

BRIDGING THE GAP

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From The Pastor's Desk Living The Good Life!

How would you define the word *good*? It is a word we use a lot. We talk about good food, good weather, and a good report. We say, "Have a good day!" or "He did a good job." The word is used in many different ways. I looked up the word good in the dictionary and found seventeen different categories for the word with three or four different uses or illustrations under each category. Likewise the Greek and Hebrew words for good and goodness used in the Bible are varied and full of meaning. The Bible has much to say about goodness. In fact the word is used 619 times in the Bible. One phrase we hear often is "the good life!" But what really is the good life? For some people the good life means looking good. In America looking good is serious

business. Tanning, color coordination, expensive hairdos, fat suction and whatever else it takes; we have to look good. We place a high premium on beauty and good looks. But the problem with looking good is that there is no universal

standard. Some people think the good life means feeling good whatever it takes; they have to feel good. That may mean sitting in a hot tub, going to Disneyland, or taking drugs. They pursue pleasure at all costs. Their motto for living is, "if it feels good, do it." Still other people think the good life means having things. If they get all the goodies, they think they have a good life. They live the bumper sticker slogan, "The one with the most toys wins." The Bible presents a different picture of the good life. God says in his word that the good life is not based on looking good, feeling good or having things. He says it is a life filled with goodness by being good and doing good. God made you for a purpose. When you live the way God intends you to live, you will feel good. Your life will become meaningful.

We are not saved by good works, we are saved for good works. May I share with you five simple suggestions for learning to do good? First, become a student of God's word. Fill your mind and your life with it. You have only two sources from which to develop your values, the world and the world. The choice is up to you. Second, if you want to do good, you must learn to control your thought life. Prov. 23:7 says "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Sin always starts in the mind. If you nurture temptations in your mind, they will become visible in your life. Third, if you want to learn to do good you must develop some convictions. What do you stand for? Do you know the difference between an opinion and a conviction? An opinion is something that you hold, a conviction is something that holds you. The fourth step is you must have courage to be different. Sometimes goodness means being willing to stand alone. As 3 John 11 says, "Do not imitate what is evil but what is good." Finally if you want to do good, you must develop the habit of meeting with other believers. There is power in numbers. You don't find soldiers going

out on their own to do battle with enemy forces. The Christian life is not easy but eternally worthwhile. So as we face the Giants in our life, never give up, never back down, never lose faith! Live the Good Life!

Enjoy The Journey,
Pastor Clayton

Sermon and Service Outline October 2007 Theme: "Moving on Up!"

October 7

AM Service "Why do we need Revival?"
Psalm 85:6 Pastor Clayton

PM Service Small Groups

October 14

AM Service "An Empowered Church!"
Ezekiel 37 Pastor Clayton

PM Service Small Groups

October 21

AM Service "The Jesus Style"
Matt. 26:41 Pastor Clayton

PM Service Small Groups

October 28 Friend Day 2007 (All Church Dinner)

AM Service Special Guest Speaker: Lisa York
Opening Service with Children's
Hand Bells

PM Service NO EVENING SERVICE!

Friend Day 2007 October 28

This year for Friend Day we will have a special guest speaker. Lisa York is the daughter-in-law of Brenda Caito. She was born in San Francisco and has lived in many different areas of the country during the 60's with her family. She is the oldest of six children born to Jewish parents.

Her father was killed in a plane crash when she was eleven leaving her mother due to give birth to her sixth child. Upon her father's death Lisa and her family moved to England and then returned to live in the Boston area. She graduated from the University of Maine and moved to St. Louis to work for the Brown Shoe Company. Lisa was born Jewish and still practices several Jewish holidays but found Jesus as her Lord early in her marriage. She and her family attend the O'Fallon Assembly of God where she plays the violin and teaches Sunday School with her husband. Her childhood and her story are very unusual, and she shares her testimony to show others how the power of God moved in her life and can transform anyone who will allow Him to come into their hearts. So make plans now to attend this very special service and most of all be sure and invite your friends. Our Goal for Friend Day 2007 is to have 150 people in the morning service. We will also have a carry-in-dinner after the service. BE A FRIEND AND BRING A FRIEND!

An Awesome Reminder how Christians Represent Christ

Several years ago a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back;. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet." When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on

Sunday." When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test!

Always be on guard and remember that you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."

Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

God bless you; The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not PROTECT you... Stay FAITHFUL and Be GRATEFUL.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

BIBLE QUIZZING

Bible Quizzing season is once again upon us. Bible Quizzing is open to all young people ages 10 years through 19 years. We are currently meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. We realize this is during Faith Weavers. Therefore, we are wondering if any of you that cannot do Wednesdays would be interested if we practiced on a different evening, for example., Sunday before Youth or after Youth?

If you would be interested in quizzing this year, or maybe just finding out more information about it, please see me as soon as possible. Our first meet this year will be in November here at our Church (*we will not be attending the October meet given that is the weekend of our Church retreat at Camp Warren*).

Thanks, and hope to hear from all of you!

Belinda Floyd

JOY SS CLASS

Our giants taunt us with bills we can't pay, people we can't please, habits we can't break, failures we can't forget and a future we can't face. But just like David, we can face our giant, even if we aren't the strongest, the smartest, the best equipped or the holiest. David - you could read his story and wonder what God saw in him. His life has little to offer the unstained, straight A saint. He fell as often as he stood, stumbled as often as he conquered. But for those who know the sound of a Goliath, David gives this reminder:

FOCUS ON GIANTS---YOU STUMBLE.

**FOCUS ON GOD---YOUR GIANTS
TUMBLE.**

If you're ready to face your giants, let his story inspire you. The same God who helped him will help you.

We have just began a study of the book **Facing Your Giants** by Max Lucado. If you want to learn more about David "A man after God's own heart" we invite you to join us in Sunday School.

Ruth Pope, teacher

WCG

We will be hosting a very unique meeting in October so won't you come and see what the WCG is planning? I promise you it will be entertaining and quite the event of the year so far. Now that I've got your attention, let's play "dress up." What I mean is that each decade will be represented at this meeting. Your style may be the 30's, 40's, 50's, all the way up to the present. This night will be magical and full of excitement for all to enjoy. Hope to see you there. Refreshments will be provided by Ruth Pope and Carol Hamilton plus child care will be available.

A special thanks to you for helping out with the back to school drive. As promised several local

schools were blessed by your generous donations. A little bit of glue, a pair of scissors or notebooks can make a difference in a child's life. Thanks and God bless you. There was also some green stuff donated and that went into a special fund at Hazelwood Elementary in Cahokia where Debbie Pope has taught for 19

years. She has put it in a special needs fund for the entire school to use for children who need items such as socks, shoes, coats etc. Thank you again.
WCG President
Kim Brooks

HANDY LITTLE CHART

God has a positive answer:

<u>YOU SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE VERSES</u>
You say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "I'm too tired"	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	(John 3:1 6 & John 3:34)
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5- 6)
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I can't manage"	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: "I'm afraid"	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I'm not smart enough"	God says: I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)

**PASS THIS ON. YOU NEVER KNOW
WHO MAY BE IN NEED**