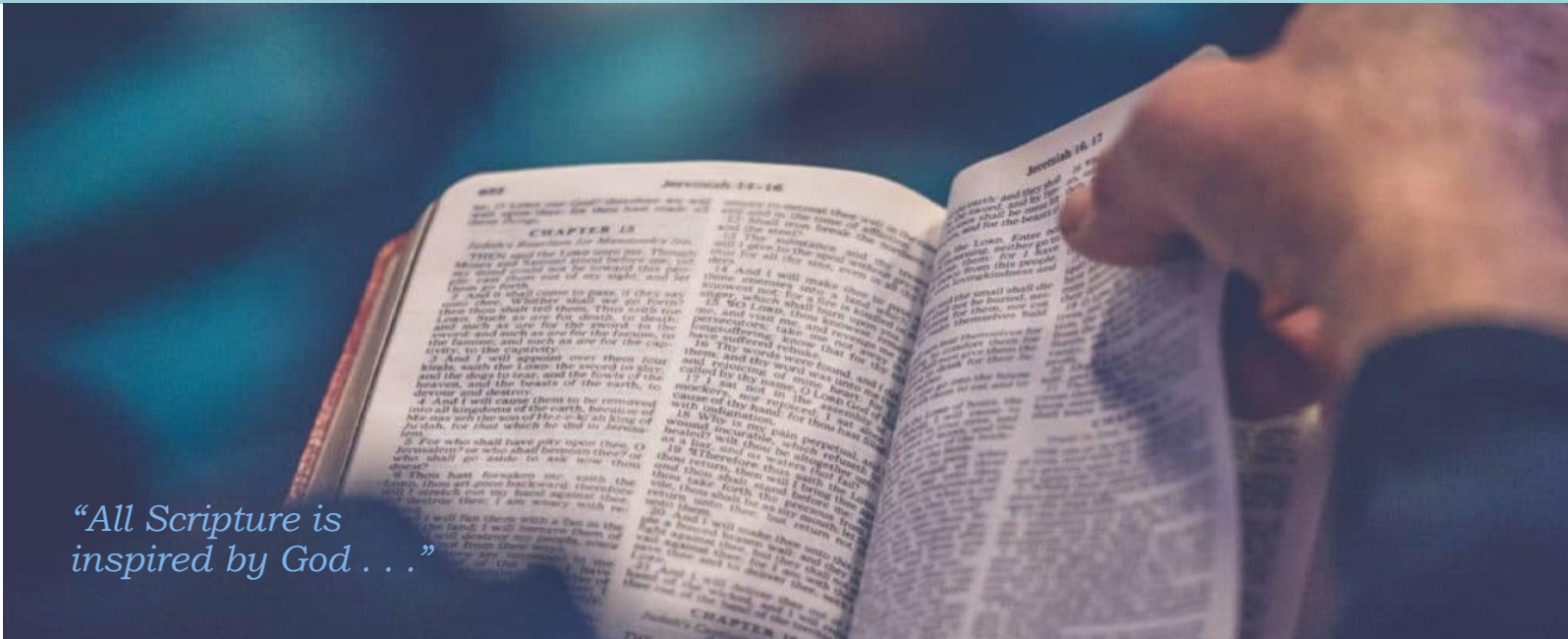




FAITH



“All Scripture is inspired by God . . .”

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR

“Did God really say?” [Genesis 3:1] is the question the Serpent asked Eve to cause her to doubt the veracity of God’s Word. From the beginning, humanity struggled to embrace the truthfulness of God’s Word. Satan primarily targets the accuracy of the Word of God because he understands that saving faith results from hearing it (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Satan’s strategy to conquer the hearts of humanity is to simply convince people that God’s Word is not true. Satan knows that by promoting this popular lie, he can diminish the importance of God’s Word and its role in the salvation of man. Confidence in God’s Word is a fundamental prerequisite which leads to saving faith. The conflict over Truth is really a battle for the acceptance of God’s Word as inspired, inerrant, and infallible. God’s Word must be received as valid and true as it is the only means for understanding the tenets of salvation. There are no exceptions, no excuses, and no accommodations. We each face a choice: We either accept God’s Word as entirely true or utterly false.

However, this begs the question: How can a book written by fallible men be the inerrant words of God? The answer is found in the doctrine of the “verbal plenary inspiration” of scripture. Second Timothy 3:16 explains, “All scripture is inspired by God.” When an absolute statement is made, *all scripture*, it is either true in its entirety or it is false. This is what the word “plenary” means—everything included in the text down to the actual words. The supernatural inerrancy of scripture is explained in the word “inspired”. What does it

IN THIS ISSUE

*Missions Spotlight
– The Gideons*

Bible Quiz

Jewish Culture

*What about the
Disabled – Part 1*

*Jesus Help Me! – a
faith story*

This is a Football!

Good Books

Photos, Photos, Photos

Prayers of the People

Upcoming Dates

mean that *all scripture is inspired* by God? Peter teaches us, “Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20–21).

The Holy Spirit utilized the writer’s personality, background, and understanding to write Scripture without error. We recognize their styles and personality but have the confidence of knowing what we are reading is exactly what God intended to communicate. God did not turn the authors into automatons; yet the writers with precision wrote the divine words of God. Today, when Satan whispers to us the question, “Did God really say?” we can respond unequivocally, “Yes! God absolutely said so.”

While the doctrine of the verbal plenary inspiration may seem technical and difficult to comprehend, it is integral to our faith. An unshakeable faith is built on the solid foundation of absolute Truth contained only in God’s Word.

The above passage explains the process of inspiration and proceeding that in verse three and four, Peter explains the necessity of inspiration. God’s divine power grants us everything needed for “life and godliness” through “knowledge of Him who called us.” We partake of God’s divine power through our knowledge of Him. That knowledge comes through God’s “great and precious promises,” which allow us to grow in our faith.

It is imperative that believers understand the connection between promises and divine power. Faith only comes by hearing God’s Word. I can not live out my life independently confident with my own thoughts or ideas about my life. The promises of God pave a path before me that can not be shaken by sin or Satan. As I walk upon that path, my feet are like a deer that can not trip (Psalm 18:3). But when I step outside the boundaries of promises revealed in His Word, I stumble. It is the lamp that lights the path of confident footholds for the believer (Psalm 119:105). It is a light that shines in a dark place (2 Peter 1:19), revealing the paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3).

God’s Word assures us that these truths are found in both the Old and New Testaments—no where else. When Paul addresses the Corinthian church about their run away passion for the showy gifts of the Spirit, he explains how to possess a right view of them. Then, at the end, Paul states, “If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, he should recognize that what I write to you is the Lord’s command” (1 Corinthians 14:37). This verse reveals that Paul understood he was writing the commands of God. He genuinely understood that the words he was writing had more authority than any prophet or spiritual person in Corinth. Paul revealed an integral rule for determining the will of God, **SCRIPTURE ALWAYS COMES FIRST!** No one will ever be led by the Spirit to do anything contrary to God’s Word.

Finally, it is essential that we believers recognize that the canon of Scripture was completed with the book of Revelation. In ending his book John writes, “I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18)—certainly a precarious position to assume. Everything we need to know about the future has already been revealed in Scripture and nothing more is needed to walk in faith. God’s word is perfect. We should neither doubt its veracity, question its authority, or add to its totality.



“We each face a choice: We either accept God’s Word as entirely true or utterly false.”
–Caleb Schroeder, Pastor

“A Bible that’s falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t.”
–Charles H. Spurgeon, Preacher

“The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.”
–Dwight L. Moody, Evangelist

“It is not coincidental that a lack of discernment and a neglected Bible are so often found in company.”
–Jen Wilkin, Author

“If you are ignorant of God’s Word, you will always be ignorant of God’s will.”
–Billy Graham, Evangelist

“Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face.”
–Ronald Reagan, President

PALMDALE GIDEONS CAMP

Missions



Gideons International began in 1908 by two men who wanted to band travelers together for evangelism. The business and professional men's ministry is an extended missionary arm of the local church.

“There is one purpose,” said Andrew Farris. “It is to reach men, women, boys, and girls with the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and this happens through association, personal testimony, and the distribution of Bibles.”

The Bibles are placed in hotels

and motels, schools, colleges, police and fire stations, nursing homes, and lawyers and doctor's offices. To date more than two billion scriptures in more than 95 languages have been distributed around the globe.

“The local groups are called camps,” Andrew continued. “Antelope Valley has a Palmdale and a Lancaster camp that serve these cities. Since Faith Community is in Palmdale, it supports the Palmdale camp. Faith currently has 28 men and women who serve in the AV camps.”

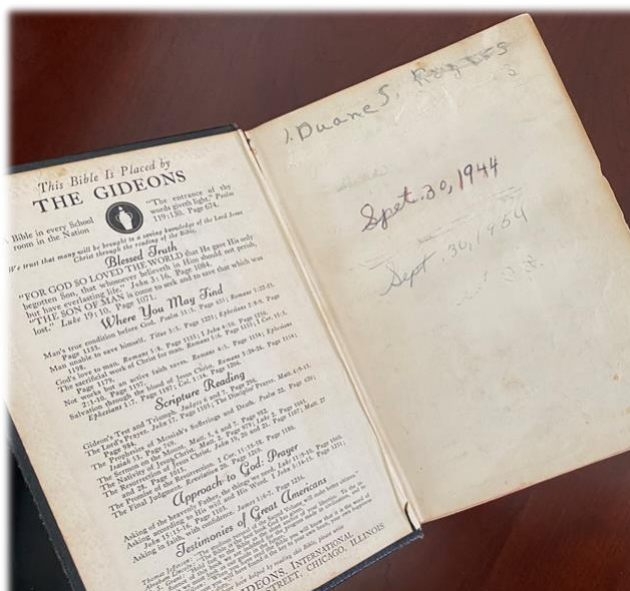
A man must be a member of his church with a pastoral recommendation to join the Gideons. His wife may serve alongside him in The Auxiliary of the Gideons International.

Gideons.org states, “As a united force for the Gospel, we remain rooted in tradition, but we operate under the firm belief that anyone can be a valuable asset to this invaluable cause. Join us, and let's spread the Good News.”

The Andrew Farris family is moving to Texas. For more information about the Gideons, touch base with Mark McNett or Brian Cox through email: contact@FaithtoYou.com



Mark and Diane McNett



Above is a 1941 Gideons Bible given to my dad Duane S. Rogers by his fourth-grade teacher when he was 10 years old. I don't know what the other dates represent.

-Pamela Caldwell

AWANA

A Workman Not Ashamed

A great place for our children to learn God's Word.

Cubbies: preschool

Sparks: K-2

TNT: 3-6

Trek: Middle school

Journey: High school

The fall brings the new Awana year. It's an opportunity to bring friends to church: fun, food, games, parties, and God's Word.

For more information contact Clint@faithtoyou.com.



Brian and Laura Cox



The Gideons International

BIBLE QUIZ

Fun to use to teach while sitting at the dinner table or on a walk in the park, or?

1. Joshua reminds us to meditate on the Bible day and night. What is the purpose for doing that?
Joshua 1:8
2. Why do we read and study the Bible? 2 Timothy 3:16-17
3. If I'm down and out what brings me hope? Romans 15:4
4. What is a sure way to keep us from sin? Psalm 119:11
5. What are we to desire more than gold or silver? Psalm 19:7-11
6. If I'm lost in the dark, what one thing will help me find my way?
Psalm 19:7-11
7. There is one sure way to prolong our life. What is it?
Proverbs 3:1-2
8. Where is true rest found?
Psalm 62:1

-Source unknown

JEWISH CULTURE

The letter of the law is evident in Orthodox Jewish men. They wear the Word on their foreheads and left hand, and they place it on the door posts of their homes. The actual intention of the Deuteronomy 6:8 passage is "that we may have [the Word] ready to use upon all occasions, to restrain us from sin, and direct us in duty." Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary.



A Phylactery is worn on the forehead and left hand.

A Mezuzah is placed on the doorpost at a slant.



Scripture that is written on small pieces of parchment are placed inside the Phylactery and the Mezuzah.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and even when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



"These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the door posts of your house and on your city gates" (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).



HOW DO THE DISABLED RESPOND? Part 1

by Robyn Coggins

Our middle child Noah is now 21 years old. At two and a half, he was diagnosed with autism. He suffered from self-injurious behavior, seizures, and a neurological disorder. He could not communicate and had many of the common expressions of autism.

Like most parents, Greg and I took care of our children's physical and emotional needs, and we worried about what their futures held. But we often forgot Paul's reminder in Philippians 4:6 to "not worry about anything, . . ." I recognize the wisdom of this verse, but with Noah, we had a tidal wave of worry and doubt.

Noah was 16 when we first attended Faith Community Church. I was struck by an uncomfortable question: how could I really know if my son—who didn't have the ability to articulate a belief in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior—was saved?

In God's mercy, I didn't think He would abandon his children because they were incapable of making a conscious choice to

follow Him. However, I also understood the importance of freely choosing Christ. I knew my son most likely would not be able to make that decision.

Another Faith couple, Connie and Ron Davis, have a son Caleb who is profoundly disabled. "God made Caleb just the way He wants him to be, with limited mental ability," Connie said. "He has a purpose for this. He who began a good work in Caleb will perfect it (Philippians.1:6). But even knowing that truth, we struggled with the question of Caleb's salvation."

God is clear. We are saved through Christ and Christ alone. The Church rejoices when a person accepts Jesus Christ into his heart, and this is especially true with children. There is a time when a child reaches the age of accountability, when they understand their sin nature and their need for a savior. But when a child is cognitively impaired, or "innocent" as described in Jeremiah 19:4 that age may never come. What happens then?

(Read Part 2, the conclusion, in the October/November issue.)

"He called a child and had him stand among them. 'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child, this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one child like this in my name, welcomes me'"
(Matthew 18:1-5).



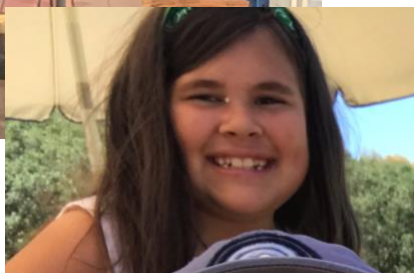
Noah at the prayer time for Natalie Lewis.



THE WORD OF GOD Music and lyrics by Brenton Brown

The Word of God is a light in my darkness
Hope for the hopeless
strong and true
The Word of God is strength for the weary
A shield for those who trust in you.

Everything will fade
everything will fade
The heavens and the earth will pass away but
you will remain, yes
you will remain always.



JESUS, HELP ME!

Scott Smallwood

My family moved from Cerritos, Calif. to the big city of Hollywood in 1975; it was culture shock. I was 14 years old, and my sister Dana was 12. Our parents worked full time chasing the America Dream.

We lived below the Hollywood sign—the cool part of town. Junior high school was a whole new arena for me. A “friend” invited me to join him and his buddies to smoke marijuana and drink alcohol. That was just the beginning.

In high school, Gerald and I worked together. He was 27 years old; he shared Christ and a Bible tract with me. I prayed the prayer expecting to feel something. When I didn’t, I went on with my life as a troubled teen.

My family was disconnected, disengaged, and distressed. My parents gave into the stress and finally divorced. Dad and his new wife moved Dana and me to “Casa de Vida,” an apartment in the San Fernando Valley. In short order my sister and I were sent to a boarding school in Arizona. We just knew it was the “evil” stepmother’s doing.

At home for Christmas break, I attended a New Year’s Eve party. A stranger

offered me a little white pill. “Just one,” he said. I drank heavily that night but somehow found my way back to the apartment. I was so sick I thought I might die. I called out, “JESUS HELP ME!”

New Year’s morning, I felt like a brand new person. The bricks I carried on my back were gone. I was free! I didn’t have Bible knowledge, but I knew it was God’s doing; it was powerful. January 1, 1979 is my day to remember. That morning my valley apartment truly became The House of Life!

I graduated that June and went to live with my aunt and uncle, and I attended college. My first semester in psychology 101, I met Jim MaHesson. He invited me to church. Christ kept tugging at me to go and learn about Him. I did and a new road was ahead.

Great joys and numerous trials have occurred in my life since that transformative day, but my Lord and Savior has blessed me and delivered me through them all. He is faithful! Psalm 18:4–6, at the right, best reflects my testimony.

He hears your cries, too. Today, ask Him to transform your life. You won’t be disappointed!



“The cords of death encompassed me, and the torrents of ungodliness terrified me. The cords of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord and cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry for help before Him came into His ears!” (Psalm 18:4–6 NASB).

~ ~ ~

Basic

Instruction

Before

Leaving

Earth



“THIS IS A FOOTBALL!”

Myron Hawthorne

I am a sports fan—basketball and football. It was Green Bay Packer coach Vince Lombardi who said he wanted his players drilled to such a level that it wouldn't matter if the other team had a copy of the playbook; his players could execute the plays so flawlessly that they couldn't be stopped. His passion for fundamentals is summed up in a speech he delivered to his team after a disappointing loss. With a ball in his hand he began, “Gentlemen, this is a football.” Back to basics they went. Dedication to the fundamentals.

It is clear in Paul's second letter to Timothy that the Ephesus church was struggling with issues. Timothy is discouraged, troubled and in doubt, so Paul takes him back to basics—Timothy, this is your Bible.

It is tragic that the modern church has forgotten the centrality of Scripture. “All Scripture is God breathed,” Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:16. Scripture comes from God; it is true, it is of consequence, and it is of value. Studying Scripture transports us into the mind of God.

It “is useful for teaching, for rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God is thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:15–16 NIV). It is God breathed. It isn't just words. It is life giving truth. It is life transforming truth.

Deuteronomy 6:6–9 makes the same point. “These commands I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols upon your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and upon your gates.”

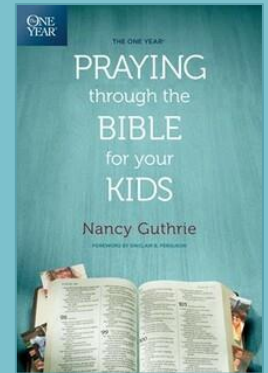
Timothy understands that teaching God's Word is central to the ministry of the Church. But that dedication, that commitment to fundamentals, that discipline to study God's Word, must be the focus of every believer, every moment of every day. It is foundational in every aspect of life. It is not exclusive to great scholars and great minds, but available to people willing to compel themselves to do the fundamentals of study and prayer, to understand the things of God.

My heroes in sports are men of great discipline in the fundamentals of the game. My heroes in life are people with great discipline in the fundamentals of Truth.

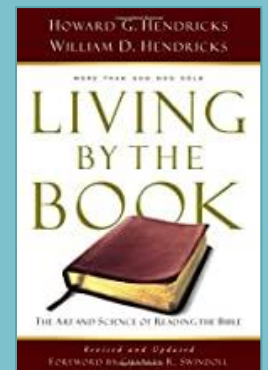
To ask God for guidance in our situations, we can't wait for a sign or a feeling. We take time to read what He has said. Learn how He thinks. Take heed to His commands. Memorize His truths.

We don't have to wait for God to speak to our circumstances. He already has.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS?



In *Praying Through the Bible for Your Kids*, trusted author Nancy Guthrie weaves together wisdom and insight from each day's reading, providing encouragement through the triumphs and tribulations of parenting.



Living by the Book by Howard and William Hendricks will remove the barriers that keep Scripture from transforming your life. In a simple, step-by-step fashion, the authors explain how to glean truth from the scriptures. It is practical, readable, and applicable. Available as a DVD series, also.



prayer
changes
EVERYTHING

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out and made His way to a deserted place; and there He was praying” (Mark 1:35).

Please pray for:

*Lynn Grandinetti who is bedridden with lung and heart issues. Pray for comfort in aloneness.

*Nick Ford with stage 4 cancer and declining chemo. Pray for peace.

*Charles Groth recovering from a stroke.

*Ron Sorensen recovering from a stroke.

*Emmerit Porter for continued health from premature birth.



*Natalie Lewis as she works with therapists at home, and for her and the family’s strength and courage.

*Mary’s friend with brain cancer who needs salvation.

*Jeanette’s niece who is a prodigal—homeless and ill and unsaved.

*Mary Smith with heart issues.

*The Hubbard’s twin grandchildren for continued health.

*Baby Jordan Ludwig’s continued health.

*Praise for Nikki Pencille’s cousin Michael’s benign cancer results.

*Pray for Good News Clubs

*Pray for America

*Pray for Israel

If you would like your prayer needs to immediately go out to church members contact Laura Cox: chozengr17777@aol.com

UPCOMING*

Saturday, August 7
9 am–2 pm
Women’s Testimony
Writing Workshop

Sunday, August 8
Games and Dessert
@McClure home
6 pm–8:30 pm

Sunday, August 15
Worship and
Fellowship
@Kuzichev home
6 pm–8:30 pm

Friday, August 20
Grace Resource Meal
Brad@faithtoyou.com

Sunday, August 22
Zip Code Fellowship
Various Locations
5:30–9 pm
Jason@faithtoyou.com

Saturday, August 28
Ladies Titus 2 Conf.
9 am–3 pm

Sunday, August 29
BBQ Cook-off
5:30 pm

Friday, September 17
Grace Resource Meal
Brad@faithtoyou.com

Fridays
Young Professionals
The College Group

* Unless otherwise stated,
held at Faith Community.
Faithtoyou.com/info

The Christian Standard Bible
unless otherwise indicated.



Faith Community Church
3900 10th St. West
Palmdale, CA 93551
FaithToYou.com/info

Pastor Caleb Schroeder
661-267-2200
Faithtoyou.com

Newsletter—editorial
comments, corrections,
and story ideas:
newsletter@faithtoyou.com