



FAITH NOTES

May
2019

Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church

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Church Family and Friends,

I had the opportunity to watch a movie with my family recently. I won't tell you which one so as to not spoil any plotlines or surprises for you. But one line from this movie really stood out to me. The villain of the story, in conversing with his enemies, made an astute observation. He told them something along the lines of "you were so focused on what happened in the past that you couldn't see what you had in the present".

How many of us let wounds from our past affect our present and future? Whether it is a broken heart from rejection or loss, a broken will from our failures, a distorted view of ourselves because of another's harsh words, there are so many areas of our lives where we dwell upon the past so much we allow it to negatively affect our present situation.

In the movie, the characters let a great loss they experienced hinder their ability to function and thrive, even though they were fortunate enough to remain among the living. Even though they defeated the enemy, it all seemed empty and hollow, for their minds could not escape the failures of the past.

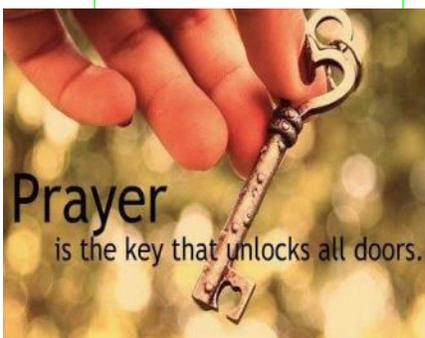
Just imagine for a moment if Paul had allowed this sentiment to take control of his life. Imagine if he rejected the grace Jesus freely offered to him. Imagine if the weight of the sins of his past were just too much to overcome, and he refused to live the life Christ envisioned for him. If he did, would we today even know the gospel message? Yet, Paul did not go down that road. Paul accepted God's forgiveness, and began to live a life that was free from the burden of sin and shame. In fact, he was able to use his past failures as proof of the power of the resurrection!

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 16 But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. (1 Timothy 1:12-16, NRSV)

We too can be set free from past mistakes and failures. We too can overcome the pain of grief and loss. It's not that we completely forget the things we have experienced, but by the power of the resurrection we are given freedom and new life. The things of the past are just that: past. Rather than allow those things to negatively affect our present, use them to point to the goodness of the Lord who gives us life. Life to not only enjoy here and now in the present, but everlasting life to secure our future.

My prayer for you today is that you let the power of the resurrection free you to live boldly for Christ today and each day forward. That same power that raised Jesus from the grave lives also in you. Live in the freedom of His grace,

In Christ,
Rev. Daniel



Prayer
is the key that unlocks all doors.

PRAYER REQUEST

RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS

(This list will be purged every two to three weeks, unless indicated otherwise in your prayer request.)

*Denise Hall
*Paula Guthrie
*Dale Henry
*Ken Payne
*Linda Sue Warren
*Tourney Edwards Family
*Susan Casey
*Charles McGriff
*Denise Morris
*Ward—Cavanes Family

*Leslie Payne
*Tyler Kay
*Haley Ryne
*Wanda Bobo
*Barbara Watson
*David Moyer
*Luann
*Bill Boyd
*Jane Creel
*Joanne Kelley



LONG-TERM PRAYER NEEDS

*Jerry & Carol Stombaugh
*Michael Moyer
*Walter Westbrook
*Charlotte Davis
*Elaine Ray
*Dale Mayo
*Larry Gramling
*Aimee Collier
*Ava Gallahair

*Ginny Acton
*Carson McGraw
*Marie Hendricks
*Janice Spivey
*Nell Hall
*Sonny Brady
*Greg & Jennifer Dobbins
*Wesley Lyons
*Pat Brown

*Our military personnel, police, fire, and rescue
*The children & families of The Children's Home

OUR ASSISTED LIVING, NURSING HOME And HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

*Milton Roe—*Piedmont Health Care Center in Piedmont, AL*
*Ann Corley—*Cherokee Village in Centre, AL*

*NOTE: This information is current at time of printing.
Weekly updates are printed in the Sunday bulletin.*

Hands For Prayer



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