

March 2020



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Knowing AND DOING God's Will for Our Lives

In the last paragraph of my article last month I said, “A couple of additional messages will follow in March that will give additional practical help on this subject.” Since then, in my study of this subject, two additional messages have developed into five. Here is what is coming up, Lord willing, and why.

On March 1, we will confront one of the biggest obstacles we face in trying to know and do God's will: fear. Knowing what God wants us to do won't matter if we are too scared to do it. Overcoming the obstacle of fear is what I hope to help you do on that day.

The next message addresses one of the other obstacles to doing God's will: blaming our circumstances for limiting our ability to do his will. The passage for that message is a puzzling one. It seems like some verses on a different subject were injected where they don't belong. Upon further review, though, they clarify the point being made. Come ready to think that morning.

The message for March 15 includes one of the most famous passages in the Bible, the fruit of the Spirit verses. In the context, they instruct us how to walk according to the Spirit and DO the will of God. Very helpful and practical actions will be highlighted from this passage.

On the 22nd we will consider one of the most effective ways of knowing God's will; praying in the Spirit. Ephesians 6:18 tells us to do this

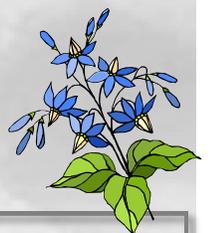
but doesn't really explain how. From additional passages we fill in some of what that means and how to do it. This has changed my life.

On the last Sunday in March we will ask about the will of God when circumstances are hard or when things don't go as we expected. This subject is one that has caused a lot of people to struggle in their faith. We can't answer every question related to this but we can look at some of what God tells us that will help us in that struggle.

As you can see, the subject of knowing and doing God's will is a very big subject. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to make progress in this area of your life.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney



MARCH SERMON SCHEDULE

- 1 “Overcoming the Obstacle of Fear”
- 8 1 Corinthians 7:17-24
“Obedient Where You Are”
- 15 Galatians 5:13-26 “Walking by the Spirit”
- 22 Ephesians 6:18 “Praying in the Spirit”
- 29 “The Will of God When It Doesn't Go Well”



YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about hijacking Rebecca's article for a while now. She's always been able to come up with something to write, but this time she was a little stressed about it, so I seized the opportunity.

I've been meeting with another believer for a while now to talk about faith, family and Jesus. We've covered many other subjects too and lately we've been studying the "P" in Calvinistic theology of TULIP. (TULIP is an acronym for the five points of Calvinism.) We also just covered denominations in Deeper with Ground Zero and this was one of our discussions as well. The "P" in TULIP stands for perseverance of the saints. In my discussion with my friend, we talked about some of the pitfalls that can lead us off the road of perseverance. Like boredom with religion, temptations in life, squabbling in the church and plain discontentment at work. These things can lead to dissatisfaction with faith, Christianity, church and life. So what do we do when that happens?

We persevere. Now there's more to perseverance than just "toughing things out" through our sheer force of will. We don't have that strong of will. So instead, God puts people, thoughts, subjects and ideas right in front of us. Sometimes pride overtakes us and leaves us feeling as though we are working FOR our salvation. So instead, we need to humbly allow God to guide us by paying attention to the people, activities and things in our life that cause us to mature spiritually. These "things" are what God uses in our pursuit of holiness. On the outside, this is what others see. We need not strive so vigorously that our endeavors are nothing but blood, sweat and tears. We need to learn to enjoy ourselves in what we do and not look at it as endless drudgery. Be awestruck by what you learn. Be proud of the accomplishment (even if it's staining the deck). See any task performed as a peak performance for God (even if it's changing a dirty diaper). This will help encourage you to seek Him more and more each day. But we need to change the way we think about everyday life!

Let me give you an example. When I get intellectually bored with something, I lose interest. Since investigating Christianity more earnestly, I can honestly say that it's hard to be bored. Ravi Zacharias is one of Christianity's most keen modern day intellects. Rebecca and I had the privilege of hearing him speak in person recently. The subject of the lecture was "does God exist?" He used a Jeopardy style lecture to get his point across. The questions were, "Why evil?, Is there justice?, What is love?, and Is forgiveness possible?" The answer is, "God exists." Now, I can't give you the whole lecture, but I can tell you that the answer was 100% true to each of the questions. Secularists often cite the existence of evil as a reason against there being a loving God. But, the existence of evil can only be explained by His existence. (His goodness is the standard for good, which is why we can know the opposite of it as evil.) This type of insight drives me to explore faith, theology and religious philosophy with more fervor. Some people are put in this place and time to inspire us to persevere. And it's been that way all throughout history. As we persevere in the faith, God will continue to lay the ground work for all the plans He has for us. And that may include placing a person, an idea, a subject to study, or an opportunity in our way!

"Therefore, my loved ones as you always obey me, not just when I am present but now even more while I am away, carry out your own salvation with fear and trembling. God is the one who **enables** you both **to want** and **to actually live out** his good purposes." Philippians 2:12-13 (CEB)

...until next time, Rick Anderson

Normally Rick helps me get my ideas on paper. I start with a scattered thought and he helps me develop it. This time we worked in reverse. I was the editor and he had the thoughts. Apparently I said the things he normally says to me. It was a little harder this way, but it allowed us to see what the other person experiences when writing. And needless to say, we have completely different styles.

...until next time,

Rebecca Anderson, Youth Director



“Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
His understanding is beyond measure.”

Psalm 147:5

*When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him and said,
“I am El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty.’
Serve Me faithfully and live a blameless life.”*
Genesis 17:1

God, You promised an old man and woman they would have a son, saying, “Is anything too difficult for the LORD?” (Genesis 18:14) And You kept that promise when they were 100 and 75 years old, respectively—proving that *nothing* is too difficult for You!

I pray today that I will keep the same question in mind, knowing the answer will always be a resounding “No!”

Is it too difficult for You to bring life out of death? No!
Is it too difficult for You to calm my storm? Absolutely not.
Is it too difficult for You to provide resources when there seems to be nothing to draw from? Nope!
It’s funny, God—I can almost hear You saying, “Go ahead, ask another one” because it’s clear this question becomes rhetorical when referencing You, the **Almighty**.

El Shaddai, I praise You for powerfully fulfilling every one of Your promises—because nothing is too difficult for You!
Amen

-taken from “Praying the Names of God” by LeAnne Blackmore

“Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
His understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might He increases strength.

Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:28-31



“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21

“Sing to the Lord, praise His name;
proclaim His salvation
day after day.

Declare His glory
among the nations,
His marvelous deeds
among all peoples.

For great is the Lord
and most worthy of praise.”

Psalm 96:2-4a



Emilie Blomberg’s Mission Report
on her year as a missionary to 12+
countries around the world
March 1
during the Sunday morning worship service

March Birthdays

- 1 John Pearson
- 2 Elaine Ulrich, Kali Heikkinen, Zach Mattson
- 3 Genevieve Stolhammer
- 4 Jeremy Esterholm, Brianna Johnson
- 5 Dave Root, Joyce Summers, Victoria Hamm
- 6 Debby Blomberg, Claire DeCleene
- 7 Tim Blomberg
- 8 Grayson Swan, Jean Scott
- 9 Sunday Retzlaff
- 10 Randy Hueckman, David Swan
- 11 Jenny Mattson, James Cook
- 12 Deanny Ulrich
- 13 Lyle Blomberg, Olivia Blomberg, Don Kraegenbrink
- 17 Jerod Blomberg, Eric Mattson, Tim Swan
- 18 Deb Davis, Jeremy Marschke
- 19 Liz Carlson, Lillian Dickinson, Carter Scheithauer
- 20 Desi Haskins, Ahnalie Berg
- 21 Danny Gustafson, Jessica Borchardt, Tamra Swan
- 22 Amy Blomberg
- 23 Spencer Nelson
- 24 Darla Schubring, Joseph Selander, Pam Pearson
- 25 Meredith Hueckman
- 26 Cory Mattson
- 27 Rob Freiboth, Ann Mattson, Kaarin Lind
- 28 Ruby Wildberg
- 29 Crosby Adams, Abigail Adams
- 30 Bev Polzin
- 31 Dionne Sorenson



**Happy
Birthday!**

Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family has an address change
 - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
 - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: info@ogemabaptistchurch.org

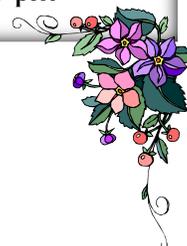
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Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am
Wednesday Youth & Ladies' Ministries - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



Whatever your age or stage in life,
YOU are WELCOME here!

“May He equip you with all you need
for doing His will.
May He produce in you,
through the power of Jesus Christ,
every good thing that is pleasing to Him.
All glory to Him forever and ever! Amen.”

Hebrews 13:21

Missionary Spotlight

Peter & Jessica Wohler
Source Ministries, Minneapolis, MN

Peter and Jessica Wohler have led Source Ministries in Minneapolis since 1995. Source's Mission: Through urban outreach and anti-trafficking efforts, SOURCE empowers the at-risk and unreached to make a break from the past and build foundations for the future. The following is an update on Source's ministry throughout 2019.



“As we approach the end of 2019, we reflect on the **incredible impact** of this year. We've been able to help make **significant changes in peoples lives** as we've led them to **understanding God's love and forgiveness** and inherit practical **life skills and choices**.”

We have seen outreach grow both on the streets and at the Fallout Urban Art Center. Our team of staff and volunteers come in contact, gain trust, and reach more of those who are at-risk and unreached in our community. We have also seen the foundations laid within Source to both sustain our activities and see a larger impact for the future.

2019 Highlights – See more details and stories at SourceMn.org

- Anti-Trafficking teams: Coming in contact with women weekly.
- Over 15,000 pounds of food have been distributed through the Community Meals and Food Shelf
- East Lake Street Outreach: Our consistent presence wins favor with hard to reach people groups. By providing the homeless with meals and through street outreach with Local Police we provide resources and relationships.
- Summer Fallout Art Fiesta – Block party doubles in attendance (over 700) from previous year
- National Homeless Youth Outreach served 100's of meals and saw significant spiritual conversations through the Jesus Kitchen.
- Trainings: Homeless Youth Seminar, Anti-Trafficking Training and Testimony, Outreach Trainings
- Fallout Urban Art Center Renovations: Phase 2 of finishing community room and gallery, 2 new bathrooms & expanded food shelf.”

As you may know, Peter has also been battling cancer. Here are some words of testimony he shared on his Caring Bridge site: “After being diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in Aug 2017, I was told I had 30-60 days to live on 11/7/17 (my 60 day expiration date was 1/7/18). Praise God as he is my healer and my hope.” Now over 2 years since his ‘expiration date’ Peter shares these words: “Got a pet scan at Mayo yesterday: no signs of cancer detected in the tumors or anywhere in body, there could still be some active cells too small to detect - but this is very good news ... We will continue with immunotherapy treatments thru 2020, and will consult with a surgeon next month about surgically removing tumors ... Thanks for so many prayers and support. We are elated. Praise Jesus!”

Please keep Source Ministries, as well as Peter Wohler's health and family, in your prayers.