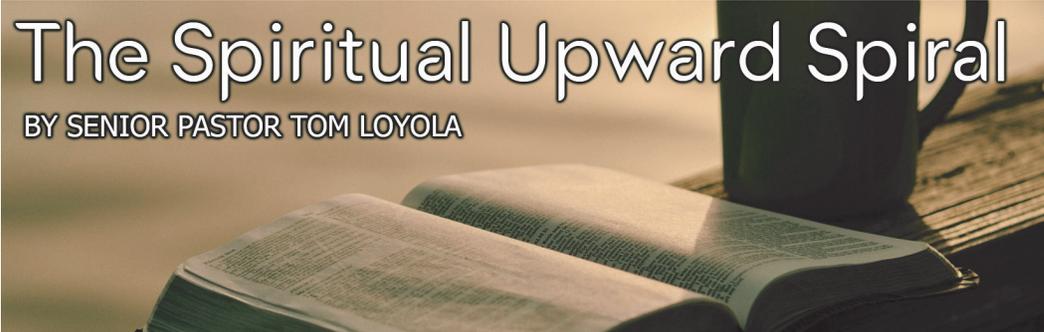


Journey News

A publication of Journey Church of Clinton, Iowa



I want to talk to you about a way I think about growth in Jesus; at least, about how spiritual growth has taken place in my life. In describing this, I will use the picture of a spiral.

Picture in your mind a spiral staircase. We actually have one in our church facility! If you have ever been up to our audio-visual control booth, you had to climb a spiral staircase to get there. However, even if you have never climbed that staircase, you are familiar with the idea of a spiral staircase.

Now, picture that staircase as though you are above it, looking straight down on it ... like you are looking at a blueprint of the building's floorplan. Since, I just recently saw one for our facility, I can tell you what it looks like: it looks like a wheel with spokes. The "spokes," of course, are the steps, and the "rim" of the "wheel" is the handrail. It also looks like a clock face. The steps are like the hands of the clock and the "hand" (which are the steps in the staircase) point to "12 o'clock," "1 o'clock," "2 o'clock," "3 o'clock"... etc.

As you go up the stairs, you pass "12 o'clock" several times. The first time

you pass it you are low on the stairs, the next time you are a little higher, and then you are higher yet as you pass it a final time.

This has been a helpful picture for me in understanding how God has grown me in Jesus. The different "o'clocks" I have encountered on the way up are key truths about God and His plan for my life. Things like: God loves me, God is faithful, I must trust Him, Jesus took all my sin, heaven is real, the Bible is God's sure Word, etc. As God leads me along in spiritual growth, I find myself coming back to truths I have known for a long, long time. Truths in most cases which are quite simple. But now I am at a different place in my life, "higher up the spiral staircase;" that is, God has grown me since I first heard that He loved me and now I am learning about His love in even deeper and broader ways.

Let's keep going with the truth that God loves me to illustrate further what I mean: God loves me. Well, who, having been raised in Sunday School from childhood, has not known this from earliest memory?

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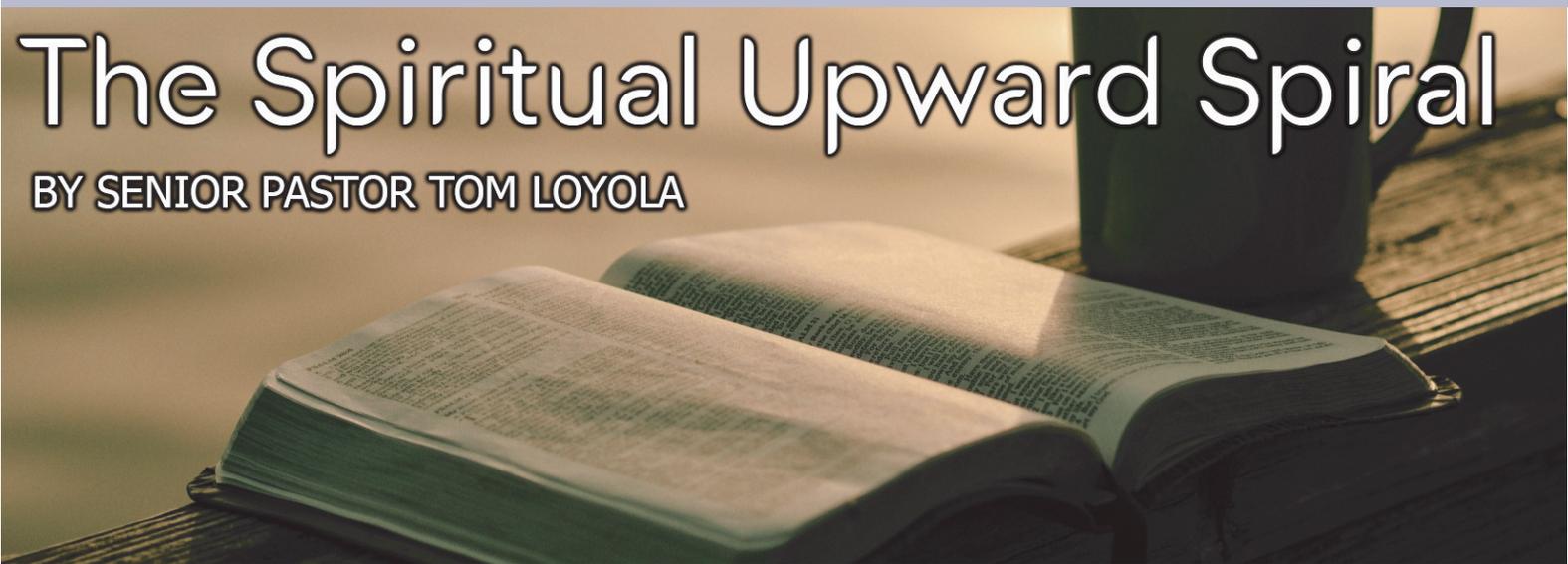
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CALENDAR

- February
- 1-3 Middle School Winter Retreat
 - 3 Communion Sunday
JSM HS BigGame Party
 - 9 Valentine's Dinner
 - 14 Valentine's Day
 - 17 UNITE Worship Night
 - 21 M&Ms

- March
- 3 Communion Sunday
 - 8-9 High School Lock-In
 - 10 Membership Lunch & Class
 - 17 St. Patrick's Day
 - 21 M&Ms
 - 23 MOH—ISI in Davenport

March to be continued



The Spiritual Upward Spiral

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

One of the first verses we memorize as children is John 3:16, the beautiful revelation of God's love for the world. And yet the depth of God's love is something I need to learn more and more about as I walk with Jesus.

A globally known and respected theologian of the last century was asked later in life, "After all your study, what is the greatest truth you have learned?" His answer? "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Those, of course, are lyrics to a simple, well-known children's Sunday School song.

The Apostle Paul talked about God's love in this way: "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19, NIV).

If that is the way it is with God's love—so deep I need His power to grasp it, then I need to return to it often in my forward and upward progress in Jesus.

Here is my second example. God's kind and repeated command, "Do not fear." The fact that God repeats this so many times in the Bible (I have never counted, but someone has said that this word from the Lord is in the Bible 365 times ... one for every day of the year), tells me I need to revisit it over and over and over again.

When I first encounter it, my life may be going very smoothly and so I easily, and perhaps glibly, agree ... I don't need to fear anything! But then, later at another point in life, I find myself in circumstances that are generating fear in a whole new way, in a deeper, disturbing way. Now I need to learn more from God about how He helps me with my fears.

This brings me to our last couple of sermons. Last Sunday we studied the well-known account of Jesus washing His disciples' feet in John 13. Christ's call upon His followers to serve is something we need to revisit over and over as we progress in Christ.

The sermon before that was from 2 Peter 1 where Peter says, essentially, I know you already know all this but you need, desperately need, reminding. Remember to add to your faith the seven key qualities of virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. Remember.

One way this picture of a "spiritual spiral" helps me is by reminding me that there are not an infinite number of truths I need to know and master in order to mature in Jesus. It seems that there are a somewhat limited number of really basic truths which I need to learn, and then as I come around to that truth again like on the ascending staircase, I learn them again in a deeper and fuller way, and then even more as I come around to them again.

God leads us to revisit fundamental truths about Him and His will for us. And, as we are at different places in our lives with each visit, we learn of Him in new ways. It is like an ascending spiral, the ascending spiral of spiritual growth. He is leading us upward and onward to our final destination—becoming mature Christians who are given a rich welcome into glory to live with Him forever!

CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Happy Birthday!

- 4 Emma Decker
- Hannah Decker
- Joseph (Joey) Decker
- 6 Austin Giddings
- 7 Joy Lower
- 9 Jenny Gordon
- Mike Gordon
- 13 Chavah Traverse
- 15 Dick Carpenter
- 18 Bill Giddings, Sr.
- Hannah Von Holten
- 21 Dan Phipps, Sr.
- 27 Chris Buis

Happy Anniversary!

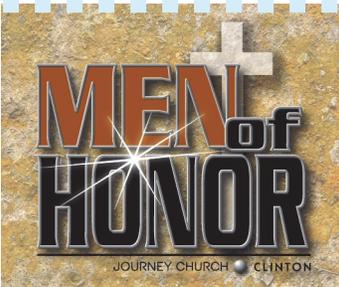
- 11 Dick & Tove Witt
- 14 Al & Pat Robinson
- 19 Jeff & Julie Eggers
- 28 Errol & Alice Peters

STUDENTS

UNITE Worship Night

FROM NATE JOHNSON,
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES

Journey Student Ministries has UNITE Worship Night happening on February 17 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm here at Journey Church. We are combining with other youth groups in our area for a night of Worship. Invite your friends for an evening of games, snacks, worship, and a few other surprises. We'll see you there!



MEN of HONOR

SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 23, 2019



M&Ms: 50's & Up!

FROM M&Ms MINISTRY LEADER

Come join us (M&M's) on February 21st at 11:30 am (always the third Thursday of every month, mark your calendars) even if it doesn't show in the weekly bulletin, we are meeting on our date. If perhaps we cancel, we will contact the regulars and the church office can always be called (we have a very efficient sec'y) if you have questions. That being said, feel free to join us and the office staff for very good food, fantastic fellowship, and meaningful prayer on the THIRD THURSDAY every month.

It was great to welcome Roger and Becky Campbell last month, thanks to encourager Patricia Harris.

2019
IRON SHARPENS IRON
MEN'S ONE-DAY EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY
FOCAL POINT MINISTRIES

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND TODAY!

Davenport, IA
March 23rd

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Del Tackett

Jamaal Williams

16 DIFFERENT SEMINARS SPECIFIC TO MEN
FOR MEN OF ALL AGES (13+)
8:30 A.M. - 4:55 P.M.

FocalPointMinistries.net
Register with the men from your church!



Ladies' Spring Luncheon

SAVE THE DATE APRIL 13, 2019

Paradise, California Wildfire Response

FROM THE MISSIONS LEAD TEAM

The February Moment for Missions emphasis is to come along side of ReachGlobal, an outreach ministry of the national Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) organization. Following the devastation by the recent wildfire, EFCA ReachGlobal Crisis Response and the EFCA Western District are coordinating to mobilize response efforts. The following is what they have posted:

In what has amounted to the deadliest wildfire in California history, 90 percent of Paradise, California, has been destroyed. More than 7,600 single-family homes and 260 commercial structures burnt to the ground. Forty-eight lives lost and hundreds more missing. Eighty homes of EFCA congregants were destroyed by the fire, leaving just two families from Paradise EFC with homes to which to return. Still, by the grace of God, all the congregants' lives were spared. "I can't express what I'm seeing," shared Pastor Art, senior pastor of Paradise (CA) EFC. "The magnitude and scope are beyond belief." Yet by some miracle, the flames bypassed the church building.

We're responding, but we need your help. Along with the physical restoration, the Crisis Response team is focusing on trauma care – providing support and counseling to those who experienced this disaster firsthand.

Pray

- For God's peace, comfort, hope and restoration to cover Pastor Art Worthington, Paradise EFC and all those affected by the fire in the Paradise community.
- For God's wisdom, guidance and strength for those on the ground responding from Crisis Response and the EFCA Western District.
- For unity, both in Northern California and across our EFCA movement, as we seek to help our neighbors recover from this disaster.
- For God to be glorified and the gospel to be spread in the face of this devastating fire.

Give

After Hurricane Harvey hit, we raised over \$1.6 million in relief funds, by the grace of God. The devastation in Paradise has been even more catastrophic on our EFCA family, so we are in great need of your financial support. Your gift will minister to families affected by the wildfire and support ongoing Crisis Response outreach.

If you would like to donate to this need you can mark your giving envelope as Paradise Fire Response and our church will send one donation at the end of the month of February to ReachGlobal for this purpose.



reachglobal

Develop. Empower. Release.

Chi Alpha & The Pregnancy Center host international speaker and attorney Rebecca Kiessling, conceived in rape

Th. Feb 21st
6:30 p.m.

Free event w/
Refreshments

For details:
563-242-6628



Clinton Community College Auditorium
1000 Lincoln Blvd., Clinton



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Forming followers of Jesus who impact their world

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