



North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene Messenger

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Worthy

We've all been there. A friend or fellow believer asks us, "Did I do a good job?" or "Do you think I have what it takes to do this?" or "Did I make an idiot of myself in that situation?" What they really want to know is whether the people around them believe in them, trust them or think they are capable of succeeding. We have all seen it and have probably all dealt with it in our own lives. Low self-esteem has its origins in various places in our lives. It can come from the influence of others or from what we tell ourselves in our own minds. But the fact is that very few people do not suffer from the consequences of simply failing to see themselves as they are seen through the eyes of the Lord.

The enemy is an expert at getting people to focus on what they lack, rather than what they have. He specializes in making people feel insecure in their gifts and abilities. His goal is not only to weaken our self-esteem, but to fool us into believing we are worthless and incapable of moving forward. Ultimately, the enemy's desire is that we would simply give up on everything because we believe ourselves unfit and impotent at whatever we put our hands to.

Our attempt to soothe our feelings of worthlessness by going to other people for reassurance, in the form of seeking a pat on the back, or even by giving ourselves a pat on the back, ultimately only works in the short term. But when we are suffering from the effects of low self-esteem, we typically cannot usually see how temporary the "fix" is. We just know that we don't "feel" good about ourselves, and we want the "feeling" of worth to come back.

As tempting as it might be for us to seek applause and approval in an effort to make us feel better about ourselves, it can be a truly slippery slope. Because when we base our self-worth on our own accomplishments or our own goodness, we are beginning in the wrong position from the start. The true answer to our worth will only be found in the Source of any strength we might possess, and recognizing that any goodness we might have does not come from within us at all. It comes from the Lord.

The scripture that speaks most directly to this issue comes from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:9-10:

And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul is sharing one of the most powerful lessons we could have possibly received from him, especially as it regards the Source of our true worth. **He has learned, through very difficult circumstances, that human weakness does not equal worthlessness.** Rather, it is used to prove GOD's faithfulness and His strength.

Then, in Romans 12:3, he tells us:

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Paul now tells each of us that whatever good that is found in us has been given to us from GOD and should be used for GOD's glory. And if those reminders are not enough, we always have the Psalmist's words in Psalms 139:13:

For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

We must recognize – for GOD's purposes and for GOD's glory – that our worth is in Him and from Him, cannot be stolen out of His hands, cannot be altered from what He says it is and cannot be repurposed for the enemy's uses unless we allow it to be.

Now that I have reminded you of all this, I want to tell you that not only are you worth everything to GOD, you are worth everything to our body of believers as well. We love you, we need you, and we would never want to move forward without you.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

4 – Jim & Susan Corle
 6 – Susan Corle
 8 – Laurel Chapman
 11 – Jamie & Susie Lorenson
 18 – Janet Van Skiver
 20 – Elmer & Sue Jones
 22 – Lori Fillmore
 Dave Fregeau
 26 – John & Marie Haddad
 Arnold Burris
 27 – Ernie Rybolt



Calendar

5 – Pumpkin Delivery
 7 -31 – Pumpkin Patch
 8 – Busy Hands
 9 – Food Distribution
 10 – Church Board Meeting
 31 – Trunk or Treat



Prayer Needs:

Phoebe Barr
 Ida Chaplow
 Dave Fregeau
 Ryan Woodby
 Sheryl Colie & Family
 Ardyth Eldridge
 Mark & Kim Barr
 Kenny & Gail Goodman
 Children & Teen Depts.
 Phillip Lindsey
 Our missionaries

Tom Blakeman
 Ida Chaplow
 Judi Predko's family
 Ernie Rybolt
 Matthew Morgan
 Eileen Massett
 Louis Perez
 Phyllis Obney
 Eileen Jennings
 Marlene Ryan
 The Nation of Israel

Carl Baxter
 Janice O'Lynn
 Ray Holman
 Paul Jones
 Orion Predko
 Joseph Groves
 Cody Church
 Regina Williams
 Kitty Baxter
 A Youth Pastor
 Our Church Leaders

Ben Bergman
 Susie & Jamie Lorenson
 Mark & Lisa Koch
 Betty Predko
 Paul & Grace Boling
 Lorraine Jungles
 Dave Peck
 Allice Daugherty
 Dorothy & Laurel Chapaman
 Unsaved Loved Ones

BUSY HANDS

Tuesday, October 1 & 8 ~ 9:30 A.M.

Our group is working on book bags that fit over the backs of school chairs for several classrooms at Edgewood Academy. The bags are beautiful and require not just people who can sew, but anyone willing to lend a hand in the assembly.

Anyone who would like to help out is welcome to join in the fun as we work to finish this project.



We need volunteers to help with the distribution of food on Wednesday, October 9, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, to help with a variety of tasks. Please spread the word to anyone you think could benefit from this special outreach and join us as we partner to help those in need. And once again, thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in North Fort Myers.

From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Parents often use the project to teach their kids about giving. Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leader-

ship Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children.

Our job is to choose an age and gender, fill the boxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, etc., and return them to the church. For more on how to pack a shoebox go to: samaritanaspurse.org and find "How to pack a shoebox."





We will be offering a Trunk or Treat event once again this year to our neighborhood families as a safe and creative alternative to Halloween. We will need lots of volunteers who are willing to decorate their trunks, tailgates or “way-backs” in creative and fun ways. The goal is to give children and their families an inviting opportunity to engage with our people and have a good time that is not scary, spooky or that has anything to do with death. The hope is that we will fill our parking lot with families going “trunk-to-trunk” instead of door-to-door, collecting candy, playing games and having good, clean fun – all while being exposed to our friendly church folks.

With Trunk-or-Treat, the trunk of your car becomes your front porch, giving you the opportunity to decorate the trunk or gate of your SUV or van in fun and creative ways, making your display a delight for

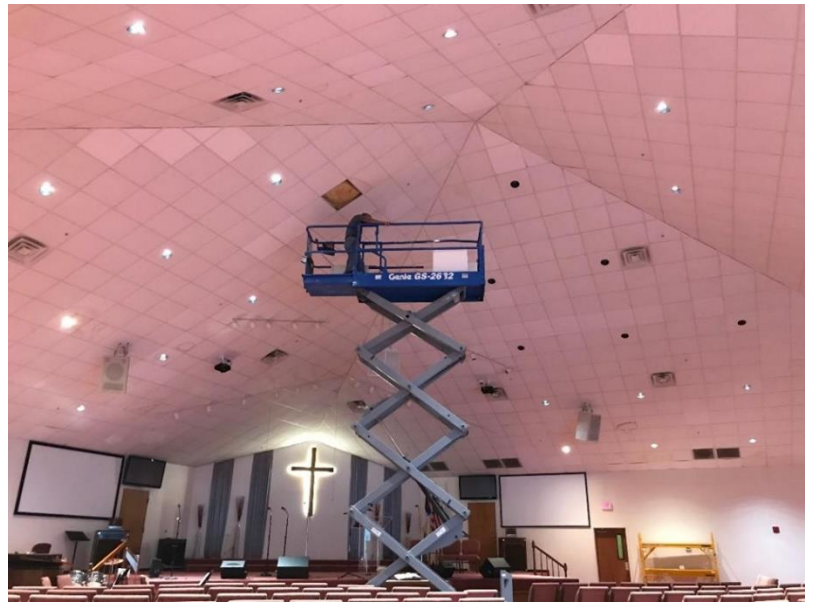
families and fun for lots of children.

We had a great turnout last year, but would like to double the number of participants in order to reach as many families as possible. Please help us make this a successful outreach by signing up in the foyer, and start considering how you might make your trunk fun and welcoming to the little folks who will be showing up for this special event.

CHANGES TO THE SANCTUARY

Thanks to the generous contributions of our congregation and the hard work of several wonderful volunteers, the work on the sanctuary is coming along very well. The new projectors and screens are up and running as of Sunday, September 29, and the change is not only welcome, but beautiful, and is providing our worship crowd with a richer and more enjoyable experience.

This is a great time of year to invite your friends and family to join us for worship and to come check out the changes, as well as fellowship with the loving folks here at N. Ft. Myers Nazarene. So, come join us as we grow and change and move forward for our Lord and for the Kingdom of GOD.



PUMPKIN PATCH - OCTOBER 7 - 31 PUMPKINS ARRIVE - OCTOBER 5 @4 PM

We need friendly, welcoming people to help with pumpkin sales Monday thru Saturday, each week. If you are willing to help work in the pumpkin patch this year, please sign up in the foyer.

The workers are scheduled in shifts and the work is not difficult –

It involves very little lifting – but does involve handling money and keeping record of sales.

We need all hands-on-deck for this event.

Proceeds from this year’s sales will be combined with last year’s proceeds to aid in our work and witness trip in February/March to the Native American school.



Keep Growing Forward

Sing To Me, Autumn

Patricia L. Cisco

Sing to me, Autumn, with the rustle of your leaves.
Breathe on me your spicy scents that flow within your breeze.

Dance with me, Autumn, your waltz that bends the boughs of trees.
Now tell me all the secrets you've whispered to the seas.

Sleep with me, Autumn, beneath your starlit skies.
Let your yellow harvest moon shimmer in our eyes.

Kiss me, Autumn, with your enchanting spellbound ways
That changes all you touch into crimson golden days.

Love me, Autumn, and behold this love so true
That I'll be waiting faithfully each year to be with you.

I have now lived in Florida longer than I lived in any other state. Katy is the only one of our children who was born in Florida. So, I guess she is the only one of us who is a true Floridian. Becky and I were talking recently about how we miss many things about fall in the "true" south. The changing of the leaves to all those grand colors, the wisp of a breeze with a touch of chill mixed in, Saturdays with college football, college and high school band performances, football players, and tailgaters, and Friday nights going to the High School game and wrapping up in a wool blanket to keep warm. Ah...there's a lot to love about Autumn in the south.

It is easy for us to get caught up in the past, isn't it? We often find ourselves focusing on the things we miss about what used to be. But God wants us to be ever-vigilant about looking forward. In 1 Thessalonians 5, we are told to look for Jesus' return, "*for no one knows that day or hour.*" We cannot afford to keep looking back at what was, what we wish could be, or what might have been.

In 1 Peter 5:6-7, we read:

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Remember, "*in due time.*" We are supposed to be looking forward to what God can and will do.

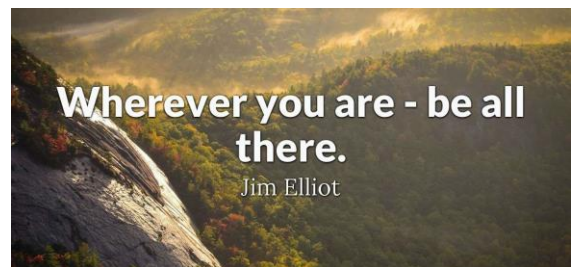
We lived in Pennsylvania for almost four years. And the fall colors there were wonderful. However, they were short lived. and then came the snow and the bitter cold. Two years in a row our church was forced to cancel our Easter sunrise service because of snow. It did not take long living in those harsh winters for us to wish we were in a warmer climate.

No matter where God has you right now, there is a reason for it. Whatever you are going through right now, remember God has a plan.

Every place we have lived has had its beauty and wonderful benefits, as well as its challenges. (Where we now live, in North Fort Myers, we get some of the most wonderful sunsets and rainbows imaginable. Plus, we get to cross the beautiful Calloosahatchee and experience the beauty of the Gulf Coast. And, BONUS, no snow!) Just always know that no matter where God takes you, it is in His time and He plans for you to be all-in for Him wherever you are, and to grow while you are there.

Keep growing!

Blessings, Pastor Van



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