



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to MINISTER to others! **Volume 47, No. 31, August 9, 2022** / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!”***

THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE, IN THE STEPS OF JESUS!

Christians: **the Holy Spirit** resides within us to empower us INTO PATHS of normal Christian living:

***** Galatians 6:9— “And let us not** lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint!” ***** Hebrews 12:1— “THEREFORE THEN,** since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], **let us strip off and throw aside** every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us.”

Romans 12:14-21— ¹⁴ **“Bless those who** persecute you [who are cruel in their attitude toward you]; bless and do not curse them... ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. **Never** overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits.” ¹⁷ **“Repay no one evil for evil...** ¹⁸ If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ **Beloved, never avenge yourselves,** but leave the way open for [God's] wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay (requite), says the Lord. ²⁰

But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. ²¹

Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome (master) evil with good.”

***** 1 Peter 2:20-24—** ²⁰ *“After all] what kind of glory [is there in it] if, when you do wrong and are punished for it, you take it patiently? **But if you bear patiently with suffering [which results] when you do right and that is undeserved, it is acceptable and pleasing to God.** ²¹ For even to this were you called [it is inseparable from your vocation].”*

“For Christ also suffered for you, leaving you [His personal] example, so that you should follow in His footsteps. ²² He was guilty of no sin, neither was deceit (guile) ever found on His lips. ²³ When He was reviled and insulted, He did not revile or offer insult in return; [when] He was abused and suffered, He made no threats [of vengeance]; but he trusted [Himself and everything] to Him Who judges fairly...”

BROTHERS/SISTERS: Along the paths into which God has called us, there are tears and times of being tired. But there is no place for GIVING UP or QUITTING.

Rather there are fresh opportunities for growing JOY— the joy of obedience, the joy of walking in the steps of Jesus! And there is the RELIEF that comes when we totally focus on letting GOD CHANGE US and LETTING GOD BE MANIFEST THROUGH US; and LEAVING ALL THE RESULTS TO HIM! Moreover, there is great relief when we cease trying to change others!

However, IF or when we lose that Godly focus and we get off track from our responsibilities and we focus on the real or imagined failures of others and we resent the path that God has brought or

allowed for us— **then we experience exhaustion that is often followed by bouts with deepening resentments/bitterness.** EVEN SO, WHAT WE NOW HAVE IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEAT OUR FLESH AND THE DEVIL; AND TO EXPERIENCE GRACE GREATER THAN SIN; AND BRING GLORY AND HONOR TO JESUS; AND GIVE A POWERFUL WITNESS TO THE LOST!

THEREFORE, LET US:

1. Get alone with Jesus and His Word and ask the HOLY SPIRIT to guide us according to the pure Word of God...and not according to our emotions. Get pen and paper. Make yourself aware that JESUS IS PRESENT!

2. PRAY: LORD JESUS, GUIDE MY PEN TO WRITE DOWN any and all that I have thought, said or done that did not please you!

3. Make NO excuse: LORD JESUS, I only confess MY own sin— it was wrong, it was against you, LORD. LORD JESUS, I refuse to point out the sins of anyone else. LORD JESUS, I ask for your forgiveness; and I give thanks for your forgiveness! LORD JESUS, I WILL GO AND ask the forgiveness of the person or persons I wronged.

4. LORD, IF SOMEONE COMES ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS— I WILL grant forgiveness to the person asking. THEN: We reaffirm fellowship in Christ and go forward.

5. LORD JESUS, even if they never ask for forgiveness of what I believe to be their sin— I will still deal with my own sin! AND in my heart, I will forgive them; and invest in them with love, blessings, prayers, and good deeds, JUST AS your Word commands!

6. LORD JESUS, when I have responded to wrong deeds/words with my own wrong deed/words— I NOW EMBRACE YOUR easy solution, thus, dealing a death blow to PRIDE, SELF AND SATAN!

Sorrows and Joys! Sometimes sorrows, cares and the mysteries of life all pile together and we feel like we have been run over by a truck! If that's never happened to you, I'm happy for you! But cheer up! Your turn may be next! In this present world we will have troubles, trials, and tribulations! Having such difficulties and sorrows— does that mean we will be limited to little or no joy?

The 'story' of the Two Boxes!

"I have in my hands two boxes which I was given. The Giver of the boxes said to me, *"Put all your sorrows in the black box and all your joys in the gold."* I heeded his words and in the two boxes both my sorrows and my joys I stored. However, I began to think the gold box heavier each day, while the black was becoming lighter by the day. With curiosity, one day I opened the black box — I just had to know why it was now so light. To my surprise I saw, in the base of the black box, a hole! All of my past sorrows had fallen out! Recent sorrows were mostly gone and even new sorrows could not stay!

I came to the Giver of the boxes, revealed the hole and I asked, "I wonder where my sorrows have gone?" With a kind smile he said, "My child, they are all here with me!"

So, I asked, "Why did you give me two boxes? Why the gold box that fuller gets and the black box with the hole... that continues to empty out, again and again?" The Giver of the boxes said, "My child, the gold box is for you to count and store your blessings and remember them over and again! And the black box is for you to LET GO!"

Well, that's just a story! Let us dig deeper by first of all giving consideration to the following true account:

Many years ago, J. Hudson Taylor was a missionary to China and the work developed to where he was called upon to pray in financial support for and to oversee over 1,000 missionaries. What an awesome weight of responsibility! A grand secret of his life is revealed in a word the Holy Spirit quickened to him: ***“Bear not a single care thyself— one is too much for thee! The Work is MINE and MINE alone! Thy work? TO REST IN ME!”*** Henceforth, Hudson Taylor embraced the secret of ‘LETTING GO’ by casting all care upon His Heavenly Father!

ALSO: Taylor, at least on one occasion while interviewing a fresh Missionary Recruit, suddenly SLAMMED HIS FIST down hard on a table and water went flying from a full glass! He then spoke to this effect: “Young man, in China the work is difficult, the accommodations are meager. There will be many troubles, trials, and tests that will come CRASHING DOWN UPON YOU! **And when they do, what is in you is what will come out— the fruit of the Holy Spirit or the carnal attitudes of an un-crucified flesh!”**

So it is for all of us! Life comes tumbling in with the unwanted and the unexpected and we get CRUSHED... and what is in us comes out!

SO, LET US REMEMBER: Life is not primarily about what happens to us; life is primarily about our responses! Therefore: “Bear not a single care thyself— one is too much for thee! The Work is MINE (God’s!) and MINE alone! Thy work? TO REST IN ME! (God!)” The hymn writer, Jean S. Pigott, says it in this wonderful way: **JESUS, I AM RESTING, RESTING!**

[1] Jesus, I am resting, resting, in the joy of what Thou art; I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart. Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, And Thy beauty fills my soul, For by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.

[2] O, how great Thy loving kindness, Vaster, broader than the sea! O, how marvelous Thy goodness, Lavished all on me! Yes, I rest in Thee, Belovèd, Know what wealth of grace is Thine, Know Thy certainty of promise, And have made it mine.

[3] Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, I behold Thee as Thou art, And Thy love, so pure, so changeless, Satisfies my heart; Satisfies its deepest longings, Meets, supplies its every need, Compasseth me round with blessings: Thine is love indeed!

[4] Ever lift Thy face upon me As I work and wait for Thee; Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, Earth's dark shadows flee. Brightness of my Father's glory, Sunshine of my Father's face, Keep me ever trusting, resting, Fill me with Thy grace.

*Refrain after each verse: **Jesus, I am resting, resting, In the joy of what Thou art; I am finding out the greatness Of Thy loving heart.***

QUESTION: HOW CAN I 'LET GO' of all I have stored in my 'black box' of sorrows?

1. I should start by distinguishing between the sorrows which are a consequence of my own wrong attitudes, words, and actions and/or wrong responses to others **VS** the sorrows which are the result of what God has brought and/or allowed from others. **I must own up to and turn from** every thought, attitude and/or action in my life that is tainted with 'Galatians 5:19-21' responses.

I must live in the personal experience of '1 John 1:9'... confessing and dealing with my sin **and not the REAL or**

IMAGINED sins of others! *And embrace and be a channel for 'Galatians 5:22-24' responses!*

It is not what people do or say against me that will steal my joy and peace; but it is my anti-Christ 'Galatians 5:19-21' responses.

When my thoughts, words and actions are Galatians 5:19-21 types, I get buffeted about for my own faults and there is no joy in that... and my 'Black Box' of sorrows overflows! (1 Peter 2:19-21) However, when I yield to the indwelling Holy Spirit and become a channel for Galatians 5:22-24 responses— my 'Black Box' of sorrows empties out!

Moreover, I begin to experience the joy of doing my Father's will. I begin to experience the pleasure and the joy of expecting God to use the SUPERNATURAL responses He empowered me with to bring about MIRACLES IN OTHERS, even in enemies and those who offended me!

The 'joy of the LORD is my strength; and so, I must look unto Jesus. By His indwelling Holy Spirit, He stands ready to accomplish in and through me HIS way of joy!

2. I MUST LOOK UNTO JESUS, who had a weight of sorrows above all others, 'endured the cross, despising the shame, for the JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM! Although He was tempted, Jesus 'let go' and did not harbor hurt, resentment, bitterness, etc. He 'let go' by praying to His Father, "Forgive them for they know not what they do!" As a Christian, I am called to walk in His steps! Jesus stayed focused on being the Father's HEALING AGENT to the undeserving, the unresponsive, and the unloving! Jesus "...committed Himself to the righteous judgment of His Father! (1 Peter 2:20-24) SO MUST I!

In sad reality, many of us find our ‘Black Box of Sorrows’ to be full and overflowing with hurts, resentments, and bitterness over real or imagined bad things said and/or done to us. Why? Because we have refused to walk in the steps of Jesus! God brings and/or allows troubles, trials, tribulations, and/or testing— but none of these can destroy us or even rob us of joy and peace! ***They are divinely designed to give us an opportunity to walk in the steps of Jesus, so as to experience His joy and peace in abundance!*** The experience of the supernatural joy of Jesus is in direct proportion to our OBEDIENCE to Jesus (John 15:11) who calls us to walk in His steps, overcoming evil with good! (1 Peter 2:20-24; Romans 12:14-21) Remember: *Life is not primarily about what happens to us; life is primarily about our responses!*

WHAT ABOUT MY ‘GOLD BOX’ OF BLESSINGS?

It is common for followers of Jesus to face circumstances that will DISTURB our world. When these circumstances happen, it’s important to remember the past faithful blessings, and victories that God has given us. Why? *It strengthens our faith; it re-establishes God on the throne of our hearts; it enlightens our understanding; it gives new life in an atmosphere of defeat; it casts off doubt; and it inspires us to advance for the cause of Christ.* **When we remember past blessings, we experience renewed, God-given faith!** “Count your many blessings! Name them one by one! It will surprise [And encourage] you what God has done!”

The sad truth is that many have ‘BLACK BOXES’ full of hurts, resentments and bitterness which they GUARD and use as weapons, refusing the steps of Jesus. **Many have ‘GOLD BOXES’ that are empty**, as they place no value on remembering the past

faithful dealings of the LORD! **Are you living life in REVERSE?** You hold on to wrongs done to you. You place little value or even BLOCK OUT God's past faithful dealings, OR past good times in your marriage, church life, etc!

Possibly the greatest 'GOLD BOX' filler is found in a genuine EMBRACING OF REMEMBRANCE at the LORD'S TABLE! How is it with you? **Jesus is calling you and I to joy and peace! LET US COME TO HIM! His yoke is easy and His burden is light!**

Great Grace to All! James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES: AUGUST 14, 21, 28 / 2022

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **2. *** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SERVICES:

1. 8/14/22 ... 5pm Training Faithful Men

2. 8/21/22 ... AFTER the MORNING service: THE LORD'S TABLE

3. 8/28/22 ... FOURTH SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE at 5PM. (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service.... and, this month, **Ken Smith** scheduled to preach.)

EVERY SATURDAY*** 8:00 AM, — Men's Bible Study! (*Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Sausage Biscuits are available!*)
[STARTING NEW STUDY IN JEREMIAH... 8/13/22]

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study, AUGUST 16, @ 11:00 AM**

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:

6:30pm— come in back ‘double doors’ under the Drive Thru awning! ** *Adult Prayer Service*

**** *Young FAMILIES Prayer Service [ADAM or Jaden weekly communicate as to LOCATION]***

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING:**

SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066/ *OR... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING: <https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>*

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN— SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are in a state of high immune deficiency or if (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; or if you have • Fever; • Coughing; • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.], Please stay home! [A GUIDE— IF WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, YOU WOULD GO TO WORK, THEN COME AND GATHER WITH THE SAINTS!]

2. WHEN YOU COME ... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM as to ‘social distancing’... masks ... vaccine choices, etc. — PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to give sensitivity and respect one to another.

3. In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, E, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And Ivermectin. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene — please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.

4. HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from ... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients! => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/> ////

Peter McCullough, MD, BRIEF. EXCELLENT:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... **focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment:** [COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation](https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/)<https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>