



MAY 2021 SERMONETTES

Addition to Messenger

Notes from May's Sermons
May 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2021

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May 2, 2021 - BE FULLY INFORMED

2 TIMOTHY 2: 15 - ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Scripture is critical because it is the pathway to the salvation of men. The Bible is a divinely provided to ensure of the spiritual order. It contains the directions and markings to guide us into reconciliation with God.

In our scripture, Paul has written several letters to Timothy about Timothy's care of the church. Paul wrote to Timothy in 2nd Timothy and warned Timothy to guard the gospel, to keep on teaching and preaching. He wanted Timothy to be fully informed and confident in the word he shared with the Ephesian church. Be fully informed means understanding the word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16 says that ***all scripture is God-breathed and is useful, for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*** (why?) - ***so that man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work***. So God calls us to study His word so that we can present ourselves to God as approved. So in our scripture, Paul outlines 3 things for us to consider so that we can be fully informed about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

POINT 1 - APPROVED NOT ACCEPTED

This is not about acceptance but about approval. We are already accepted. We were accepted into the royal family of God when we accepted Jesus as Savior. So now, we have to do our best to present ourselves to God as ones who have immersed ourselves in His Word so that we can be fully informed. But Timothy tells us that we have to study to show ourselves approved. What are we studying? The principles and precepts of the God.

God's word gives us clear instruction in both precepts and principles. **What is a precept?** a commandment or direction meant to rule actions or conduct. An example of a precept is no sexual immorality; do not repay evil for evil; pray without ceasing, and in all things give thanks.

Principles, on the other hands are judgment calls. A **principle** is a primary truth from which other truths are derived. Bible provides principles of living. A precept is a sign that says, "35 MPH." There is real clarity in that. There is no give or take. It is 35 MPH. But a sign that says, "Drive carefully" is a principle since it can vary with road conditions. If it is sunny, you might be able to go a little faster. But if it is rainy, icy, or snowing, you might slow it down. The more you know about the God's word, the better judgment calls or decisions you can make.

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, helps believers take those principles and precepts and make decisions. Each day is full of decisions. But the Holy Spirit will guide you. He will give you that extra on-the-spot sense of discernment you need to make both big and small decisions and give you the ability to apply both precepts and principles. He will bring the word of God back to your remembrance. So it is not about acceptance but about approval. Have we done the work and trust the Holy Spirit so we can be fully informed.

POINT 2: SURETY NOT SHAME

We should not be ashamed of the gospel but we should be able to share with others the guarantee that the Word of God brings into our lives. That is what a surety is ... it is a guarantee/deposit. We deposit the word of God with confidence and conviction.

We do not have to be ashamed of what we believe. Paul says, ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”***

Not shame but surety - certainty. Ashamed means “disgraced” or “personally humiliated.” Why would we be ashamed. People are ashamed when they have placed their trust in something or someone who has let them down. Paul is not ashamed because his confidence in the gospel is not misplaced.

To live unashamed of the gospel means we proclaim it, but it also means we apply it to our lives and show we believe it. We are “ashamed of the gospel” when we disobey scriptural standards. You know what that does, it shows people around that we don’t believe our own message when we do something different.

Last point is truth which is the most important.

POINT 3: TRUTH NOT TREACHERY

Paul says that ***we have to rightly divide - correctly handle the word of truth.*** To walk in the truth is more than agreeing to or with it. It means to apply it to one's behavior.

WHAT IS TRUTH? After morning service a man stopped the pastor and said, *“I’ve waited to the end to talk to you, because I have got a question that may take a long time to answer. I want to know from you, what is the truth?”* The pastor punched the cover of his Bible and said, *“everything within the covers of that book, and nothing else.”* Scriptural truth is what we need.

How do I know whether or not it is the truth? The best way to show that a stick is crooked it is not to argue about it or to spend time denouncing it, but to lay a that crooked stick next to a straight stick. The word of God is the straight stick. Compare everything to the Word.

As believers ,we need to be fully informed. Those around us will look to us. We want to give to them the word of God. Full stop - nothing more; nothing less. So we have to study to show ourselves approved - not shoot from the hip. What is the truth - ***“everything within the covers of the Bible and nothing else.”***

We share the gospel with confidence because we believe. We have to introduce people to the true and living God. We have the word of God on our hearts. He calls us to be fully informed and to share all we have received with others.

May 9, 2021 - A MOTHER’S ADVICE

Proverbs 31:1-3. The sayings of King Lemuel--an oracle his mother taught him: “O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows, do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings.”

Introduction

Proverbs 31 is believed to one of King Solomon’s proverbs. Solomon is the son of King David and Bathsheba and the 3rd King of Israel. He is known until this day as the wisest man who ever lived. 1 King 4:29 -30 says ***God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight and the breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashores. Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all men of the East and greater than all of the wisdom of Egypt.*** So Solomon was extremely intelligent and he built the kingdom of Israel to its greatest level in material wealth and land.

In the first 3 verses of the Proverb 31, we have Solomon reminiscing about the advice that he received from his mother, Bathsheba. Verse 1 says that it is ***an oracle or the word of prophesy that his mother taught him***. As you think about your own mother, whether she is still with you or you carry her in your heart, I think we all would say that she poured into each of us in the same way that Bathsheba poured into Solomon. So, we honor all mothers for their sacrifice (time, dreams, money), and their commitment. Mothers cared for us, fed us, clothe us and so much more. We honor mothers for their unconditional love (even when we screwed up and made the same mistakes over and over again, they embraced us with open arms). We admit that mothers do the very best that they can although we sometimes reject the advice they give.

Bathsheba's advice to Solomon was meant to give direction and encouragement to a young king. The hand of God and the favor of God was on Solomon. God granted Solomon great wisdom and wealth.

I think that Solomon's mother echoes what the Lord has said by giving Solomon advice on how to manage his duties as King. God gave Solomon ***"a wise and discerning heart."*** God also gave Solomon, ***"both riches and honor, so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among Kings."*** I think we can use a mother's advice today so that we can also have a discerning heart. One of the first things that Bathsheba told Solomon was ...

POINT 1: BE CAREFUL OF THE TEMPTATION AND SIN

Bathsheba encouraged the young prince, to take heed of the sins he would be tempted to and to do the duties of the place he was called to. ***Do not spend your strength on women; your vigor on those who ruin kings. "It is not for kings, O Lemuel-- not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights. You will need to be focused and keep your wits about you if you are going to be able to rule in a way that is best you and for the people.***

What is temptation? Seduction to evil, an invitation to do wrong. You can see the difference between a trial and a temptation. Trials are from God and they are designed to discover the man's moral qualities or character. They help to strengthen us and to grow spiritually. But temptation encourages and persuades to do evil to bring us to a point of ruin in God's eyes. ***When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does God tempt anyone.*** James 1:13. God tries; Satan tempts.

One of the biggest temptations for Solomon was women. Solomon did good things. 1 Kings 4. But Solomon had a problem. He loved foreign women. He had 700 hundred wives of royal birth and 300 hundred concubines and they lead astray. So the problem wasn't that they were foreign and of different races and cultures. It was that Lord had told them not to intermarry because it would cause them to worship other gods. Solomon, not only, built temples for his wives, but he worshipped with them. As a result, Solomon heart was not fully devoted to the Lord, as the heart of David his father had been. Human nature is weak, and we tend to yield to temptation when we think nobody can see us. But even if nobody witnesses our sins, and not a soul knows of them, we cannot hide the truth from the eyes of our conscience or from God.

When we are tempted, we have to learn the lesson of the dog. If you have trained a dog to obey, you know this scene. The owner will place bit of meat or bread on the floor near the dog and then tell the dog, "no". The dog knows that means that he must not touch it. In order to be obedient, the dog will usually take his eyes off the food because as long as he looks at it, the temptation to disobey is too great. So the dog will fix his eyes on his master's face. That is the lesson of the dog. When we are tempted we should always look to the Lord's face.

The second piece of motherly advice that Bathsheba gave to Solomon was:

POINT 2: BE A VOICE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE

Do good. That is good advice. *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

Solomon took that advice. One of the scriptures that demonstrates the wisdom that God had given Solomon is in 1 King 3:16 - 28.

How far we go in this life depends on our ability to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because some day in life you will have been all of these.

Our mothers taught us the golden rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. But the word of God requires even more of us and it tells us to *esteem others even higher than ourselves. Each of you should not look to your own interests but also to the interests of others.* Philippians 2:3-4.

The last piece of advice that Bathsheba gives Solomon is to choose wisely! She lays out the characteristics of choosing a wife of noble character.

POINT 3: CHOOSE WISELY

It is the description of a virtuous woman. It is the picture of a wife and mother. She must be chaste (innocent and faithful) and modest (reserved), diligent (hardworking, conscientious) and frugal, (economical and penny-wise); respectful and devoted to her husband, careful of her family, discreet in her conversation, and in the education of her children, and, above all, conscientious (thorough and attentive) in her duty to God. Bathsheba is saying to Solomon, if you can find a woman with all these wonderful qualities, she will make you happy. Proverbs 31:10-31.

SO CHOOSE WISELY. Solomon drifted. Strong currents pull you west when you intend to go east or north when you want to head south. It happens when you either fail to notice or fail to make timely course corrections to maintain your course. Remember the old saying, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions?" That is exactly what can happen to a person whose heart has drifted away from God. Perhaps the person started with the best of intentions. The hard part is staying the course, and resisting the temptation to let personal desires or circumstances to push you off course. Drift is what happened to Solomon. His heart drifted from God. His heart drifted from complete devotion to God to a halfhearted devotion. He wanted God, but he wanted other things as well - powerful alliances, beautiful women, and to serve other gods.

Choose Jesus. It will be the best decision you can ever make. That is the best piece of advice we could get. Bathsheba and David both tried to tell Solomon. Solomon may have accepted God but failed in other ways. But thank God we have a forgiving savior. If you have failed in anyway know that Christ is a forgiving Savior. That is the work that he did on calvary.

May 16, 2021 - TITLE: THE DIFFERENCE

Scripture: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13 - 18

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Introduction

There are three great questions of life:

- Where did I come from?
- What is my duty and my purpose while I am here?
- Where am I going when life is over?

Christian faith answers all three. First, we can track our lineage back to the very beginning when God creates man and woman. Second, our purpose and duty is ultimately love God and to make disciples.

Where am I going when life is over? Is there life after? What exactly happens when it is all over down here? That is the question that we all are unsure of. Believing in heaven is foundational to the Christian faith. So we ask the question, “where am I going, because of the uncertainty we feel of going to a place we have never been before. It like going on vacation to another country or someplace you’ve never been. You have heard about it. You have read the reviews and looked at the pictures but it is never quite what you expect.

We don’t know exactly what happens when we die but we do know what the word of God says about it.

- Some go to heaven when they die and some don’t
- Some will be ready for Christ’s return and some won’t

Our goal with this message is to help us know the difference. Paul wrote 1st and 2nd Thessalonians to encourage the Thessalonica converts and to give them instruction in godly living and assurance of the future of believers before Christ returns. So Paul talks a lot about the coming of Christ. He does so because he knows that the new converts were experiencing trials in their new religion and he wanted them to be informed. There were rumblings that about what happened after death Paul knew that it was important to clear up those rumblings. Just as it is important for us to be clear about life after death.

Paul understood that clarity on Christ’s return meant understanding the difference between hope and no hope.

POINT 1: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOPE AND NO HOPE (13)

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

George Campbell Morgan says that to experience hope is to triumph over conditions and circumstances that are designed to produce despair. Hope speaks of a sense of expectation of something desired and not attained. (Faith is the substance of things hoped for but the evidence of things unseen. Hebrews 11:1).

Paul says in our scripture that if we are uninformed about what happens when we die, we are just like unbelievers who have no hope. Proverbs 13:12 says that *hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life*. That means where there is hope our spirits are revived and strengthened in our faith. The story circulating among the Thessalonians was that death is the end. It was final. The impact of that rumor left the people hopeless.

Paul responds to the rumor about death and he provides an answer for the people. *14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.* We

do not sorrow as those who have not hope. Sorrow is normal when loved ones die. Grief and mourning is normal. Jesus experienced grief. We saw it when Jesus wept at Lazarus' grave for a couple of reasons. (John 11:35). He could not help but weep when confronted with the wailing and sobbing of Mary, Martha, and the other mourners ([John 11:33](#)). It makes sense that Jesus responded to Mary and Martha's sorrow. The scriptures says that Jesus understands everything we go through - we have a high priest who knows because he lived on earth and experiences life here. So Jesus' weeping and grief shows Jesus' fully human nature and the emotional pain of mourning that Jesus experienced.

But the Christian's grief is different. We have hope because we know where departed believers have gone (2 Corinthians 5:8 - ***8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*** We know that we will see them again. That is the difference between hope and no hope. It is the knowing. It is the absolute assurance of where you will spend eternity. While we don't know exactly who will be there, we know that if our family grabbed hold of the promise they too can be there. As believers, we walk around full of hope for what awaits us.

Paul's second point to the church of Thessalonica was there is a difference between belief and unbelief.

POINT 2: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BELIEF AND UNBELIEF (v 14)

14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Most people say that they believe that the Bible is true. But the vast majority have never made a personal, life-changing commitment to Jesus Christ. For them, "believe" is not an active verb. Believing is an active verb because it should move us to action. It was Abraham's belief in God that caused him to leave his home and go to a place he did not know.

So either you believe God up to the hilt -- completely, or else it is best not to believe at all. You believe the book of God - Bible, every letter of it, or else reject it. There is no logical standing place between the two.

What is the difference between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is can't believe. Unbelief is won't believe. Doubt means there is a chance and I am looking for the light. Unbelief is being content in the dark. So believing in Christ and the resurrection has to be more than intellect. You cannot reason your way faith. Either you believe or not. The Jews demanded miraculous signs in order to be convinced, Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified.

So we rest securely in Christ who died and rose again. Heaven is the center of the Christian's universe. That is a Christian belief compared to those who refuse to believe. Just know that they have no hope of heaven. They will be lost forever because of their unbelief.

The last point Paul made was that there is a difference between the 1st and 2nd resurrection.

POINT 3: THE DIFFERENCE THE FIRST AND SECOND RESURRECTION (v 16)

Here is what we know about what happens when we go to be with the Lord. When Jesus left - Acts 1:9 ***9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."***

Paul says in our scripture this morning that Jesus is coming back the same way. ***According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise***

first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

The Lord will descend from heaven with a shout. We will hear the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God. The only archangel we know in the Bible is Michael (Jude 9 and Daniel 10:13). This will not be a quiet return. Everybody will hear it and see. ***Behold, he is coming with the clouds and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him...*** Revelations 1:7 Let's be clear...we do not know when and we do not know where this will occur. ***No man knows the day nor the hour, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*** Matthew 24:36

The dead in Christ rise first. Jesus returns to those who have gone to heaven. He resurrects their bodies and reunites them. Living believers are caught up and changed. (1 Cor. 15).

What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us? If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the Christian faith is a foolish fantasy. However, if the resurrection of Christ did occur, it confirms His life, message, and atoning work. It is the basis of our hope of life beyond the grave. Christ is alive, and the evidence is overwhelming. He is coming back.

So, we wait patiently for His return with hope in our heart. We believe the message of Jesus Christ. The good news is the Lord Himself will come for His people. Even an angel would not do. So we must be ready to receive a prize at His coming. It may be at midnight, at dawn, or in the morning, afternoon or evening. The exhortation is not "Get ye ready," but "Be ye ready." Be sure you know the difference.

May 23, 2021 - PERFORMING A GOOD WORK

Philippians 1:6. ***Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.***

Introduction

What is Pentecost and why is important to us? Pentecost is a Christian holy day that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 40 days after Easter. Some Christian denominations consider it the birthday of the Christian church.

Before Jesus was crucified, He told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come after Him: ***And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*** John 14:16-18

And 40 days after Jesus was resurrected (10 days after he ascended into heaven), that promise was fulfilled when Peter and the early Church were in Jerusalem for Pentecost: ***When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*** Acts 2:1-4

Pentecost is a significant event because it fulfills an Old Testament prophecy. Christ promised He would send the comforter and He did. It is because of the Comforter that God is able to work within us - ***But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*** Because we have the Holy Spirit living within us we can be confident that this good work that the scripture talks about will take place.

One of the most significant results of Christ's work on the cross is the relationship we can have with Him and the transformation that God makes in our lives. It is an already but "not yet". That phrase describes the perspective of believers in Christ who have not yet experienced the fullness of work that Christ can perform in us. Are we saved already? Well, yes! Have we received the Holy Spirit? Well, yes! But, is the work complete? No, "not yet." We have to learn the ways of God every day. Scripture says that God takes us from glory to glory. We can experience a whole new world through the eyes of God if we let him. We move along the spectrum at God's speed as he works on us. He is the potter and we are the clay.

POINT 1 - GOD'S WORK IN YOU HAD A BEGINNING

The work *that God began in you when you accepted the Holy Spirit is just beginning.* You have not always been a Christian. Whether you were not a believer, God is still gracious to you. Ever since we have been on this earth, we have been the beneficiaries of God's blessings. Matthew 5:45 - *He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.* So even when we were not committed to Christ, he was committed to us.

Believers have a special work of God in them. From the very moment we received and embraced the gospel, we received more. We have what unbelievers do not have and that is fellowship with God. A newborn Christian receives all of the promises and privileges of the gospel from the moment they accept Christ. It does not matter if they have been a part of the faith for 30 minutes or 30 years - we have more. And with that more Paul says, we can be confident that God will complete the work that they started and that we will receive all that He has promised both today and tomorrow ... salvation, resurrection, and eternal life.

So the first work of God's Spirit brought to us conviction of sin. The second work is that God enables us to understand the gospel. It is foolish to everyone else but not to us. 1 Corinthians 1: 18 - *for the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing (to those who do not believe) but to us who are being saved (believers) it is the power of God.* The third work brings us to faith in Christ - that means we not only hear the gospel but that we believe it.

Because of the work, there is a new beginning in your life? We should be able to talk about that good work that God has done and the newness in our lives. We should tell people that we are a work in progress. As long as we are breathing God is at work. Change takes time and is a slow process. Because it is an internal change. Jesus was explained that to Nicodemus. *3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." The new birth is absolutely necessary to enter heaven (John 3:1 - 5). 4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.*

So there is work that has to occur. So the beginning work is the acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior - salvation; then receipt of the Holy Spirit that allows the work in you to continue.

POINT 2 - GOD'S WORK IN YOU IS A GOOD WORK

We have to recognize that the work God wants to do is good. Sometimes we fight against God and his plan and purposes. Romans 7:18 says *For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.* (That is Paul) So, if there is going to be any good in us it must come from God. So we must allow Him to work.

God's work for us and in us is good. The work of grace is a good work. Salvation is a good work. Discipleship is a good work. Personal transformation is a good work. Our relationship with Jesus is a good work. GOD WORKS IN US THROUGH THREE THINGS: (Bible, Holy Spirit, and circumstances).

God works through the Bible. Hebrews 4:12 - ¹² *For the word of God is alive and active.* That means is a living instrument that has the ability to impact the life of a believer. It is thousands of years old but still wields as much power in the life of the believer as ever before. 2nd Timothy 3:16 says that is *God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.* But it also comforts and strengthens. It is active and it has impact. That is how God teaches us. It lives forever in the lives of believers.

- The Word is powerful. It convinces us, it convert us from sinners to saints. It pulls down strongholds because it convicts us of our sins. Being exposed to sound Bible teaching does not automatically solves problems. Bible instruction alone will not result in instant solutions to problems. No matter how reliable the teaching or how gifted the teacher, the declaration of truth does not provide the removal of difficulties.
- Think of the Scriptures as an absolutely accurate map. A map tells you how to get to a certain destination. But just looking at a map won't automatically transport you to Arizona or England or Peru. Getting to those places means you have to persevere. There is no such "instant maturity" available on this earth. God does a good work in us and over time produces fully mature Christians but not overnight.

God works through the Holy Spirit. (John 14) - ¹⁶ *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. Holy Spirit is our guide.* ²⁶ *But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.* The Holy Spirit teach you all things and brings all things to your remembrance.

GOD works through circumstances. (Romans 8:28) - ²⁸ *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* When we have something that is good, we always think how do we hold on to it? But the question is when I have some good, how do I share it? God is performing a good work in us and he uses life's circumstances to introduce something new but we are unable to even consider something new. We reject it because we have always done things a certain way. We say, "It has always been like this. I don't know why we have to change." So, we don't.

But God's kind of good is for all. God's good is for sharing. In God's good, we are able to consider the new. He said in *Isaiah 43: 18 - 19* *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!*

As the church, we cannot miss the mark and hold on to old ways and not consider the new. Not a new faith, not a new gospel but a new way to share the good. Sometimes God pushes us out of our comfort zone. He has been doing it since the beginning of time. Abraham packed up and left home. Moses had to go back to the very place where he escaped from. Paul had to go out and preach a gospel that he publicly persecuted. Peter preached the same Christ that he denied.

God uses circumstances to do a good work in us. Perhaps some of us miss opportunities because we are broadcasting our views when we should be tuning in God's Word.

POINT 3 - GOD'S WORK IN YOU IS A CONTINUING WORK

Scripture says - will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. He will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. If you are not where you would like to be just know that God is not through with you yet. The work of God is progressive ongoing and developing but permanent work. So if you are struggling, remember God loves you. The goal of God's work is to make you more like Jesus. Romans 8:29 reminds us that, *"for those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."* Ask yourself, what does God need to do in you to accomplish His purpose? Recognize God's work in you and cooperate with Him.