

UPCOMING
EVENTS

- 1/11 County Wide @ Pineland MBC
- 1/13 Conference
- 1/16 MLK Day of Service
- 1/22 Shiloh @ St. James MBC @ 11 am
- 1/23-29 Ministers, Deacons, Laymen Training Union

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THE MESSAGE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017

NOTE FROM PASTOR

God's blessings on you my brothers and sisters in Christ! Happy New Year to all of you. It is such a wonderful blessing to be able to celebrate the start of a New Year. We speak so much to us in life. We are closing out one chapter and beginning another. A lot of things change with the close of one year and the beginning of another. Let us not be the only thing that does not change; and then let our change be for the better.

I as reading my devotional this week and the subject was on worship. The comparison was made to fans for an athletic team and how they will go to the extreme at games. There are some who will cover their bodies in paint; some who will dress up in character; and some who will spend an enormous amount of money for good seats. They go through all of this as a form of worship for their team of choice. The author made a valid point in saying that we worship the All Star who made the stars and the

MVP for all time and eternity. Yet our worship and devotion pales in comparison to these fans that do not even benefit from their team. The Dallas Cowboys will never pay you. They won't feed you or protect you. Jerry Jones (Cowboys owner) or Jimbo Fisher (FSU coach) probably don't even know you exist. Yet, you are die-hard fans.

This year let's determine to give our Lord and Savior the same, if not more (because He deserves it) of our devotion and worship.

This year, **2017, our theme is Pressing Forward.** We are no longer looking behind us. No matter what we have achieved or what we did not achieve, it is of no use to us now. Like Paul, we are pressing forward, towards the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14). We will not be deterred, discouraged or made doubtful; heaven is our view. So then our lives must reflect our



desire. Our 2017 shirts are on sale now. Remember we are bolstering our Building Fund. Your giving is what's going to make it happen.

January we are at work as we kick off the new year. We will close out 2016 fiscally with our annual conference on January 13th. Please join us as we lay out ministry plans for 2017. January 16th, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we participate in the National Day of Service. Again this year we will be serving our chili on the church lawn. January 22nd, 4th Sunday, we will be fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters at St. James M.B. Church at 11 am. Our Ministers, Deacons, & Laymen Training Union begins Monday, January 23rd.

Let's get to work as we press forward for the Kingdom sake and for His glory!

God's blessings!
Pastor Hawkins

2017 Theme: PRESSING FORWARD



CONTACT: Sis.
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for ordering
Information!

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Help Me To

Study your Word-Ps 119:18

Listen to your voice-Pr 8:32-34

Forget what's behind – Php 3:13-14

Enjoy your love - Eph3:17-19

Experience your peace – Php 4:6-7

Trust you fully – Pr 3:5-6

Be transformed – Ro 12:1-2

Forgive others – Col 3:13

Confess my sins to you – 1Jn 1:9-10

Confess to others – James 5:16

Walk in your purpose – Eph 2:10

Give you my all – Php 3:7-14

Amen



WAR ROOM strategy
Prepare for battle daily
1st January 2018

check LIST

DAILY

- Intentionally surrender my stubborn will
Ask that God's will would become my will
- Prayerfully hang out with the Lord and His Word
& Invest in our relationship!
- Pray Scripture over all circumstances, family & friends.
Favorite key verses on tape. (Laminated) Take what I need with me for the day on my key ring.
- Practice 3 P's all day (pause, pray, proceed)
Write down to you more. All things come off the laundry, car pool, hair salon, & exercise.
- Evaluate the spiritual benefit of ALL INTAKE
Listen to the Spirit for guidance & take ACTION
Be careful little eyes what you see (& hear)
Alone all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. -Proverbs 4:23

WEEKLY

- Meet with Sisters for the study of God's Word, accountability, correction, encouragement & building up.
To the degree that we are given during our lives -Proverbs 27:17
- Attend Corporate Worship
- Meet with someone who is a few steps ahead
Invest in someone who is a few steps behind.

FEED YOUR SPIRIT
READ THE WORD
MEDITATE
PRAY DAILY

TRUTH FOR TODAY:

Romans 8:28,
"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." (NIV)

The only time you should look back, is to see how far you've come



EMPOWERMENT

CELEBRATING WHEN LIFE DOESN'T GO AS PLANNED by [BEKAH JANE POGUE](#)

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

I was the girl who got by with planning, a.k.a. *controlling*.

I hosted. Invited. Decorated and opened my homes to friends and strangers. Yet I mistook intimacy with God as *my* responsibility. Like a party I was in charge of orchestrating. Do you know this feeling?

Try harder. Be peppier. Keep smiling. Keep giving. Keep controlling. Go. Encourage. Perform.

Maybe along the way my faith will go as planned, too.

Deep in my soul, I wanted to release myself to an authentic relationship with my Creator. To allow God Himself to be the inviter, the host, the planner, but I wasn't quite sure how to let go. *Can someone please tell me how I can know God to be real in the middle of moves, job changes, mommy meltdowns and busyness? Is there such a thing as responding and celebrating with an everyday faith?*

Vibrant faith, I assumed, was for people in full-time ministry. You know, the *super*-spiritual: those who have a Master of Divinity degree, or go to Israel in their spare time or tell supermarket strangers about Jesus. *Bless*. I somehow couldn't erase the childhood illusion of faith being compared to running through the daisies with Jesus, donned in an eyelet dress. I'm sorry, but this gal just can't pull off eyelet dresses these days.

Tell me, how does faith fit in with bills and cancer and feeling too much? How does God manifest through social media, the routine and loneliness? For the kind of people like me, who have kids who whine, a marriage that demands work and crazy passionate dreams? Is there space for that type of faith?

Then suddenly, my life shifted. My sweet dad had a stroke, and seven days later he passed away.

I was numb. Unable to muster up energy to control, let alone *do* anything else.

But his passing became the freeing catalyst to notice how Jesus is more authentic than I'd ever experienced. As I stepped into the pain of loss, into foggy weeks of numbness and standing outside of my body, I recognized self-made habits I'd built around control.

Sitting outside on our weathered patio bench, for the first time, I simply *was*. I didn't *do*. I only *existed*. *I'm done, God*, I cried. *I have nothing to give anyone, especially You.*

These feeble confessions changed my dependency on control. I released all my people-pleaser, perfection-aspiring goals, the to-do lists and faces I strove to make happy, and I got real down-and-dirty with my Lord. Getting real with God saved my life. He drew me into safe corners I hadn't known were tangible. Into foreign spaces I'd ignored all my life. Suddenly I was keenly aware that every pain, relationship and detour is an invitation to see God's genuine heart in the middle of it.

This is where choosing "Real" began for me. Before, I tried to will circumstances into submission, but now I'm opting to celebrate a dependent faith relationship in the middle of the unexpected.

Do you desire to see how present Jesus is in real-life circumstances? Are you exhausted from putting on your big girl panties, being strong, pep talking or reciting, "Let's do this!"? Do you hope to see how God has a beautiful plan in the mess, in the scary, in the unknown, in the tears and in not feeling enough?

My new agenda is holding my hands open and asking, *"God, help me not miss You today. However You invite."* I'm finding this open-handed way of living is more abundant and peace-offering than anything I can create. And I pray you, too, want to put down the party-planning faith perspective and join me as together we opt to experience a genuine right-here-in-the-middle-of real-life Jesus.

SET GOD-CENTERED GOALS



A BIBLICAL WARNING ON LEAVING GOD OUT OF YOUR GOALS

In the Old Testament we see Sarah (back when she was called Sarai) make the same mistake. God promised Abraham a son. But after years of waiting, Sarah and Abraham still didn't have a

child.

So what did Sarah do? She charged ahead. She made a plan to have a child via her servant, Hagar.

Hagar and Abraham did have a son, but that wasn't the son God promised. The result was ugly. Sarah banished Hagar, and Hagar and Ishmael had to fend for themselves in the desert.

God took care of Hagar and Ishmael, and Sarah and Abraham eventually had that son God promised. But things would have been so much better if Sarah had waited on God.

(For the full story, read Genesis 15-16.) Pray before setting goals and find

accountability

Identify an area of your life where you'd like to set a goal.

Then locate biblical word of your topic

After you know what the Bible says, you refine your goal and identify the things and people you need in your life to support your success.

Also identify stumbling blocks, so you can be prepared to face them.

If you fail to plan---you plan to fail

What's your plan???

Do you put God at the center of your goals?

NEW YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN



New Year
31 DAY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

EACH OF THE SCRIPTURES BELOW TAKES TEN MINUTES OR LESS TO COPY OUT. COMMIT TO SPENDING TEN MINUTES EACH DAY LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE AS YOU SIMPLY COPY THESE TEXTS OUT OF YOUR BIBLE.

Week 1	Week 3
DAY 1- ISAIAH 43:16-19	DAY 15- ISAIAH 40:28-31
DAY 2- LAMENTATIONS 3:22-26	DAY 16- PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9
DAY 3- ECCLESIASTES 3:11-15	DAY 17- LUKE 14:28-35
DAY 4- PSALM 98:1-9	DAY 18- ROMANS 12:1-8
DAY 5- PSALM 90:12-17	DAY 19- ROMANS 12:9-16
DAY 6- JEREMIAH 29:11-14	DAY 20- ROMANS 12:17-21
DAY 7- PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14	DAY 21- PSALM 37:1-6
Week 2	Week 4
DAY 8- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21	DAY 22- PSALM 37:7-11
DAY 9- 1 PETER 1:3-9	DAY 23- PSALM 37:18-19, 23-24, 27-28
DAY 10- MARK 12:28-33	DAY 24- 2 PETER 1:3-4
DAY 11- EZEKIEL 36:24-28	DAY 25- 2 PETER 1:5-11
DAY 12- 1 CHRONICLES 16:8-14	DAY 26- ROMANS 18:18-25
DAY 13- COLOSSIANS 3:12-17	DAY 27- 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10
DAY 14- HEBREWS 12:7-13	DAY 28- PSALM 27:1-4
Week 5	
DAY 29- PSALM 27:5-8	
DAY 30- PSALM 27:9-14	
DAY 31- CHOOSE YOUR OWN VERSES	

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
Psalm 119:18

How to Read the Bible & LISTEN TO GOD

- Read with a Pen**— Make notes, circle stuff, ask questions.
- Hunt for Promises**— underline or highlight the promises.
- Key Words**— look for those words that make the section make sense.
- Repeat, repeat**— If a word or phrase is repeated, it's important.
- If/Then or So/That**— look for the cause and effect phrases in the Bible.
- Therefore**— if there's a therefore what is it there for?
- Apply it**— ask how this part of scripture applies to me today.
- Use S.O.A.P.**—
read Scripture,
make Observations,
find Application,
and Pray.

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We walk by faith, not by sight. - 2 cor. 5:7

Scripture of the Month

And he who was seated on the throne said,
BEHOLD, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS

NEW. Also he said, "Write this down, for
those words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:5

17 ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

