

***The Forecast  
Hilton Baptist Church.  
101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601  
HiltonBaptistChurch.org / (757)595-3300***



I wonder how many of you started in 2023 with something that you wanted to change in your life? If that's you, I want to ask, how's it going for you... Good?

If it's going well for or you, then allow me to congratulate you. You are the exception. Because according to a study of 40 million people, it's not going that well. "Inc. Magazine" wrote about this study and found that the vast majority of us quit our resolutions by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in January. We started out with really good intentions, but we simply didn't follow through.

In this series, we will discover how to become the people we want to become by consistently doing the small things that matter. Big changes don't have to be big undertakings. Many times, it's the small and often unnoticed commitments that add up to big results... Especially when those commitments become our new habits.!

## ***The Power To Change!***



*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Romans 12:2*

As I write this, we are just weeks into the New Year and people everywhere are hoping that the next 12 months will be different than the previous 12. Even those who had what they would describe as a great year have challenges, they hope to overcome and desires they pray will come to pass. Maybe you can relate. Perhaps there is something you'd like to accomplish this year that you haven't been able to accomplish before

I recently read 2 Peter 1:3 and it spoke to me about making life changes and reaching goals, and it encouraged me. I hope it encourages you too. The NIV version of this passage says: *"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."*

A godly life is living God's way. A godly life is doing God's will. It's not being ruled by anything that is not of Him—but instead—being ruled by His Spirit. A godly life is having the right relationship between yourself and God in every way.

For example, perhaps you have been thinking you want to overcome an insecurity that causes you to shrink back when you want to take relationship risks. Now, pray, make a plan, surround yourself with others who say you can, and move forward in the face of fear. You can because He says you can.

What changes do you want to make in the new year? Have you already given up? Begin again by beginning with belief. Without it you won't be able to change; but with it, you'll agree with God that He has given you what you need to overcome obstacles. Then, you'll wholeheartedly receive His power that can help you change.

*"Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" (2 Peter 1:4).*

Prayer: Lord, thank you that I can because of you. Where I am weak, you are strong. Anything that is not of you can be overcome. How I praise you, Jesus! Help me to believe and be able to change for the better. Amen.

*On the grace journey of experiencing wonderful changes, Lynwood*

# Hilton Baptist Church

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

February 7, 2023

*Serving our Community with the Love of Jesus!*

Budget \$4602.01

Budget Designated– Initial Offering \$30.00

Cash in Cash out– Journey Rent \$675.00

Cash in Cash out– Faith Recovery \$25.00

Cash in Cash out– Sonshine Kids \$25.00

Cash in Cash out– Coffee Fund \$2.00

Cash in Cash out- 1st Friday Sewers–

R & R Doors \$60.00

Food Pantry \$135.00

PORT \$50.00

Total Deposit \$5604.01

For **God** so loved  
the world that he  
gave his one and  
only **Son**.

John 3:16a NIV

## **Lock up/ Hall Monitor**

2/12 Charles Vassar

2/19 Robbie Ayscue

## **Counter**

2/13 Joe Wircenske

2/20 Margaret Upole

## **Kids Church Helper**

2/12 Youth

2/19 Tracy Venable

## **Happy Birthday in February**

2/10 Margaret Upole

2/11 James Harvey

2/14 Curtis Whiting

2/17 Debbie Marfa

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

## Calendar

### Tuesday, February 7th

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

### Wednesday, February 8th

7pm Facebook Bible Study

### Thursday, February 9th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

### Sunday, February 12th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids

### Tuesday, February 14th

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

### Wednesday, February 15th

7pm Facebook Bible Study

### Thursday, February 16th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

### Sunday, February 19th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids Church

## Upcoming Kids Events



### Sunday– February 12th Super Bowl Sunday

Wear your favorite team jersey (any sport) come and have a great time in kids church!

### Saturday, April 1st– Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt

11:00am–2pm

Lunch, Crafts, Music, Egg Hunt, Prizes and the Easter Bunny!

Lots and lots of fun!

Helpers are need! If you can help, please see Dreama!

We are accepting candy for the plastic eggs, you can place them in the church office.  
We will be having a stuffing party sometime the middle of March.

**Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226**

**PORT Sign Up YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

**Food Pantry at HBC**

HBC gives food away on Tuesdays and Thursday. See Sue Monfalcone to volunteer and for more information on how you can help. Bring your non-perishable food to restock the pantry the last Sunday of every month.

We have given out a lot of food recently so any donations would be appreciated. Next collection is February 26th

**Aluminum Cans**

Recycle your cans at HBC and help Support missions! Bring them to HBC and place them in the gym or the church office. All money collected goes to missions!

**Serve the City**

Serve the City Peninsula has many exciting ways in which you can serve. Visit their website and check it out, <https://www.stcpeninsula.com> or contact Pam and she will be able to put you in the right direction.

**Pray for our Missionaries**

LC, JG (Asian Pacific Rim People) MM (Central Asian People) KJ (Deaf People) Whitney Wagner (European People) BH (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) AT (Sub Saharan African People) Felipe Valdez (CA) Joel Stuckey (FL) Arlene Miller (KY)

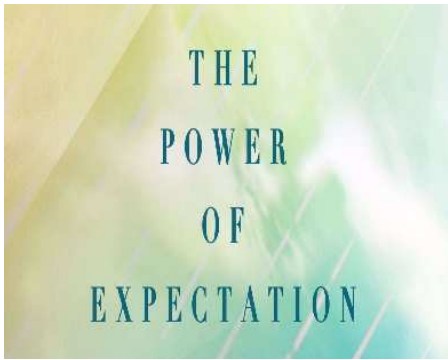
**WMU February Project**

The February Mission is Faith Recovery (formerly Youth Challenge)

**February Community Dinner**

Friday, February 24th 5:30-6:30pm. Come and join us for a great time as we have dinner for our community. If you can help, please let Pam or the church office know.





## *Praying With Expectation...*

*"But when you ask [God], be sure that you really **expect** Him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord."*

*- James 1:6-7*

Do you ever struggle in your prayer life and believing God is going to answer you? I know that I feel this way sometimes. James here reveals an essential ingredient for our answered prayers. The key word here is "expect." James says that if we pray, but don't really expect God to answer us, we shouldn't be surprised if He doesn't.

The dictionary defines "expect" as: "To look forward to, anticipate, watch or look for, wait for, count upon, hope for; believe, trust."

Many psalms begin with the psalmist crying out to God in desperation and despair. A good example of this is in Psalm 42. Verses 9-10 (TLB) say: "'O God my Rock,' I cry, 'why have you forsaken me?'" But the next, and final, verse says: "But O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act! For I know that I shall again have plenty of reason to praise Him for all that He will do. He is my help! He is my God!"

Jesus said, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24) The Master is telling us here that if we want God to answer our prayers, we must begin from the very start of our praying to expect an answer from Him.

We know that God called David a man after His own heart. David's verses throughout the Bible are filled with expectation. He writes, "In the morning I lay my requests before You and wait in expectation." (Psalm 5:3) And in Psalm 27:14 (AMP), David urges us: "Wait and hope for and expect the Lord." Expecting God to act on our behalf shows the Lord that we truly believe in Him and His Word. Psalm 130:5 says, "I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for He has promised."

I won't pretend or promise that if you expect an answer each time you pray, you'll always get what you asked for. But I can tell you this--if you pray with a lively expectation, your percentage of answered prayer will increase dramatically. I have seen it in my own life, as well as in the lives of others. And having an attitude of expectancy will produce a peace and joy in our hearts that we would not have otherwise.

If you're waiting on God right now for something, wait expectantly, for May this declaration of faith by the psalmist be yours and mine today: "I will keep expecting You to help me. I praise You more and more"! (Psalm 71:14 TLB)



## ***Don't Go Until You Get It***

The Bible says:

*"David inquired again of God; and God said... 'When you hear a sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees... go out to battle: for God has gone out before you' ...David therefore did as God commanded him: and they drove back the Philistines... (1 Chronicles 14-16)*

Take note of three things in this story:

1. David refused to make a move until he first talked it over with the Lord.

Notice the words, "David inquired again of God." It wasn't just something he did occasionally or in times of crisis, it was something he did on a regular basis.

2. David waited until he heard a certain sound.

*"A sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees."* Do you know God well enough to recognize the sound of His voice? With time and testing you can. *"You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things."* (1 John 2:20) Not only will you know what God wants you to do, He will actually create within you the desire to do it. *"It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."* (Philippians 2:13)

3. David went, knowing God had gone before him to deal with every obstacle that stood in his way.

The Bible says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally..." (James 1:5) Wisdom is "the ability to use knowledge so as to successfully meet the challenges of life."

You may acquire knowledge from books and schools, but this wisdom is a gift from God. Don't go until you get it!

## ***With God On The Mountain Top***

*"Why is it important that you are with God and God alone on the mountain top? It's important because it's the place in which you can listen to the voice of the One who calls you the beloved. To pray is to listen to the One who calls you "my beloved daughter," "my beloved son," my beloved child." To pray is to let that voice speak to the center of your being, to your guts, and let that voice resound in your whole being."*



--Henri Nouwen



## ***Your Giving Is Appreciated!***

*So the children of Israel gave to the Levites from their inheritance, at the commandment of the Lord, these cities and their common-lands..." – Joshua 21:1-3*

The Levites were the spiritual leaders of the community, established by God as the ones through whom the people would present their acts of worship. As such, they "belonged" to God and would live on God's provision. But then, as now, that provision wasn't a direct act of God. He blessed the people who would use what they had to bless the Levites.

So cities were given within a tribe's inheritance for the sake of the Levites. The people were to contribute to the needs of the Levites as a demonstration of their own faith in God, and their desire for continued provision.

The Church works on a similar principle as our tithes and offerings are presented to the local church and those who serve there are cared for from those acts of worship. What an amazing and sacred relationship. God connects the people's desire to care for His purposes to the care for those He has called to serve Him.

That's what tithing is about – so much more than the hope of personal blessing. My giving acknowledges the spiritual leadership God has placed in my life, and when I give, I affirm that God has provided these servants in order to help me better fulfill His plans for my life.

***Thank you for your faithful prayers and generous giving to HBC...***

***As we continue to obey God, listen to His voice, and work together we will accomplish great things for His kingdom!***

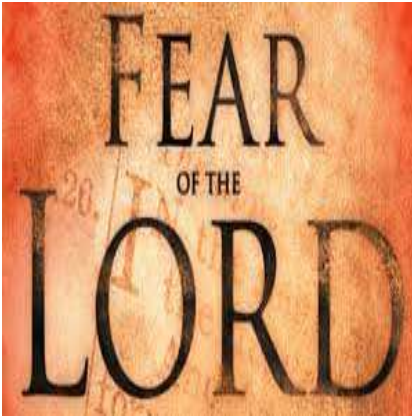


Thanks to Pam Winn

05-09-2011

**TROUBLE IN CAT CHURCH**





## ***We Need A Healthy Fear Of God!***

In the school of wisdom, the first lesson we must learn is *“the fear of the LORD.”* Proverbs 1:7 tells us that the pursuit of knowledge begins with the first step of developing a proper view of the fear of God.

Fear of the Lord does not mean *to be afraid of* Him but does mean *to have more than respect* for Him. If we desire to learn both wisdom and knowledge, we must start by placing God in the highest position of reverence possible in our hearts and minds. We are literally to be humbled and awe struck by His presence. When we grasp the fear of the Lord, we grasp that we are the creation: His servants and His children; and that He is the Creator: our Master and our Father.

In Exodus 20:20, we have what appears to be a confusing statement. *“Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.’”* The fear of the Lord is something that God wants from us for our own good.

Today, however, it seems fewer and fewer people today are willing to start with the fear of God in their pursuit of wisdom and knowledge. No doubt because really understanding the fear of the Lord requires that we first surrendering our lives to God. Scripture calls those who refuse to first go to God, fools.

That does not mean they are deficient in IQ, many brilliant people down through the ages have refused to surrender to God. But it does mean that they will never achieve peace and salvation in this life or in eternity. As Jesus said, *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul”* (Mark 8:36).

At first reading, Proverbs seems rather complicated, but it is giving insights and wisdom on life, which is itself often complicated. C. S. Lewis said that if you ask a child to describe a table in their home to you, they will probably say it is brown and that meals are served on it. But if you ask a physicist to describe that same table, he will speak of the subatomic structure of its molecules, its density, and many other facts only recently discovered and not yet completely understood.

Which person is correct? Both are. Truth for life is often more complicated than we would like, because there will be times when the surface answer will not be sufficient enough for successful living. However, Father God has both complete truth and the perfect solution for every one of life’s problems today. We must simply start with Him.

*“LORD, we chose to start and finish this day with You because You alone can see everything coming and give us the wisdom to handle it.”*

## ***"Who Do You Say I Am?"***

*"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher...You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any nonsense about his being a great human teacher." –*

*C. S. Lewis*



Jesus is with His disciples in a place called Caesarea, Philippi. He turns to His disciples and asks them, *"Who do people say that I am?"* *"John the Baptist"*, *"Elijah"*, *"Jeremiah"*, *"one of the prophets."* The answers pop forth like kernels of popcorn heating over a stove. Then Jesus makes the question personal, *"Who do you say that I am?"* It is no longer about what other people think; now it is personal. Every man must decide for himself.

Every man, not only present then with Jesus, but everyman who has ever lived on earth must also decide for himself. In fact, THIS IS the most important question anyone will ever face: *"who do you think Jesus is?"*

Peter's response to Jesus' personal inquiry was quick and unhesitating (v.16): *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!"* "Christ" as used in those days was the Greek form of the Hebrew word, "Messiah." "Son of the living God" implies a nature superior to that of human; it implies deity, God. Peter throws in an interesting adjective when he says, living God. Jesus is not a dead god like idols worshiped in Caesarea, Philippi; rather Peter states that Jesus is the living God, the real God, the God Who Is.

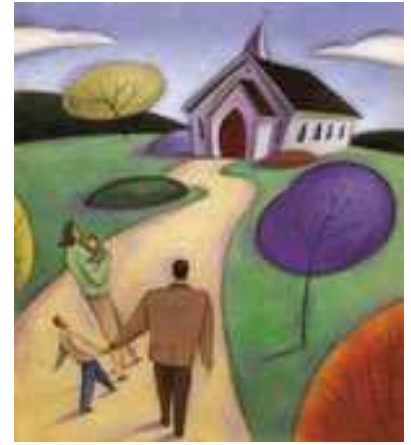
How does Jesus respond? Note that Jesus does not rebuke Peter and say, *"I am not God; I am merely a prophet."* Rather, Jesus receives Peter's statement and even blesses him for his proclamation. At the end of His earthly ministry, the Jewish high priest asks Jesus point blank, *"Are you the Christ, the Son of the Living God?"* Again, Jesus does not flinch; rather, He boldly affirms His own status as Messiah, His own title as Son of God, His own deity, even though it will result in His crucifixion.

In today's terms, we need to "man-up" to the truth! Jesus was so much more than just a good teacher or a religious prophet. Jesus IS God in a human body, the 2nd person of the Godhead.

As C.S. Lewis framed it, Jesus is either, 'Lord, a liar or a lunatic.'" Personally, I believe He proved Himself as Lord by rising from the dead. We must either accept Jesus on His terms as God or we must reject Jesus completely. One option leads to the forgiveness of sins, friendship with God and eternal life; the other option leads to eternal separation from God.

Who do YOU say Jesus is?

***What If Going To Church Was Not  
So Much About “Me?”***



*"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." - Philippians 2:4*

***What if when we went to church...***

...Instead of going to be encouraged...

We went to encourage others...

...Instead of hoping to sing my favorite song...

We hoped to sing “their” favorite song...

...Instead of looking to be served...

We intentionally served others...

...Instead of waiting to be welcomed...

We welcomed others first...

...Instead of asking to be prayed for...

If we sought to pray for others...

...Instead of going to receive a blessing...

We went to be a blessing...

What difference would it make in our church experience?

Of course, church is ultimately not about  
either of us... it’s about Jesus!

But, church is also where people who want to make much of Jesus  
gather to grow, fellowship and worship Jesus...

So, I wonder how our church experience would be made different,  
if we approached it considering the interest of others...

I challenge you to think of and add to the list above

What if... Instead of... When we went to church....

Just wondering...

## ***Two Inconvenient Truths Of Lukewarm Christianity***



First is the truth that your relationship with Christ is your responsibility; it is your journey.

Our Lord appointed the Holy Spirit as a helper in this journey, and He also gave some other human helpers, but you gravely misunderstand this faith if you believe it is a helper's job to spoon-feed you the depth of revelation and intimacy needed. The true element of communion is never a rose or a light airy white wine. It is always crimson and rich in color to remind us of the truth in the blood it represents.

Second is that living according to a truth-driven lifestyle is a necessity for anyone hoping to change the lukewarm temperature in their spiritual life.

Nobody can sustain intimacy with the Father, authority before man, and relevance in this age devoid of a daily choice to not be swayed off of the rock of truth. It doesn't just "simply happen," rather, it is a worthy experience which must be fought for and pursued. We must teach ourselves to believe that lifestyles and experiences outlined to us by the Bible are not polite suggestions. They are requirements of the faith.

### ***The Last Impression...***

There was once a handyman who had a dog named Mace. Mace was a great dog except he had one weird habit: he liked to eat grass - not just a little bit, but in quantities that would make a lawnmower blush. And nothing, it seemed, could cure him of it.



One day, the handyman lost his wrench in the tall grass while he was working outside. He looked and looked, but it was nowhere to be found.

As it was getting dark, he gave up for the night and decided to look the next morning. When he awoke, he went outside and saw that his dog had eaten all the grass in the area, around where he had been working, and his wrench now lay in plain sight, glinting in the sun.

Going out to get his wrench, he called the dog over to him and said...Are you ready for this?.....

*“A grazing Mace, how sweet the hound, that saved a wrench for me.”*