

The HBC Weekly Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church. www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org
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Run in such a way as to win the prize..." I Corinthians 24

It's in the Bible, run to win. If scripture tells us to run to win, why does it feel like so often we're not winning? We try to take two steps forward, and it seems like we take three steps back.

It's like I'm trying to get close to God, and I'm trying to read my Bible, and I'm trying to be consistent and praying. I'm trying to be patient with my kids, but I just can't do it. I'm trying to stop procrastinating. I'm trying to eat better every single day, but the refrigerator pulls me at night. I'm trying not to make excuses. I'm trying to go to bed at a decent time, but the spirit of Netflix pulls me in. Trying to start exercising, trying to get better with my money."

The problem for so many people is you've been trying for too long. And in "trying," we battle with anxiety, or we're worried all the time. This week we are going to focus our study in "The Power of Change," and learn how to let go and let God do the transformation process inside of us.



Are These Words Meant For You?

As I have prayed over the devotion for this week, I believe God is speaking what follows to myself, to others, and perhaps, to you...

“Stop Trying So Hard”

Stop trying so hard. Keep your heart at peace and do what is before you. Sometimes you must be still when you want to move, and other times you must move and act when it feels more comfortable to stay hidden. I will lead you in your times and seasons. I will lead you by My peace. You will hear a still small voice saying, ‘This is the way walk in it.’ My ways will keep your heart honest, will allow you to honor others, and bear fruit in the work of your hands.

Do not tear down your own works by your great efforts. Cease from trying to please everyone, just please Me and all will be well. Just please Me in the works of your hands, in how you treat all those around you, with how you treat your own self. Do not fear man, do not try to please man, do not try to acquire the affections or attentions of others by what you do. Just be what I’ve created you to be. Do not fear their responses, only work to delight Me. I can use you here or make a way for you in a new place, a place that will apply all of your giftings and talents.

Stop trying to please your family, the world, friends, peers, boss, or your spouse. Do what I’ve set before you to accomplish in each day and do each task as unto Me, the results will be pleasing to those whose hearts are for Me. You will know when to prepare and when to stop. When to push in and when to hold back.

I Am is to be your first love. When this relationship is set right, then all the others fall into line. In pleasing Me, you will know which way to go. In pleasing Me, you will honor your spouse and do what is best. As you look to Me for creativity and insight, I will awe you with even the details of that one’s heart that I’ve given you to and all those around your life.

When you seek to please man then your potential cannot fully be realized, you can only go as far as man can imagine. I tell you that is not very far. Go as far as I’ve imagined for you. Come let us reason together and let Me show you what I desire to do in your life.

With All My Love, Jesus

Hilton Baptist Church

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

March 7, 2023

Serving our Community with the Love of Jesus!

Budget \$9884.00

Budget \$30.00 In honor of Christine Douglas Birthday

Annie Armstrong \$50.00

Cash in Cash out– Sonshine Kids \$25.00

Cash in Cash out– Quilters for Doors \$80.00

Cash in Cash out– Benevolence \$36.62

Food Pantry \$125.00

Total Deposit \$10,230.62



Week of Prayer for North American Missions

March 5- March 12

Annie Armstrong Offering

We honor Annie Armstrong's life and work when we give to the annual offering for North American Missions. Annie Armstrong lead women to unite in mission endeavors that lead to the formation of the Women's Missionary Union (WMU).

Annie Armstrong was a woman of prayer, interceding for missionaries and those helping discover Christ.

100% of the offering is used for Missionary salaries and supplies.

Amount Collected to date : \$100.00



HBC "Sisters Fellowship

We had a great turn out at our Sisters Meeting last week. Another one is scheduled for Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30pm. We will be having food and also we will be making wreathes. You don't want to miss it. If you have any questions, see Nadine or Denise.

Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226

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

Andy Kennedy (American People) NC, SK, PM, DW (Asian Pacific Rim People) AA, Gm (Central Asian People) AR (European People) Bryan Bullington, Ginger Goss, Parker Phillips, Rebecca Shapley (Sub Saharan African People) Cedric Launcher (FL) Michael Campo , David Park (IL) Ryan Ivy (NV) Justin Yoo (Ontario)

WMU March Project for WMU

The March project for WMU is HBC Food Pantry.

Here is a list of the items that are used in the giving away of food.

Soup Canned Vegetables Mac and Cheese Rice
Instant Potatoes Canned Fruit (no sugar added) Tuna Fish
Cereal Peanut Butter (small and large jars) Jelly (small and large)
unsweetened applesauce

When money is donated it is used to buy meats and other items that we do not receive in food collection.

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 March 26th

Collection for PBA for Standing Rock

We are collecting non-fiction paper back books for the Standing Rock Reservation Indian Reservation at the border of North and South Dakota. If you have any you would like to donate, please place them in the Mission Outreach corner.

Discipleship Class– Stan Langdon will be starting a Discipleship Class, Sunday April 16th at 9am on Sunday Mornings in the Media Center. Come and be a part! For more information , see Stan.

Sonshine Kids Easter Egg Hunt and Party

Saturday, April 1st 11am– 2pm

REGISTER YOUR KIDS TODAY!



WE NEED

- ♦ Individually wrapped candy that will fit in plastic eggs (yes it can be chocolate) Needed by March 26, we will be having an ***egg stuffing party on Wednesday, March 29th at 100pm at the church***
- ♦ People to help head up a table, kitchen workers, clean up and set up the sanctuary after the event, registration and greeters. If you can only help a hour, we have a place for you!
- ♦ People to spread the word about the Egg Hunt and Party. There are fliers in the Connection Center if you would like to take and give out to someone.

If you get the newspaper, when you are done with it, can you donate it to HBC Kids Ministry. We are working on Props for VBS that require a lot of newspaper. I will let you know when we have enough. You can place it in the church office.

Thanks for your help ! Dreama

Happy Birthday in March

Christine Douglas 3/8

Scott Schaubach 3/10

Betty Howell 3/11

Ruth Fries 3/13

Christy Kuhlne 3/17

Judy France 3/18

Brian Fries 3/24

Kirk Crippen 3/31



Lock up/ Hall Monitor 3/12 Joe Wircenske 3/19 Pam Cooke

Counter 3/13 Joe Wircenske 3/20 Margaret Upole

Kids Church Helper 3/12 Youth 3/19 Tracy Venable

Hilton Area Blood Drive

Hilton Presbyterian Church -34 Main Street

Thursday, March 16th 1pm—6pm

To schedule an appointment visit : RedCrossBlood.org

Sponsor code: HiltonAC



**American
Red Cross**

Calendar

2023 Week of Prayer for North

American Missions

March 5th– March 12th

Tuesday, March 7th

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, March 8th

7pm Facebook Bible Study

Thursday, March 9th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Saturday March 11th

Set your clocks ahead one hour!

Daylight Savings Time Begin

Sunday, March 12th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids

Tuesday, March 14th

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, March 15th

7pm Facebook Bible Study

Thursday, March 16th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Sunday, March 19th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids Church

Are You Wrestling With God?

*“Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day... Jacob said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!” And He blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: **“For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”**”*



In the most extreme moment of his life, when his entire household was threatened with annihilation, the Patriarch Jacob wrestled with a Man through an entire sleepless night. Somehow, after this astounding encounter, Jacob came to the realization that he had been wrestling with God, and face to face! Once again, the Lord God of heaven showed Himself as a human being to a man He loved; this time, for the purpose of rescuing, blessing, and preserving the man's destiny.

Jacob was relentless during this struggle and his perseverance changed him profoundly, forever, in several ways: he was wounded and walked with a limp for the rest of his life, a sign of human weakness and dependence on the Lord; he was given a new name ("Israel") and with it a new identity, as a prince with God, and one whose struggle with the Almighty saved his life, his family, and his God given inheritance and posterity; and finally, Jacob received the long-awaited relief and closure with the brother whom he had deceived and enraged so many years before.

So this wrestling match with God was a massive turning point in Jacob's life, and though it must have taken every ounce of human effort he could muster, the victory he won affected every human being in history, since, of course, the Man that Jacob wrestled with was almost certainly the same Man who became his most important descendant, the Savior of the world, Yeshua, the Messiah; Jesus the Christ.

How often difficulties and crises are used by the Lord to bring us closer and to develop intimacy with Him. It is sometimes the Lord's will to draw us to Himself through extreme and even terrible circumstances or threats. The inner transformation that can take place when we pass through these intense prayer battles, cannot perhaps, be accomplished any other way. But consider the fruit and the blessing which can result from these mighty wrestling's. And consider how being that close to God Himself may change you forever.

So, you who are gutting out that anguishing trial—don't let go until you receive the blessing, the change, the victory. I believe the Lord also wants to say to you— that you have struggled with God and with men — and have prevailed!

Why Give God Your Best...

Missionaries to China in the last part of the Nineteenth century began to push into the unexplored interior of that great land. They found a community where the main crop was potatoes.

They had a good climate and good soil, but their harvest was always little tiny potatoes. About the size of marbles. The natives said that big potatoes just did not grow there. The newcomers said that surely some big potatoes grew there. "Oh yes, we do get a few now and then," they admitted.

"What do you do with them?"

"Well," the local farmers answered, "We eat them, of course. The big ones are the best." They were planting the runts. They were planting the potatoes that had the genes that produced ever smaller crops.

They were systematically reducing their crop as they took the biggest and best for themselves. The missionaries showed them that only when you plant the big ones – plant the best you have – will you get bigger ones in return.

We smile at the ignorance of people who do not understand this most basic of principles. Yet, we often do the very same thing. We say, "I want to keep the best for myself. Whatever is left – the little potatoes – I will give to God. If I have any left – the ones I do not want – I will let God have them."

Beloved friends, the Apostle Paul could not have stated this principle any more clearly when he said: *"Be not deceived, God is not mocked, Whatever a man sows, That shall he reap..." Galatians 6:7, 8.*

What will you give God today – your best – or the leftovers?

Today, make sure you give God your absolute best – your best worship, your best time, your best work. Today, give God the best of everything you say, everything you do, everything you own and most importantly, give your very life as the best sacrifice you can offer to your savior.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a 'living sacrifice', holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)



Requesting a Donation

A very wealthy man in the community was not known for his generosity to the church. The church was involved in a big financial program so the fundraising committee decided they had to pay him a visit. As they met with him, they said that in view of his considerable resources they were sure that he would like to make a substantial contribution to this program.



"I see," he said. "So you have it all figured out, have you? In the course of your investigation did you discover that I have a widowed mother who has no other means of support but me?" No, they responded, they did not know that.

"Did you know that I have a sister who was left by a drunken husband with five children and no means to provide for them?" No, they said, they did not know that either. "

Well, did you know also that I have a brother who is crippled due to an automobile accident and can never work another day to support his wife and family?" Embarrassingly, they responded, no, they did not know that either.

"Well," he thundered triumphantly, "I've never given any of them a cent, so why should I give anything to you?"



The Last Impression

A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race come about?" The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve; they had children and, so all mankind was made."

A few days later, the little girl asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys, and we developed from them."

The confused girl returns to her mother and says, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me that the human race was created by God, and Papa says we developed from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about the origin of my side of the family, and your father told you about his side as well."

Life In The Rear View Mirror

“One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14



After these words, Paul goes on to say that all who are mature in Christ should have this same attitude and perspective, and if not, God will reveal it to them. So, all of us should have this mindset, but what exactly is Paul talking about here? What things are (or at least should be) left behind and forgotten?

Here are some things I think we should leave behind.

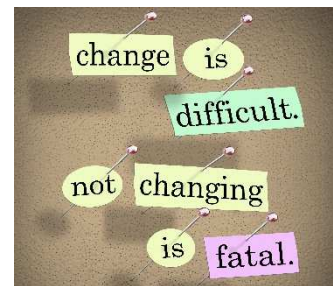
1. Worldly Pursuits - God's word tells us that once we are in Christ, we are a "new creation." We are new in Him. Jesus says to follow Him, we should deny ourselves. When we accept Christ, we become a servant to Him. Worldly pursuits should be behind us and we should have a focused goal of following Christ. Striving for worldly goals will only result in discontent and distract us from the goal that Paul is speaking of here.

2. Regret and Condemnation - We've all made mistakes in life, whether you were a drug addict or a goody two-shoes. We all have regrets, past sins, failures, etc. I often fail as a man. I fail as a pastor. I fail and child of God. Every single day, I fall short of who God has called and empowered me by His Spirit to be. But, I cannot live in a place of self-condemnation. God inspires us with conviction. Satan disables us with condemnation. Regret wastes too much energy. Instead, past mistakes should be forgotten, so that we can move on and move forward in Him.

3. Grievances and Wrongs Against Us - God's word talks many times about forgiving those who wrong us. There is a great quote, "Holding a grudge is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die." Holding onto a grudge eats away at a person's peace, and allows bitterness to take root in one's heart. God requires forgiveness from us, just as he offers forgiveness to us. In addition to that, He realizes the harmful effects of bitterness and holding a grudge. It will hold you back and prevent you from giving yourself fully to Him and His purpose.

If there is something in your life that needs to be left behind and forgotten, I pray that God will help you release it so that you can do as Paul, and forget those things that are behind and press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus!

The Challenge of Change



Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. Prov. 9:9

Few people enjoy change. We get in a comfort zone and tend to want to remain there. John Galbraith observed, “Faced with the choice between changing one’s mind, and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everybody gets busy on the proof.”

Mr. Galbraith was right. Great energy has been expended, impassioned speeches delivered, and battle lines drawn all in resistance to change. One humorist said, “Nobody likes change, except a baby with a wet diaper.” Another good observation.

Certainly, some change ought to be resisted. Change for the sake of change has no merit. Change in the wrong direction is...well, wrong. For instance, a change from obedience to God to disobedience or from faith to doubt or from honesty to dishonesty would be change for the worse.

There are immutable truths and principles set forth in God’s Word which must never be violated or rendered moot in the name of change. Conversely, to insist that one will never change on any issue no matter what is just silly pride, stubbornness and a recipe for spiritual dwarfism.

I recall as a boy hearing one preacher thunder about how he had not changed in twenty or thirty or fifty years... and the church replied with a chorus of “Amens.” It made good preaching...and poor theology and a terrible approach to ministry.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever because He is perfect. He is ideal. There is no change He could make that would improve Him in any way. The same can be said for no other human who has ever walked the planet.

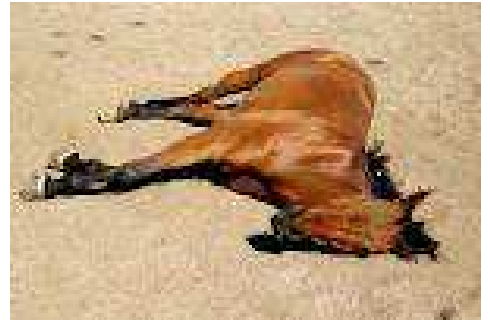
Change can be frightening and foreboding. It is often unsettling because you don’t know what to expect. It is also essential – if you are going to grow. Every new thing you learn, every new idea, every new piece of information changes you in some way.

May we each keep an open mind and teachable spirit and may the things we learn and experience this day change us...for the better.

A Prayer For Today: Father, I know that I am a work in progress. I am better than I was before You found me, but not at all what I will be when You have perfected Your work in me. I pray that I will remain pliable in Your hands.

If the Horse Is Dead, Dismount

"When a thing grows weak and out of date, it is obviously soon going to disappear." Hebrews 8:13 (NIV).



According to Rick Warren, pastor of the Saddleback Community church, (the single largest Southern Baptist congregation in the U.S.) and author of the book, *The Purpose Driven Church*, the reason that 95% of all churches in the world never grow past 300 members is because their structure keeps them from growing beyond that point. Quoting today's scripture, he said, "When a thing grows weak and out of date, it is obviously soon going to disappear. That's true of churches, too. If a church cannot change, it will eventually die."

This same principle applies to many areas of life. No, we don't want to make changes where change is not to our advantage, but there are times when we do need to make changes. When it comes to communicating the gospel, while the message itself never changes, our way and means of communicating it have to change in order to communicate effectively to the particular group we are addressing. One size doesn't fit all!

Also, whether we approve or disapprove, many things around us change and if we don't adapt, we get left behind. For instance, marriage partner roles of husband and wife have changed drastically from the days of our parents and grandparents. If a husband still interprets being the head of the home as being the family dictator, he will be doomed for failure (at least here in America and other parts of the world as well). Those old ways (which, by the way, were a misinterpretation of the Bible), have "gone with the wind."

A few years back, *Moody Monthly*, the highly respected Christian magazine, discontinued its publication after its 103-year history. Why? Because of the economy, the proliferation of Christian magazines, and because of technology. *Moody Monthly*, like so many other ministries, has had to turn from printed hard copy to electronic means of communication, not only to become more effective in their ministry, but also to survive.

So whether it is in our church or personal life, let's be open to and willing to change where change is both essential and necessary.

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, in these days of rapid change, please give me the courage to change the things I need to change, the insight to know the things I must not change, and the wisdom to know the difference. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer."

Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen!"

Who Is Annie Armstrong?

Each year, we honor the life and advocacy of Annie Walker Armstrong (1850-1938) when we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American missions.



As a tireless servant of God and a contagious advocate and supporter of mission's efforts throughout the world, Annie Armstrong led women to unite in missions endeavors that ultimately led to the formation of Woman's Missionary Union, for which she served as the first corresponding secretary.

Annie rallied churches to give more, pray more and do more for reaching people for Christ. As modern-day missions advocates unite to continue that work today, we can be confident that her legacy will also be ours.

WMU® God's mission.
Our passion.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

God is doing some exciting things through the people of God at HBC...

Please remember your commitments and giving and be part of the miracle!



"I just realised why no one was in church today... I forgot to unlock the doors."