

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 689

July 27, 2022

“Letting Go of the Reigns of Life”

I read this funny story of a lonely guy who decided that life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy the most unusual pet he had. After some discussion, he decided on a centipede, which came in a little white box to use as its house. He took the centipede home, found a good location for the box, and then decided he would start off by taking his new pet to a restaurant to have dinner. So, he asked the centipede in the box, Would you like to go out with me to have dinner? But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked him again, How about going out for a meal with me? But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So, he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. He decided to ask him one more time; this time putting his face against the centipede's house and shouting, Hey, in there! Would you like to go with me to have dinner? A little voice came out of the box from the centipede: Patience man! I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!

Romans 12:12 says, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Do you consider yourself to be patient? I would have to answer NO!, not on many days. I get out of sorts, upset, or even mad at certain situations. Our daily lives require us to exercise patience, whether the issues we face are small or big. Whether dealing with a difficult co-worker, experiencing conflict with a friend, or getting sick are all situations that require us to be patient, and it is often easier said than done.

Unfortunately, we cannot control every aspect of our lives. The way others treat us and the situations we find ourselves in are sometimes simply beyond our control, and we have to find ways to cope with them. So, how can we be patient in seemingly impossible circumstances?

Romans 12:12 says, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” This was one of the verses in my sermon text from this past Sunday. I said then, I believe that we work backwards in this verse. Constant prayer can create patience when trials come and it is then that we can rejoice in hope. In life, we know we will face

trials. However, as believers, we can find hope in knowing that we have a loving God who is in control of our lives. His very Holy Spirit lives in us. When we put our trust in His perfect plan rather than our own, we do not need to feel anxious, worried or impatient.

In addition, we do not have to struggle to find patience within ourselves. In fact, when we call upon God, He can give us the strength to be patient. Rather than trying to make things happen, we can let go of the reigns and give Him the power in our lives.

If you are in the midst of a season of waiting, remember that God's plan is greater than anything we could imagine. When we give our lives to Him and are faithful in prayer, He will work through us in incredible ways. Those answers may not be the answer we asked for, but when we give God control, we can find peace in them.

What patience teaches us most of all is that God is still at work, God is still in charge. He hasn't finished yet. He is working in our world and he's working in our lives, testing us sometimes, making us think through issues. Sometimes that's tough to see. Sometimes it's tough to believe. We've waited and waited and hoped and prayed, and things are still the same. The new job hasn't come through; our loved one hasn't gotten well; the situation is still the same. But patience teaches us that God is still at work, and as hard as that may sometimes be to learn, that's one of the most important lesson of all for us to learn.

Patience is a hard thing to create. It is virtually impossible to make yourself be patient. We can't produce patience on our own. But as we mature in our Christian faith and as we learn to trust more and more that God really is in charge of this world and our lives, then patience is the fruit that grows as a natural result of our relationship with God. Through our faithfulness in prayer and obedience, letting go of the reigns of our life, patience begins to flow out in ways we have never seen or imagined. Try it, if you haven't yet. You might like it.

Blessings,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, June 27

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer
@ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 28

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 31

Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, August 1

No Staff Meeting today

Wednesday, August 3

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer
@ 7:00 p.m.



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food
Pantry **Boxed Cereal**
We have a collection bin in the foyer

Meal Ministry

**Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.**

There is a sign-up sheet on the
bulletin board to help prepare meals
for others.

See Christina Johnston
with questions.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Sunday School

This Sunday for all ages

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer Tonight @ 7:00 p.m.

(Zoom Link available for those who
cannot meet in person)

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, August 13
@ 1:00 p.m. meeting at the church

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, August 2 at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will
be sent out beforehand.
Join us!

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Chandi Haswell &
family, Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn
Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams,
Diane Williams, Renee Logan, Loretta
(Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan
Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and
daughter of Lynn Joyner's family
members), Tommy Lanphere (Lynn
Joyner's brother), Becky Hale's mom in
Wyoming, Gene & Becky Hale, The Baker
family, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy Forrest's
daughter Haley, Carlyle and Cynthia
Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and
stepmom), Brian Adam's dad, our Military,
our Missionaries, our Nation, and the
world. If you have those you would like
added to our prayer concerns, please
email me those names.

The Computer Lab Simple Technology Assistant

HELP Wanted

Please go to our website
and read the information on
serving in The Saturday
Computer Lab. There is a
form there to fill out if
interested. We need 6 to 8
volunteers when we
resume in September to
fulfill this outreach ministry
of HOPE Church Raleigh

Next Session Meeting Sunday, August 14 @ 12 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - July 31

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - July 31

Elizabeth Floyd

Communion Steward - July

Lynn Joyner

Greeter - July 31

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - July 31

Terry Duffell

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon

Romans 13:1 - 7

"The Christian Citizen"

Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Jul 31	1 Samuel	30
Aug 1	1 Samuel	31
Aug 2	2 Samuel	1
Aug 3	2 Samuel	2
Aug 4	2 Samuel	3
Aug 5	2 Samuel	4
Aug 6	2 Samuel	5

Quote of the Week

**"Resolution One:
I will live for God.
Resolution Two:
If no one else does, I still will."
Jonathan Edwards**

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
4911 Green Rd
Raleigh, NC 27616
919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

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Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)