



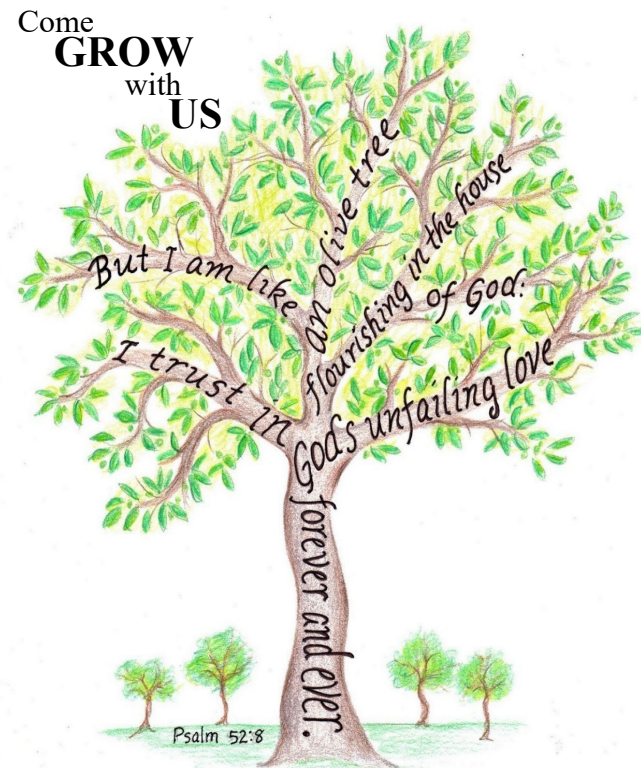
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September 2023: Verse of the Month



**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

September 2023

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Pastor David's Corner

The Pursuit of Happiness

When is the last time you were truly happy, excited to be in the moment, experience, feeling, or season? Can you remember what you were thinking at the time, what was on your mind? Do you recall what was not in your thoughts, was not weighing on your heart or spirit? What did you enjoy most; what or who was there, or what or who was not present, either physically or otherwise intangibly manifested? What was at the core? What was missing?

Now, think of another happy instance, then another, and yet another. Does a pattern surface? Does a commonality appear? Can you discover one, or two, core elements that find residence, or glaring absence, in each of your happiest memories, periods, or life events? Who was with you? Were you alone?

What, or who, affects your happiness? What is it about these that bring about such feelings? What makes you, or what does it take to make you, happy? How often do these "stars" align? What happens when they don't? How does your happiness, or lack thereof, affect those around you? Some would assert that misery loves company. What company do you attract? Who or what is attracted to you?

I read a quote attributed to a wide array of personalities, from philosophers, to preachers, even to Elvis, that has rested gently on my consciousness recently. "The three grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for." As I wonder if this is true, it seems only right to place it in the context of my own answers to the aforementioned questions. When have I been the happiest? Was I doing something? Was I with, or thinking about, someone I loved, or loved me? Was I hopeful, content or at peace?

The pursuit of happiness can be daunting, elusive, and virtually impossible for any of us at times. The striving for it, and inability to secure it, has made madmen of many throughout the ages. Perhaps our better quest should be peace, joy, and contentment, found in God and our brothers and sisters in faith. Seeking the Lord of the universe and desiring to be in a right relationship with Him and His children are worthy of both our time and effort. And interestingly, these pursuits also lead us toward something to do, someone to love, and something to look forward to!

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Prayer requests continued on page 4.



Christian Sympathy

Linet Price, 66, went to be with his Lord and Savior on August 6th, 2023. A life celebration service will be held on Saturday, September 9 at 2:00 pm at Oakland Baptist Church, officiated by Pastor David.

Deacon's Meeting

September 3rd at 1 PM in the sanctuary.



Maui Love Offering

Thank you for hearing and responding to Pastor David's heart for the people affected by the recent Hawaii fires.

What a blessing we have been given to take up a special love offering for Lahaina Baptist Church in Maui. Pastor David and Leigh Ann will hand deliver the love offerings along with prayers and encouraging words to the church in mid-September.



Pray that the love of God through His gospel message goes out clearly and lovingly in these days ahead.

August Attendance

- Wednesday, August 2 (155 Online)
- Sunday, August 6 (59 Indoor + 204 Online)**
- Wednesday, August 9 (114 Online)
- Sunday, August 13 (49 Indoor + 210 Online)**
- Wednesday, August 16 (131 Online)
- Sunday, August 20 (71 Indoor + 142 Online)**
- Wednesday, August 23 (105 Online)
- Sunday, August 27 (58 Indoor + 75 Online)**
- Wednesday, August 30 (94 Online)



Youth Momentum Tour NC Baptist BE DO TELL

Momentum is a 3 meeting event for students to learn how to share their faith and make a difference in their communities.



Praying Your Friends to Christ

Sunday, August 27
Euto Baptist Church

How to Share the Gospel

Sunday, September 10
Calvary Baptist Church

Momentum Rally

Sunday, October 1
Wingate University

Haley's Ministry - Prayer Requests & Praises

- Praise God for providing during MPD this summer, and for the ways He was so clearly at work. Praise Him for each person on Haley's team - those who have continued their support from last year and the new friends Haley has been able to partner with, as well as those who have decided to partner with her in prayer.
- Please pray for a smooth transition back to working in the office.





Save the Date

The Building and Grounds Team will be hosting a Fall Workday Event on Saturday, October 14th from 8am – 12 noon
Hot dog lunch to follow the event.



We will focus on indoor and outdoor tasks to prepare our facilities for the upcoming holiday season. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend! More details to follow as we get closer to the date.



Fall Litter Sweep

Weather permitting, there will be a litter sweep led by the Litter Busters of Union County on Saturday, September 30th. The litter sweep will start at 8 AM and run until 10:30 AM. Check in at 912 N. Sutherland at 8 AM. Gloves, bags, safety vest, grabbers, water and light snacks will be provided. Contact the Church Office by September 28th to register!

August 2023 Offerings
\$15,350.00

Budget Needs for August
\$17,787.33

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Session 1: Develop Strong Convictions 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 1 PM Deacon's Meeting	4 Church Office Closed	5	6 6:30 PM Youth: Slushies & Jesus 6:30 PM Online Worship	7 Jail Ministry	8 Backpacks of Hope Ministry Kickoff	9 2 PM Celebration of Life for Linet Price
10 Session 2: Pray with Passion 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 5-7 PM Youth Momentum Tour	11	12	13 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	14 Jail Ministry	15	16
17 Session 3: Speak Truth Boldly 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	18	19	20 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	21 Jail Ministry	22	23
24 Session 4: Live Courageously 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	25	26	27 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	28 Jail Ministry	29	30 8 AM Fall Litter Sweep (Monroe)

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ray Greene
- Sadie Griffin
- Doris Hannah
- Mike Helms
- Nan Helms
- Grady & Judy Hill
- Shelia Horne
- Lillian Lewis
- Rich Majewski
- Lory Parker
- Louise Parker
- Linnet Price's Family
- Robert Skinner
- Irene Welch

Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

STAYING TRUE IN A WORLD FAR FROM GOD

September 3: Develop Strong Convictions

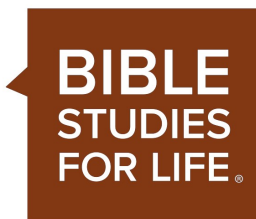
September 13: Pray with Passion

September 20: Speak Truth Boldly

September 27: Live Courageously

October 1: Confess Wholeheartedly

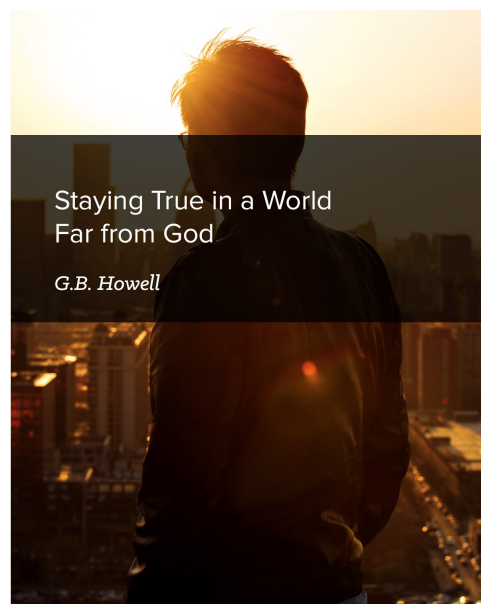
October 8: Prepare for Battle



Bible Studies For Life Summary

Staying True in a World Far from God

For those who grew up in church, our first thought concerning Daniel is likely of the king throwing him into the lion's den. This centuries-old story highlights the world's antagonism towards the things of God and His followers. The conflict has existed since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden and continues today. The division



between the world's standards and God's is not a thin line in the sand; today, it's a vast chasm. The differences are seemingly becoming greater at an ever-increasingly rapid rate. Daniel in the lion's den is but one snapshot from the life of a prophet who remained faithful when kings and companions challenged him to forsake God. The book of Daniel portrays him as unashamed, unwavering, and unwilling to compromise in his devotion to God.

One behavior that stands out to the reader is Daniel's faithfulness in prayer. Another is his willingness to show courage. Daniel thus serves as a model for believers who want to stand strong today, despite the world's disapproval and opposition—or even its resentfulness and animosity. Daniel remained unashamedly faithful; we can too. Let's dig in!

Daniel Trivia

Match the question with the answer below.

Questions

- Which king laid siege to Jerusalem? _____
- What was Daniel's new name in Babylon? _____
- What were the names of Daniel's three friends? _____
- Which tribe did Daniel and his friends come from? _____
- What did Daniel eat instead of the king's meat and drink? _____
- In Babylon, how many years did Daniel study? _____
- What did Daniel do for King Nebuchadnezzar? _____
- In King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which of these elements is NOT listed as part of the statue?
Options: Iron, Clay, Gold, Nickel
- Why were Daniel's three friends thrown into the fiery furnace? _____
- Who was thrown into the den of lions? _____
- What happened to the lions in the den? _____
- What four things did Daniel see in a vision? _____
- What did Daniel's final vision describe? _____

Answers

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lion, Bear, Leopard & Terrible Beast | 8. Daniel |
| 2. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego) | 9. Belteshazzar |
| 3. What shall befall his people in the latter days | 10. Nebuchadnezzar |
| 4. An angel shut their mouths | 11. Three years |
| 5. They wouldn't bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image | 12. Nickel |
| 6. Interpret his dreams | 13. Judah |
| 7. Vegetables and water | |

Backpacks of Hope



The backpacks ministry will kickoff after Labor Day in September. Pray for this ministry and for the Monroe Middle School students who will receive food each week. Bags include a selection from the following items:

- Applesauce, Beanie Weenies, Canned Chicken & Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Chicken Noodle Soup, Fruit Cups (Fruit Medley, Orange Slices, Peaches), Grits, Oatmeal, Peanut Butter Crackers, Pop Tarts, Pork & Beans, Pudding Cups, Raisins, Ramen Noodles, Ravioli, Shells & Cheese, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup

If you feel led to purchase these food items or easy-to-make items that middle schoolers would enjoy, please drop items off in the church office throughout the school year!