

An aerial photograph of a winter landscape. The top half of the image shows a dense forest of evergreen trees heavily laden with snow, their branches creating a complex, textured pattern. Below the trees, a wide, flat expanse of a frozen lake or river stretches across the middle of the frame. The bottom half of the image shows a snowy field with scattered evergreen trees and shrubs, some of which are also covered in snow. The overall scene is serene and captures the beauty of a winter day.

MIDWEST

Pilgrim News

Winter 2024

Publishing Holiness Since 1962



From The Editor

I bought my children a Pomeranian for Christmas; a less than discerning decision considering we already have a lumbering, lovable, Golden Doodle named Sam, who in the spirit of his namesake Sampson, knocks over everything he touches. One would think that would teach us a lesson, but no, our life didn't seem to be complete without the addition of a whirling, yipping, ball of fluff that stands 6 inches at the shoulder. Dad just couldn't resist the temptation to complicate life by adding to our domestic turmoil.

My wife, of course, was hostile to this surprise; Sam was confused, but my children were delighted and for a brief time I felt like the best Dad in the world. After all, how many fathers are willing to risk their personal well-being by surprising everyone with a puppy? I was extremely brave or extremely foolish, and either way my kids were impressed.

Well, fortunately, my wife has forgiven me, and Holly has become a part of our lives. Her boundless energy, incessant yapping, and puppy antics fit right into our busy household. We are now greeted by two over enthusiastic animals when we arrive home from an outing. There are few things more than dogs that can make you feel so important.

One of the things we are enjoying about our passionate pets is the difference in their approach to the outdoors. When it is time for Sam to go for a walk, he approaches it in typical Sampson fashion, legs flailing, paws skittering, tail wagging, and toppling anything in his path.

Holly, on the other hand, has a decided disdain for the snow and cold. On such days she refuses to be led and must be dragged by her leash. It is amusing to see her sliding across our wood floors, fighting desperately to stop the unpleasant experience. She reminds me of a convict on her way to execution.

Application

Watching Holly, I am reminded of how reluctant some can be in their walk with God. They know what they need to do to maintain their spiritual life, but rather than eagerly attend the means of grace, they dawdle, stall, and even resist what needs to be done.

They do not feel like praying, studying their bible, meditating, or going to church. They would rather stay home where its warm, play on their phones, or immerse themselves in preferable activities.

Of course, there are times they are sincerely sick, or providentially hindered from doing what is right but many must admit the occasional temptation, or tendency to lag.

See Page 7



TABLE OF CONTENTS

The President's Page	Page 3
Evangelist Listing and News	Page 4-5
Holding Patterns	Page 6
Why Am I Here?	Page 8
Facing our New Year	Page 9
Posts From Family and Friends	Page 10
Hide and Seek	Page 11

Publishing Information

Editor: Rev. Timothy R. Forsee

E-Mail: midwestphc@gmail.com

Website: www.midwestphc.org

Webmaster: Daniel Plemmons: pauldplemmons@gmail.com

Submission Policy: If you have news, articles, or photos that you would like submitted for publication, please send them to the editor at the above email address.

Note: We reserve the right to choose which information is published, as well as, the right to edit the submissions in order to fit spacing requirements.

The Midwest Pilgrim News is a digital publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church and is published quarterly. There is no subscription charge. Contact the editor for subscription.

Mission Statement: The mission of the PNN is three- fold: 1.) We desire to glorify God and facilitate the worship of His person. 2.) We seek to promote the Gospel of Christ with its beautiful message of heart holiness. 3.) We seek to be an encouragement to our readers spiritually, as well as, an informative source of information to those who are connected with, or interested in, our Conference.

Direct comments to the editor: midwestphc@gmail.com

Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page. Take up one hole more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past.
- Henry Ward Beecher, Posted by Nancy Grissom



www.midwestphc.org

facebook





From the President's Desk

A New Start For 2024

Scripture: **Philippians 3:13-15 (KJV)**

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The Apostle Paul here purposes that whatever gifts, graces or honors he has received from the Lord, he will look upon as incomplete until he has finished his course and received the crown, upon gaining his new body raised and fashioned after the Lord's glorious body. His sole purpose then

is to focus on the prize that God has set before him. He will not allow anything from the past to dim his view of what lies ahead. He has no time to waste. Eternity is coming as quickly as time passes, and one knows not the time when he will step from time into eternity. Reaching forth, he casts aside the opinions of others and embraces God's calling on his life with every muscle tensed with strength for running the race set before him. He presses toward the mark—that white line that marked the ground at the stadium, from the starting place to the goal. The goal was the prize of the high calling of God. (Loosely quoted from *The Wesley Study Bible*, Editor-in-Chief, Mary Catherine Dean, © 2009 Abingdon Press. Database © 2012 WORDsearch Corp.

We face the same thing today as the Apostle Paul did. There are forces at work in our world to keep us from what God intends for us. The media, public figures, deteriorating societal and cultural norms, evil peer pressure, all products of a fallen world and a decadent society, contribute to an aggregate of bad influence upon us.

We must, like Paul, forget about past failures, and focus like a laser on the challenge of walking carefully and consistently before God, knowing that He will lead us faithfully to Heaven and make our lives fulfilling, an example to and influence upon others around us.

How can we put this together or work it out in our daily lives?

Paralyzed by the Past

I want you to consider three things that the Apostle suggests we should do: first, we must refuse to be **Paralyzed by the Past**. Some people are so bound by the memory of *lamented deeds* or *lost opportunities* that Satan has no trouble in defeating them though those things which happened many years ago. He will do all he can, and sometimes he has the cooperation of carnal critics, who will constantly bring up your past as you share something you might wish to pursue, or even feel God may be leading you to do. Just remember, we do have a responsibility to the past. (Ecclesiastes 3:15) Sin must be confessed and forsaken. Restitution is required if

you have defrauded someone. But we have the promise of God's Word, that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:8, 9) You must allow God to help you forgive yourself and go forward in God's grace, realizing He has paid the price to free you from that condemnation. It matters not how much others and Satan try to bring it up. Your courage and determination, empowered by the Spirit, will lead you to a bright future. So, remember this about the past. *Repent of the sin, repair the damage, (to the best of your ability) learn from your mistakes, and look for God's open doors.* It is amazing how that God may sometimes bring back around those opportunities you thought had been forever forfeited. Paul says, "Forgetting those things that are behind."

Mesmerized by the Future

The second thing is we must reach for those things that are before us. Now some folks are seemingly always **Mesmerized by the Future**. I've known some that were forever going to do something great, but they seemed to never get it done. They set no goals or sacrificed time and money to do it. It was just a fancy. It was just a wish. Some chase what turns out to only be a mirage. We must reach forth to those opportunities that God gives us to improve ourselves and be a blessing to others. I have always encouraged young students to do their best in school even if they are not particularly interested in the subject at hand, because they need to be broadly fitted for whatever God calls them to do. For this to happen they must consider the third part of Paul's admonition.

Motivated in the Present

Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." For one to do this he must be **Motivated in the Present**. In our school we train students, after giving them placement tests to determine their competence, to set reasonable expectations. We tell them first how to set their goals and give them guidelines.

Bulletin Board



Marcus Forsee, Abigail Forsee and Kyle Cupp from the Franklin PHC enjoy the 2023 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Evangelist Listing

Joe and Janelle Carey: Phone: 317-671-3340: E-mail: jcarey@ubca.org
joecareyii88@hotmail.com

Rev. Craig and Jo Dahler: Phone: 317-374-1141: E-mail: craigdahler@yahoo.com

Jerald and Becky Glick: Phone: 317-796-5307: E-mail: glickmusic.jg@gmail.com

Rev. Mark Ranke: Phone: 812-267-3551: E-mail: mrانke@juno.com

Daniel and Sarah Rundell: Home Phone: 317-502-3527, Cell Phone: 765-621-6016, E-mail: daniel84@gmail.com

Rev. Don and Fayerene Walden: Cell: 765-318-5557, Home: 317-341-5237 E-mail: donandfay@embargmail.com



Left: Prayer Time at New Castle Youth Night.

Below, Middle: The Shiloh PHC (left) participates in the Light the Night Christmas parade in their town. The Lexington PHC (right) has Kids Club every Friday at 5 P.M.



Left: John and Alice Eckart **Right:** The Kokomo (above) and Noblesville, PHC (right) go caroling.



Looking Ahead



Dominican Annual Assembly and Leadership Conference: February 9-10

Spiritual Growth Seminar: Antigua, February 14-15

Pilgrim Youth Lock-In: Friday, March 22, 6:30, Noblesville PHC

Inter-Church Holiness Convention: April 9-11, Gatlinburg TN Convention Center

Ministerial: May 7-9, Noblesville PHC, Dr. Paul Kaufman and Keith and Sharon Waggoner

Pilgrim Youth Camp: June 17-21, Frankfort Camp Ministries, Rev. David Fulton

Pilgrim Family Camp: June 21-30, Frankfort Camp Ministries, Dr. Robert Bolois, Rev. Jeremy Fuller, Matthew and Joy Barnett

Fifty-Eighth Annual Conference: June 24-25, 12:30 P.M.

Conference Calendar 2024



Pilgrim Missions

Antigua & Dominica

Opportunities

Ministers:

Revival Meetings March/April '24

College Students:

Internships in Antigua

Lay-workers

Help with projects in Antigua & Dominica

MORE INFO

765-465-2369

phmissions.org





HOLDING PATTERNS

Some years ago, I was taking a flight from West Palm Beach to Cincinnati. Seated to my left was a professor from a university in Michigan. Halfway through the flight, he began to ask me questions about my faith. How do we know there is a God? What makes Christianity and Christ unique in a world of many religions? He appeared to be an honest agnostic. His questions were not hostile but sincere inquiries. He kept that conversation going for the rest of the flight.

As we approached Cincinnati, there was a storm coming through the area. Our flight was put in a holding pattern. This gave us more time to talk. I felt the presence of God as we communicated. He was open and sincere and when our flight landed, he expressed appreciation for the conversation.

One week later, I received an email from him. He told me that he had left a tragic situation in Florida, and he found it fascinating that he was sitting beside a pastor and professor of religion who was talking to him about spiritual matters. He asked for the title of the books I had recommended and told me he was attending an on-campus Bible study. He said he was amazed that Christians had such love for each other and that he was struck by the fact that in the Christian faith, it was about what Christ had done for us (grace), not what we do for Him (works).

What I didn't tell him was that on the morning of that flight, I had prayed that if there was someone on my flight that needed to hear a word from the Lord, that God would seat me beside that person and open the door. Well, He did!

What I found interesting is that the holding pattern gave us more time to explore the questions. Now, I am aware that the holding pattern was about the weather, but for the two of us, it was also about the fact that we had not finished our conversation and this holding pattern gave us more time to complete it. For us, the wait had a purpose.

I believe that God often puts His people in a holding pattern while he is working out the details of their life. Joseph waited in prison in Egypt. Abraham waited several decades after being promised a son. Paul took his first missionary journey some 14 years after his dramatic conversion.

It can seem frustrating and discouraging when we have desires and godly ambitions, and yet, things do not seem to be developing. At least not as quickly as we want. The desire might be for a certain line of work, a spouse with which to share life, a ministry to the needy, or a goal towards which we seem to be making little progress.

But we must remember that the best things come to those who are patient and wait for God's timing. J. Hudson Taylor once said, "God gives the best to those who leave the choice to Him."

For years I had the desire to have my own self-employed line of work that would facilitate travel. Life was slipping by while I was employed at a good job at a Bible college. But I wanted a change and finally the right time came. The pieces fell in place and the "holding pattern" gave way to a "landing."

If you are in a holding pattern, don't lose hope. God's delays are an important part of God's direction. He has a reason for the wait. But in God's time, things will work out. As the prophet Habakkuk wrote, "The revelation awaits an APPOINTED TIME; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, WAIT FOR IT; IT WILL CERTAINLY COME and will not delay" (Habakkuk 2:3).

Dan Glick is married to his wife Martha and lives in Alexandria, KY. He studied at Ashland Theological Seminary and is an online professor at God's Bible School and College, Pastor Piqua Methodist and Foster's Chapel, and the self-employed owner of Tribe of Dan Tours.

FROM PAGE 2:I think of the man who is always too busy or exhausted to attend Wednesday night prayer meeting but has no problem with his Friday night softball league. I think of the woman who only has her devotions a couple of times a month, and the man who habitually misses Sunday services because of the weather, or a headache, but has the perfect attendance award at his company.

A lesson from Enoch is in order.

Gen 5:22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

The phrase “walked with God” means that Enoch set himself or exercised himself to walk with God. He purposed in his heart that he would live for God.

Adam Clark writes that “the original verb carries force and signifies a reciprocal act which a man does on himself. Enoch receiving a pious education, and the Divine influence through it; in consequence of which he determines to be a worker with God, and therefore takes up the resolution to walk with his Maker, that he might not receive the grace of God in vain.”

A crude illustration of this truth would be someone clipping on a leash and taking themselves for a walk. They may not feel like the effort and discipline that must be put forth, but they do it anyway. They exercise themselves because it needs to be done.

Is it time to pray, meditate upon God's Word, worship in God's house, deny myself, or use my gifts? Then, that is what I will do, so help me God. I will drag myself, if need be, to my place of responsibility.

This is what Enoch, Noah, Levi, and other Old Testament saints did to maintain victory and what we must still do today. We cannot afford to live by feelings. If we will gain the prize of eternal life, we must defy the spirit of the age and bend our will to the will of God. We do not cater to a fleshly spirit of compromise and un-commitment.

Mike Tyson, the world champion boxer, is hardly a pattern for Christian virtue but once said something that is helpful here. “Without discipline you are nothing. If you're going to be successful at anything you must approach what you hate and embrace it. You act as if that thing is your favorite thing to do.”

That is a true statement for athletes as well as the children of God. You may not enjoy self-denial and discipline, but you must embrace it for your good and God's glory.

I know the prevailing spirit of the day is to resent this kind of admonition. People do not like to be rebuked and seek to justify careless and sinful behavior. Many desire to be considered spiritual people without being spiritual. Just look at the recent responses on Facebook to posts about basic Christian truth. Some of our own people refuse to own up to a poor performance, and fight hard against reasonable, biblical applications.

But preaching is what we are called to do. As preachers and teachers we must do as Paul warned Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2 and “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke,

exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” God will use our words to help keep us and the sincere ones on track.

I would encourage you this winter season to consider your walk with God. Is it as consistent and enthusiastic as it ought to be? Like Sampson, are you eager in your walk with God, or are you more like Holly who must be dragged along in protest?

The good news is that like Paul, we can die daily to ourselves. The same God that saves us and delivers us from sinful addictions can entirely sanctify us and help us embrace discipline for our good and His glory. We are praying for your spiritual success in 2024. ~Editor



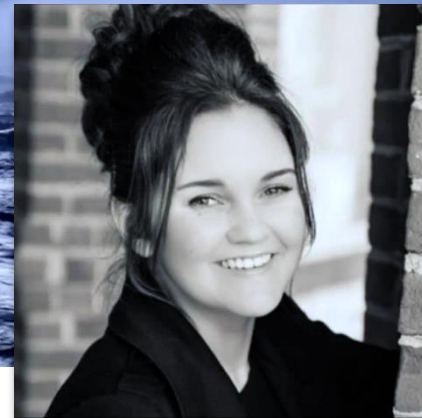
Richard Taylor on Discipline

“The Holy Spirit says to endure hardness like a good soldier of Jesus Christ; In these days there isn't much hardness to endure. As a consequence, our young people who have taken luxuries for granted until they have seemed like necessities, who have lived in comfortable homes, driven the best cars, enjoyed HS popularity, had money to spend and attended college where they were accustomed to lavish meals and pleasant rooms and the amenities of plush student union buildings have too often reach adulthood so conditioned to soft living that they have been totally unfit for any sphere of service which demanded ruggedness and simplicity. There is only 1 antidote to the softening tendencies of our many blessings....a rugged philosophy of discipleship grounded in a bedrock experience of holiness.”

“Anything that helps us avoid softness and counteracts the innervating effects of prosperity is all to the good. And it's the simple things that make the difference. We must refuse to let a bit of weariness or disinclination keep us from prayer meeting. We must refuse to allow our faithfulness in church duties be dictated by circumstances, convenience or feelings. When life does not buffet us, we must buffet ourselves. When God prospers us, we must then of all times refuse to be easy on ourselves, rather we should be more daringly faithful than ever and make sure there is enough Spartan rigor built into our lives to maintain always the spirit and readiness of a true soldier.” (The Disciplined Life: Page 97)

Why Am I Here?

By Jacynda Manns



Have you ever asked God, "Why am I here?" What was I made for? What do I have to offer You, Lord?

I know I can't be the only one who asks these questions. It's true that the devil fights you the hardest where you're the weakest. For me, and for many others, that's my mind. The enemy makes us doubt our worth, our purpose, our efforts and our prayers. Makes us feel too broken to be restored by God, tells us we've done too much or gone too far to be forgiven. He tells us "It's not worth trying anymore, just give up." Through all the chaos within, it's sometimes hard to hear that still, small Voice saying, "Remember who and Who's you are."

Sometimes, when I ask God for answers, He doesn't always respond right away, and I trust His sovereignty. But today, I was feeling broken down and worthless and I asked Him, "Why am I here?" I felt Him whisper to me, "Open your Bible." So, I blindly opened it to 1 Corinthians 12. I wept as I read these words because His answer was so very clear.

v.12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So, it is with the body of Christ.

v.14-17 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any [LESS] a part of the body. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any [LESS] of a part of the body?" If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

v. 22 In fact, some of the parts of the body that seem the [WEAKEST] and [LEAST IMPORTANT] are actually the [MOST NECESSARY].

I was reminded that we shouldn't compare ourselves to the other members of the body of Christ. We each have unique gifts, struggles and experiences that serve a unique purpose for the Kingdom of God. The gifts you have are meant to touch and bless certain people. The pain and the struggles you face will someday be the testimony that ministers to someone who needs to hear about how you overcame. We weren't all created the same, and for good reason. The Bible is full of broken people that anyone would have written off, but God used in mighty ways.

Moses had a stuttering problem, Peter had a temper, Thomas was a doubter, Gideon was insecure, Paul was a murderer, Zaccheus was short, Abraham was old, Sara was impatient, Jonah ran from God.

So, if you're feeling insignificant, broken or defeated today, just a little reminder that you are extraordinary and unique and treasured by the Almighty. Yes, even your broken parts are beautiful to Him. There is purpose in the weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9, NLT "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."....."For when I am weak, then I am strong." Psalm 139:13, NLT "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex. Your workmanship is marvelous - how well I know it."

Thanking Jesus for this reminder today.

Jacinda LaKae Manns lives in Tipton, IN. Her hobbies include art and baking. She attended God's Bible School and College and is Co-Owner/Designer at Empress Bridal and Events. She attends the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Noblesville. This article is taken from one of her online posts and is used with permission.



FACING OUR NEW YEAR

Revelation 3:8"Behold, I have set before thee an open door..."

What an uplifting possibility for facing the challenge of a new year! However, that challenge can depend on our acceptance and determination. Realizing the foundation that God, our Heavenly Father, has given us in His word confirms and gives such hope and knowledge of our faith. If we purpose in our heart to strive for God's will, which can include positive opportunities, that commitment can bring so much joy. What a difference in comparison to a negative outlook!

May I include one of Pauls' humorous stories? We had some friends who really possessed the negative attitude and outlook. For example, with an uplifting "good morning", the answer was "what's good about it?" but God was giving a new year of 1980 and at the close of their visit and leaving our front porch on a cold winter night, Paul asked jokingly, "Did you know that next week it's going to be in the 80s?" Their quick response was, "We don't doubt it – it's the alignment of the planets and that's going to cause the sun to Nova, and...!" "It was such a shock to Paul, it left him speechless and ruined his joke. What a way to face a new year!

But not only can we face the new year in a positive way, but wisely learn from the past year's decisions, mistakes, joy or experiences. We can thank the Lord for bringing us through and count our blessings.

So, consider making a challenging resolution to discover real discipleship coupled with some personal discipline. We sing a chorus at church, "I just want to please the Lord, be in His will in every way, to be lost in His presence, found in His likeness, to hear Him say, "Well Done" someday."

So, let us set a goal to enjoy the real blessings of knowing and serving our Heavenly Father which includes love, joy, peace, faith, hope, His power, wisdom and leadership for our future! For "Because He lives, we can face tomorrow! "

Nancy Gray is married to Rev. Paul Gray and lives in Palestine, IL where they lead the Palestine PHC. They have traveled extensively doing preaching and song evangelism. They have also served the InterChurch Holiness Convention for many years. They are an invaluable part of our Conference.



Posts from Family and Friends

Weep for the children that are not permitted to live; and also, may God help us to pray for and do what we can to love, and protect, and bring to Jesus the multitude of children in this world that are still alive. Every child's life has great potential for good in our society by the mercy and grace of God.

Mark 9:42, "And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea."

By Elmer Winner, Posted by Ruth Nichols

I get regular emails from Planned Parenthood. It is fairly obvious that we don't have a lot in common. I never signed up for the emails, but obviously, someone, somewhere, thought that I would benefit from the emails. I continue to receive them because I'm hoping to cost them something.

I was struck recently by the passion with which they share their vision and purpose. They were raising funds...huge amounts...to further their cause, and people were giving.

The realization was sobering. As I go into the new year, am I zealous and passionate about seeing God's kingdom come where God has assigned me? Surely my enthusiasm should far exceed theirs. It reminds me of the famous words, "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him." Posted by Carrie Archibald Grubbs

Don't feel sorry for or fear for your kids/grandkids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be. God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they're in. Their life wasn't a coincidence or an accident. Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God. Train them up in the authority of His Word. Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control. Empower them to know they can change the world. Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it. Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan.

He knew Daniel could handle the lions den. He knew David could handle Goliath. He knew Esther could handle Haman. He knew Peter could handle persecution. He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life. He created them specifically for it! Don't be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose YOU to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime. Rise up to the challenge. Raise Daniels, Davids, Esthers and Peters! God isn't scratching His head wondering what He's going to do with this mess of a world.

He has an army He's raising up to drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth. Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them. I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides our sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this.

By Mark Weber, Posted by Alice Eckert



Hide and Seek...

By Josh Modlin

Do you remember the last time you played hide and seek? We played this game especially as kids, right? We always seemed to love it. Whether you played it with your siblings, or even after church with a group of your church friends, it had just the right amount of competition to it. When you are going to play, it is going to have to take some work, right? If you are the one hiding, you must put great thought into how you are going to hide from the person that is coming to seek after you. You want to be the last person discovered, or at the very least, you do not want to be the first person discovered. You want them to look for as long as they must before they find you. Then if you're the seeker, you want to look everywhere, underneath the bed, behind the couch, in every closet, and definitely in the basement. Just a classic, right? We would all have a story from our hide and seek days.

This New Year, wouldn't it be awesome if we put as much effort into our relationship with God as we did when we played hide and seek as kids? Or even if, in a way, we played hide and seek with God? What if we practiced hiding God's Word in our hearts and then put forth effort seeking Him this New Year? Imagine with me for a moment - where we would be by this time next year if we took hide and seek seriously with God this year? It says in God's word "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!" That is powerful! Why should I hide God's Word in my Heart? Well, it answers that question right in the same verse. It is so that way we don't have to sin against God. If you've struggled with a sin in your life and you want to stop, try hiding God's word in your heart, "That I might not sin against You". When we hide God's word in our hearts, think of the benefits of that. You can take His word with you anywhere. It doesn't matter what you may find yourself doing or where you're at in life, you'll always know what His word says about any matter you may have a question on. While you're at school, work, shopping, hanging out with friends, you can still have God's Word with you! No, you don't have to take your Bible with you, but you can still have God's Word with you! No one can take that away from you.

The verses just before Psalms 119:11 shed even more context on the situation. Let's read it together, "9. How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

10. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11. Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!" Imagine with me how transforming this is going to be, if we start applying these verses to our life this New Year. I believe it truly can be transformational. You want to cleanse your heart? Hide God's Word in your Heart. You want to change some things in your life for the better? Hide God's Word in your heart. You want to cleanse your way? Hide God's Word in your heart. God's Word Is Powerful! Take Him and His Word with you every single second of every single day.

I love this verse and these verses in general. These are probably some of the most practical verses for a young person. How can a young man (person) cleanse his way? Do what His Word says. Coupled along with hiding God's Word in your heart, there's another part. Seek! Seeking takes effort. When you played hide and seek as a kid, you didn't usually just find someone by just standing there waiting for someone to walk to you, right? No, you had to go out and seek them. That required effort to go looking for them and then to chase after them once you found them to tag them! This New Year, if I can recommend anything to you as a young person reading this and you want to grow your relationship with God this Year, Seek Him! It will take effort, but it's so worth it. What you will find will change your life! Forever!

This year I have a challenge for anyone reading this. Let's hide and seek with God this year. Let's hide His Word in our hearts! Couldn't we at least learn one scripture passage a month together? I have included a list of twelve suggested verses below. These are basic verses that all of us should know, but if we hide them in our hearts, I believe God would be honored! Then, let's seek Him! Seek Him, by spending daily time in prayer. Talking to Him about everything that is going on in our lives, sharing our concerns, bringing our burdens to Him. Then reading His word and let Him speak to us through that. This year I challenge you to Hide and Seek!

Suggested verses:

1. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
2. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
3. Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
4. James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
5. James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
6. Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
7. Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;
8. Psalm 1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.
9. Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'
10. Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
11. Psalms 48:14 For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death.
12. James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.



Josh Modlin lives in Noblesville, IN with his wife Kerrie and serves as the Youth Pastor of the NPHC. Josh graduated from Hobe Sound Bible College and has been at Noblesville for just over 5 months.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE FROM PAGE 3:which will ensure that they complete the proper amount of work for the school year. Parents do the same things, hopefully, in the home. We don't ask our four-year-old son to cook breakfast, but we do show him how to pick up his toys and straighten up his room. As he grows, age-appropriate tasks are added to ensure that he will become a responsible adult. Along the way, we test students to evaluate, and ensure that they are making proper progress. But through loving instruction and proper discipline we take them to the mark of a responsible citizen. In this same way, God wants us to have our eyes trained on what He wants to do in, and for us, and also with us, in Kingdom work.

Let me challenge you today not to be paralyzed by your past. Paul says, "forgetting those things which are behind." Remember them only to be instructed. Don't be chained by disappointments, failures, or broken dreams. Don't continuously look to a distant mirage of hope. Grasp the opportunities of the present by God's grace and be the person in 2024 that God wants you to be. God is faithful! He will not fail you. You are not insignificant. Keep your eye on the prize!

Rev. Donald Nichols is the President of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church Inc. He lives in Lima, Ohio with His wife Ruth and pastors the Lima, MPH.

Recommended Reading

