

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 736

June 21, 2023

“You can’t get to courage without rumbling with the vulnerability - Embrace the suck.”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ESV

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
< - That’s courage!

I have to admit, when I’m weak I don’t feel my best. I may not do my best when trying to share the gospel. It’s in these moments, we need to embrace vulnerability and embrace the suck and stick our head out there for sake of the gospel. We know Christ is with us perfectly in our weakness, but “faith without works is dead,” right! James 2:26 If faith by itself is not accompanied by action, it is dead. James affirms that deeds (or actions) are the byproduct of a living faith. Works do not justify us or make us righteous before God, nor are they the means to salvation. Rather, our deeds are the fruit that grows from one who is obedient to God’s commands and transformed by His grace. (credit) # The Great Commission...

My company Lumen started off the year in 2023 with guiding the employees to begin reading the book, “dare to lead” by Brené Brown. Brené has a Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work. She is the founder of Brené Brown Education and Research Group since 2016.

The introduction begins with Brené telling us of a speaking engagement she was invited to as well as participate. She was advised “sea-level” folks would be present. You know, folks that are average. She was to present a 20 minute TED-style talk when that lonely feeling of not belonging and being out of place started washing over her. She wondered if it was a gender thing because she was the only female backstage. That wasn’t it. It wasn’t being homesick because she was only 30 minutes away from home. She pulled back the curtains to take a look at the crowd. “It was like a Brooks Brother convention – rows of mostly men in white shirts and very dark suits.” She panicked! A guy next to her was a young and super energetic speaker (the kind who has never met a stranger). He was talking to her and she cut him off, “Oh my. These are all businesspeople – executives. Or FBI agents.” He chuckled, it’s a conference for C-levels. Didn’t they tell you that?” Brené slumped into her chair! He mentions, “You know, CEO’s, COOs, CFO’s, CMO’s, CHRO’s...” She was not going to tell him her topic to speak on. The topic was about shame! She was told the audience was filled with sea-level people (salt of the earth). Of course, the guy said, “That’s brilliant! You should use that!” He follows up with, “Look out into the audience again. These are people. Just people. And no one talks to them about shame, and every single one of them is in it up to their eye-balls. Just like the rest of us. Look at them. They are people.”

Brené talks about how to become brave leaders and cultures that dare to lead. She has collected all kinds of data over the past 20 years including interviews with 150 global C-level (and sea-level) leaders on the future of leadership. She writes, “barriers and obstacles to daring leadership are real and sometimes fierce. But what I’ve learned from both the research and my own life is that as long as we name them, stay curious, and keep showing up, they don’t have the power to stop us from being brave.” You know, trusting God and being brave at times when we don’t want to be vulnerable. As a Christian I like to share things that might provoke me into a conversation about faith. I have a HOPE sticker on my car. I wear shirts that show something to do with church or faith. I have scriptures that dove-tail my e-mail signatures. I am very active on social media (particularly, Facebook) when HOPE broadcasts the service. Even so, at times, maybe I don’t want to be vulnerable enough! It’s ok to be vulnerable and that DOES require having courage. We just don’t know how someone will respond to our offer about HOPE and salvation in Jesus Christ! Knowing that

vulnerability is a part of you and stepping up to the plate to share the gospel is courageous! I’ve said before, “you can’t go swimming unless you are willing to get into the pool.” You have to get into your bathing suit and get into the water (share the gospel, share our video, and invite folks to come to church). Listen! the seats are low across the “Church” and we’ve got work to do. We need to step up as a Christian community!

What stands in the way becomes the way! When her team ask senior leaders about what was hindering success, some of the responses were critical thinking, ability to synthesize, building trust, analyzing information, rethinking educational systems, inspiring innovation, finding common political ground, and the importance of empathy, to name a few. She drove further peeling back the onion and asking, “Can you break down the specific skill that you believe underpin brave leadership? Just under half talked about courage as a personality trait, not a skill. They typically approached the question about specific skills with a, “Well, you either have it or you don’t” answer. As opposed to spending time to understand the way, she spends much more time researching what gets in the way.

Here are 10 behaviors and cultural issues that leaders identified as getting in our way (world wide). Wonder if this is stopping us from courageous behaviors as Christians?

1. We avoid tough conversations, including giving honest and productive feedback (lack of courage noted). A culture of nice and polite as an excuse to avoid tough conversations.
2. As opposed to acknowledging addressing fears and feelings, we spend an unreasonable amount of time managing problematic behaviors.
3. Diminishing trust caused by a lack of connection and empathy.
4. Not enough people taking smart risks or creating and sharing bold ideas to meeting changing demands.
5. **We get stuck and defined by setbacks, disappointments, and failures! Too focused on reassuring team members who are questioning their contributions and value.**
6. Too much shame and blame and not enough accountability and learning.
7. People are opting out of vital conversations about diversity/inclusivity for fear of looking wrong, saying something wrong, or being wrong. Choosing Comfort over hard conversations (epitome of privilege). This corrodes trust and moves away from meaningful change.
8. When something goes wrong, individuals and teams are rushing into ineffective or unsustainable solutions rather than staying with the problem. Fixing the wrong thing for the wrong reasons....
9. Organizational values are gauzy and assed in terms of aspirations rather than actual behaviors that can be taught, measured, and evaluated.
10. Perfectionism and fear are keeping people from learning and growing.

I’ll leave you with this, you can do vulnerability, or it can do you (which translates to letting fear drive our thinking and behavior without our input or even awareness). If it does you, this almost always leads to shutting down and nothing is accomplished. Be willing to let go and let God. Trust Him. We have 2.3 billion professed Christians for a reason!

In His Service,
Franklin P. Johnston - Ruling Elder - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship. Grow. Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, June 21

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

Thursday, June 22

No Worship Team Practice

Saturday, June 24

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 25

Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.
No Sunday School Today
(Extended Fellowship)

Monday, June 26

Staff Meeting @ 9:00 a.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - June 25

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - June 25

Ben Pierce

Soundboard - June 25

Jane Davis

Live Streaming - June 25

Al Floyd

Communion June

Terry Duffell

Greeter - June 5

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - June 25

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon

This Sunday

Psalm 86

*"And Underneath, the
Everlasting Arms"*

Guest Preacher: Dell Cook

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Jun 25	Isaiah 1
Jun 26	Isaiah 2
Jun 27	Isaiah 3
Jun 28	Isaiah 4
Jun 29	Isaiah 5
Jun 30	Isaiah 6
July 1	Isaiah 7



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Canned Meats

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

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

The Computer Lab

July 8 @ 9:00 a.m.

TLC Devotion

Today, Wednesday, June 28

@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, June 24

@ 1:00 p.m.

Family Fun Fridays For June

Friday - June 30 @ 6:30 p.m.

Family Movie Night
Come watch C.S. Lewis's

The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe

Our Sanctuary will become

The HOPE Theater

Invite friends and neighbors to join in.

For July

Friday - July 21 @ 6:30 PM

For August

Friday - August 4 @ 6:30 PM

Friday - August 18 @ 6:30 PM

Quote of the Week

*"Forgiveness is the key that
unlocks the door of
resentment and the handcuffs
of hatred."*

Corrie ten Boom

Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory,, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Diane Williams, Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister & Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Dave & Dot Geil, 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.

Wednesday Night Ministries

Wednesday Night Devotion, & Prayer June 21

Devotion @ 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Time @ 7:30 p.m.

A Zoom Link will be available for those who cannot join us in person starting at 7:00 p.m. tonight

We would love for you
to join us.

Confirmation Class

Coming Dates

Sunday, July 2 @ 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, July 23 @ 12:15 p.m.

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

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