



God Centered Growth

First Baptist Church of Norton

May 16 2018
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(Today's devotional is from intouch.org, Nov. 17, 2017, provided by Phyllis Still)

When Facing Life's Mountains

Zechariah 4:1-10

Today's passage describes a vision God gave to Zechariah. In it, the mountain is an illustration of a barrier or hindrance. We might wonder what these strange dreams can teach us today, but though the imagery is foreign, the principles are repeated throughout the Bible and are still relevant for our lives.

Zerubbabel, leader of Judah, and a group of 50,000 people had been released by their Babylonian captors to return to Jerusalem. There, God's people began to rebuild the walls of the temple, but they were attacked by those living nearby. Consequently, the people became discouraged and were ready to give up.

In verse 6, God reminded Zerubbabel through Zechariah that progress is made "not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit." In other words, when God calls us to a task, He Himself assumes responsibility for removing hindrances. God went on to ask, "What are you, O great mountain?" (v. 7). Nothing but flatland would remain once He worked through Zerubbabel.

We are not to face seemingly insurmountable tasks in our own strength. Instead, we're to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We are like the lampstand that was to be kept continually burning in the temple. In Zechariah's dream, the olive trees on each side of the lampstand were pouring oil directly into its bowl, with no help from the priests. The Holy Spirit was acting as the olive trees—He was God's promise of continual help to the weary people. We, too, can trust the Lord to pour His Spirit into our life for help when we face a mountain of an obstacle.

Prayer requests from Sunday:

- Josh and Ella Justice expect to deliver a baby boy on Tuesday. (Update: James Vincent Justice was born at 9:09 p.m. Tuesday and is doing well!)
- Dottie Graham's health is improving every day.
- Chris Starnes
- The Bowers family



VBS June 4-6

- ◆ All volunteers are asked to meet immediately following worship service this Sunday, May 20, in the room next to the sanctuary. They may pick up materials and t-shirts, and coordinate assignments.
- ◆ We will kick off Vacation Bible School with a hot dog luncheon on Sunday, June 3. The church will provide hot dogs, chips, and drinks. If you would like to help, cookies would be appreciated.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to a four-week Bible study on 1, 2, 3 John and Jude: Learning and Living the Truth. We will explore truth in our relationship with God and with others and truth in the church.

We meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Leigh asks that we read Session II: The Truth About Loving People in preparation for next Wednesday.

The homeless shelter needs our help.

The shelter is full and they are running low on food and personal care items. They have plenty of canned food and milk. They particularly need bread, lunch meat, canned soups and noodles, spaghetti sauce, pizzas, any kind of easily prepared meat products such as wieners, sliced ham. They said they need bottled water, juice, and presweetened Koolaid. You can drop off food at the shelter, or bring it to the church and it will be delivered. Thank you!

**As you pray this week,
please remember the
following.**

David & Jewell Ball
Helen Bass
Charlene Bates
Libby Bowman
Gail Buchanan
Jim Campbell
Jim & Sherry Collie
Linda Cooke
Tim Cox
Rhonda Elliott
Family of Tyler Flanary
Rue Gembach
Wayne Harrison
Emma Harrod
Alana Hash
Mary Haynes
Sue Hobbs
Rosalind Hunt
Elee Large
Maddie Lewis
Family of Lann Malesky
Jim & Wanda Manicure
Eugene Mullins
Tracy Ott
Donna Owens
Roberta Owens
Wilma Redman
Leah Riley
Margaret Riner
Bea Simmons
Tammy Sturgill
Marilyn Teasley
Joseph Thomas
Beverly Viers
Susan Gillenwater Wells
Brenda Whitaker
Little Ed Withrow
Our country's leaders
First responders, volunteers
Armed Services men and women
Missionaries
Nursing home patients



Please send prayer requests to
lindawellswalker@yahoo.com



“Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions. It is by our actions that we know we are living in the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before the Lord, even if our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.”

I John 3:18-20

May Birthdays

4 ~ Madison Milam

5 ~ Ed Withrow

8 ~ Alex Dixon

16 ~ Noah Mullins

18 ~ Stewart Spradlin

25 ~ Landon Rakes

26 ~ Ken Owens



Operation KID

(Kids in Distress)

The church is collecting items to make care bags for police to give to children they encounter during a call. Please bring blankets, toothbrushes & toothpaste, stuffed animals, and other items to the church.

First Baptist Church of Norton gives anyone the chance to come together and worship with like-minded congregants as members of a strong, loving community. Whether you're looking for peace of mind, a way to give back, or simply want to be a part of a loving family — First Baptist Church of Norton welcomes you. Join our community, and start your journey to God-centered growth with us!

How to join FBC Norton

- Baptism—You desire to express faith in Christ through baptism.
- Transfer—You wish to transfer membership from another church.
- Statement of Faith—You are a baptized believer and come on statement of faith.
- Watch Care—You would like to be connected to our church family without official membership.

Deacons

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Visit us on the web at
www.fbcnorton.com or
connect with us on
Facebook.

Or better yet, come and visit
us in person!



This newsletter is published every Tuesday morning on the church's web page. Please send news, photos, and announcements to cornettdiane@gmail.com.