT

May 28: Avoiding a Critical Spirit



Spring 2023

Bible Studies For Life Summary

Avoiding a Critical Spirit

There are many things most of us wouldn't dream of doing. For example, I would never consider committing murder. That's just not a struggle for me! But a critical spirit? That's a struggle, and from my observation, many others battle with this as well.

One of the challenging aspects of carrying a critical heart is that we can feel justified in feeling that way. Criticism often arises from feeling you're right where others are wrong, and our world affords us plenty of opportunities to encounter people we disagree with. Sometimes it doesn't even feel all that sinful.

Wisdom can be found in recognizing the heart underneath our criticism. A critical attitude will often reveal an area of our lives where God wants to meet us and transform us. We're going to look at a story in Scripture where some of our best heroes in the Bible demonstrated a critical spirit. We're also going to see how the Lord responded. As we do, we'll see ways God wants to work in our lives as well.



CHRISTIAN SINGER SONGWRITER AUTHOR SPEAKER
dawn SMITH JORDAN



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

Ladies Luncheon

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

REGISTRATION: 10:30AM LUNCH TO FOLLOW
GUEST SPEAKER: 11 AM



TICKETS \$5

OAKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
600 E. SUNSET DR. MONROE, NC 28112
CONTACT JULIE COOK 980-210-8277 TO RSVP