

Please welcome...

Preaching for us today is **Brent Forsyth**; “trivia”: Brent preached for us in our Saturday meetings in 1999 and 2004. Be sure to welcome him and his family and thank them.

Dependence on God

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.” - Proverbs 3:5 -

“...casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”
-1 Peter 5:7 -

“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:19 -

November Birthdays

6 Ashley Tanner 10 Daniel Brown

(Note: if anyone is “missed” here, let Jim know)

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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God’s Answers

It is easy to get discouraged when things go wrong, but we must not lose heart. God is at work in our world, even in the midst of pain and trial. The next time your little hut is burning to the ground, remember that it just may be a smoke signal to summon the grace of God. For any negative thing we say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it:

- We say: 'It's impossible.' **God says:** “All things are possible” (Luke 18:27).
- We say: 'I'm too tired.' **God says:** “I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).
- We say: 'I can't do it.' **God says:** “You can do all things” (Philippians 4:13).
- We say: 'I'm not able.' **God says:** “I am able” (1 Chronicles 9:8).
- We say: 'It's not worth it.' **God says:** “It will be worth it” (Romans 8:28).
- We say: 'Nobody really loves me.' **God says:** “I really love you” (John 3:16).
- We say: 'I can't go on.' **God says:** “My grace is sufficient” (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- We say: 'I can't figure things out.' **God says:** “I will direct your steps” (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- We say: 'I can't forgive myself.' **God says:** “I forgive you” (1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1).
- We say: 'I can't manage.' **God says:** “I will supply all your needs” (Philippians 4:19).
- We say: 'I'm afraid.' **God says:** “I have not given you a spirit of fear” (2 Timothy 1:7).
- We say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated.' **God says:** “Cast all your cares on ME” (1 Peter 5:7).
- We say: 'I don't have enough faith.' **God says:** “My Word will give you faith” (Romans 10:17).
- We say: 'I'm not smart enough.' **God says:** “I will give you wisdom” (James 1:1-5).
- We say: 'I feel all alone.' **God says:** “I will never leave you or forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

The Rope of Prayer

By Wade Webster

C. H. Spurgeon once noted, “Prayer pulls the rope down below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly; others give only an occasional jerk at the rope. But he who communicates with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously with all his might.”

How hard are you pulling on the rope? As children of God, we can pull on the rope of prayer with great boldness and confidence: *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”* (Hebrews 4:15-16).

With Christ as our High Priest, we do not have to be timid in seeking mercy. Concerning confidence, John wrote, *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything in accordance with his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him”* (1 John 5:14-15). Unless we pray with this confidence, we cannot expect our prayers to be answered. Double-minded, wishy-washy, and doubtful men cannot expect to receive anything of the Lord (James 1:57; 1 Timothy 2:8).

How often do you pull on the rope of prayer? Do you give it an occasional jerk, or do you pull on the rope continually? With three words, Paul challenged the Thessalonians to pray more. He wrote, *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Perhaps, they were growing weary in the work of prayer (Galatians 6:9). Paul’s words continue to challenge us as Christians today. We need to pray more. Like the prophetess Anna, we need to pray *“night and day”* (Luke 2:36; Romans 12:12). We need labor fervently in prayer, instead of just dabbling lazily in it (Colossians 4:2, 12).

How hard and how long are you pulling on the rope of prayer? Are your prayers ringing the great bell of heaven?

Sequoia or Scrub Oak?

By Neal Pollard, Denver, Colorado

A few years ago I visited King’s Canyon National Park, home of “General Grant.” General Grant is the second-tallest living thing on earth, at 267 feet tall, 40 feet in diameter, and 107 feet in basal circumference. It has been called the “Nation’s Christmas Tree,” as well as the nation’s only living National Shrine, because it was dedicated to Americans who died serving our country during time of war. It is hard to describe the sense of awe that is felt when standing before the massive act of God’s hand. Sequoias are said to be the largest living things on earth. While California Redwoods grow taller, Sequoias grow larger trunks and wider branches. In fact, the bark on a Sequoia can be four feet thick, and they can grow up to two feet per year and live hundreds of years.

The scrub oak, on the other hand, makes quite a contrast. It has prickly, dull colored leaves which are hairy on their underside. The trees almost never grow more than eight feet tall. It is often referred to as a hybrid and is often thought of as much as a shrub as a tree. Scrub oaks often combine together in “groves” to form brambly thickets. Their acorns are distinct for their hairy, warty, and overlapping scales when they reach maturity.

The interesting thing is that one of the major species of scrub oak grows not far from areas where sequoias and redwoods are found. They are subject to the same general conditions, have access to the same nutrients, soil, and weather conditions. Obviously, though, they are made of different stuff!

A scrub oak cannot make a decision to be a sequoia. That is predetermined by God and His laws of nature and propagation. But we can choose what kind of person we will be. We can be magnanimous, charitable, helpful, reliable, kind, and serving—the kind of Christian who builds and helps the church grow and be better. Such a person makes a huge impact wherever he or she is planted. Or we can choose to be small-minded, petty, cantankerous, disagreeable, prickly, and contentious. This kind of person is also known by his or her fruit, and the comparison between that fruit and a scrub acorn is compelling! Whatever type of Christian you set out to be, you will be observed by those around you. When you are thus observed, what will you be? A sequoia or scrub oak?