

Our Continuing Mission Focuses On . . .

“Serving God’s Servants”



Eagle Summit Ministry
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JUST FOR FUN

In case you're feeling **STRESSED**, remember that "STRESSED" spelled backwards is "DESSERTS."
You may also know that it is best to eat dessert first, because you never know when the rapture may occur.

Where We've Been, What We've Been Up to & Where We're Headed Next . . .

- 3rd Monday monthly—Mending Fences Fellowship, Leadership Team, Spokane, WA (Hippe)
- 3 Sundays/month through June —Wayne Morris, Sprague Community Church, Sprague, WA
- January 2—Sprague Community Church, Sprague, WA (Hippe)
- March 6, April 3, May 1, June 1—CBF, Kettle Falls, WA (Morris)
- April 10, 17—CBF, Kettle Falls, WA (Hippe)
- June 18—ESM board meeting, New Hope Bible Church
- June 12, 19—Country Bible Church, Dusty, WA (Hippe)
- July 18-22—Pend Oreille Bible Camp, (3rd-6th graders) Newport, WA (Hippe)

WE ARE AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY EVEN ON SHORT NOTICE.

Do you need assistance with Creative outreach programs, AWANA or Kid's Clubs, Sunday School, Family Camp, Teen or Kid's camps or other special events? Contact us. We are here to serve.

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"SERVING GOD'S SERVANTS"

Eagle Summit Ministry

CHALLENGING & ENCOURAGING
small and rural churches
and their pastors.
FRESH ideas
prayer PARTNERING
Family get-aways
preaching, teaching & training



OUR 26TH YEAR OF ESM MINISTRY

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STRIVING TO SERVE GOD'S SERVANTS

MAY/JUNE 2022

WAITING and HOPING

WE HATE TO WAIT. From our human perspective, when our prayer is answered with a "WAIT," we tend to become frustrated. We **WAIT** in the doctor's office or the emergency room. We **WAIT** at traffic signals. We **WAIT** in line at the store. We **WAIT** for that late package. We **WAIT** for a loved one to arrive. We get frustrated at how long it takes to heat something up in the microwave. **WAITING** is part of life. If we allow it, **WAITING** can steal our **PEACE** (shalom).



"They who **WAIT/HOPE** on/in the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount with wings as eagles . . ."

Our interaction with computers demonstrates how we hate to **WAIT**. In research by computer scientist, Ramesh Sitaraman, he found that people are willing to **WAIT** and average of two seconds for a web browser to load. After five seconds, about twenty-five percent give up, after ten seconds, fifty percent abandon their efforts. We are an impatient lot. Like most of us, I don't like **WAITING** in lines. I often inadvertently choose what proves to be the slowest checkout line. There's the dreaded price check delay. Or the sweet little old lady who **WAITED** until her items were totaled to open her purse and begin looking for her checkbook. Then the check writing process begins. "What was that total, honey?" I decided years ago that instead of getting frustrated and allowing my blood pressure to rise, I'd do something positive. I have a choice. Get mad or pray. I have chosen to pray.

I immediately think of Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God . . ." Then I pray for several specific friends. The Hebrew concept of "being still," just like "**WAITING**" does not mean to do nothing. "Being still" literally means to "drop your arms." We want to work things out on our own. We easily forget that God is in charge. Our **WAITING** is to be **HOPING** with expectancy and is a reminder that our plans are subject to God's plans. The Hebrew word, "Qavah," is translated "**to WAIT**" or "**to HOPE**." There are other Hebrew words that mean to "stand still." This word carries with it the idea of being gathered together in oneness or binding together like a rope with many strands into one. This **WAITING** allows time for God to build His character in us, to entwine us, to transform us to be more like Christ.

In the *Book of Hope* by Nancy Guthrie, she reminds readers of biblical hope. "Typically, **HOPE** is wishful thinking, maybe, possibly or simply something we want to happen. We have no sense of confidence that it will happen. I **HOPE** our favorite sports team wins. I **HOPE** my child will get well quickly from this illness. I **HOPE** I can lose some weight. Biblical **HOPE** is the confident assurance that we can count on God to keep His promises."

In English, "**to WAIT**" is passive idleness. Biblical **HOPE** is confidence that what God says will be, will be reality. In the mind of God, it already is reality. Oh, to truly understand that truth.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the **ASSURANCE** of things **HOPED** for, the **CONVICTION** of things not seen. There is nothing uncertain about biblical hope. It is something that is certain but not yet realized. There is no question that it will happen. **HOPE** is like a memory of the future, a future where God already is. Biblical **HOPE** is the confident assurance that we can entrust our lives to the One who holds the future.

The Apostle Paul reminds us, “. . . we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces **HOPE**, and **HOPE** does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” Romans 5:3-5. Paul also reminds us that our “**WAITING**” is a patient anticipation of a reality. “. . . Now **HOPE** that is seen is not **HOPE**. For who **HOPES** for what he sees? But if we **HOPE** for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” Romans 8:24-25

James shows us that there is a direct connection to patience and **HOPE**, our **HOPE** of the rapture, “the catching away.” The patience of a farmer awaiting his harvest is a great example. The crop is planted with the full expectation of a fruitful harvest. The qualifying ingredient is time. “Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer **WAITS** for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. . .”

“. . . Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to Him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who **WAIT/HOPE** for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint Isaiah 40:27-31.”

If there is no security in our **HOPE**, we are hopeless and our future insecure. “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have **HOPE** in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead . . .” 1 Corinthians 15:17-20. Our **HOPE** is secured in the resurrection of our Lord. He is risen!

If Jesus did not rise again from the dead, then placing our **HOPE** in His hands is useless and foolish. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living **HOPE** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in Heaven for you.” 1 Peter 1:3-4

Our **HOPE** is the confident expectation that what God says will happen is our future reality. God is sovereign, He is in control. Our **HOPE** concerning salvation is based on the character and promises of God. Our **HOPE** concerning Heaven is based on the character and promise of God. The pleasures of this world serve as a window to the wonders of the world to come. Our assurance of a resurrection and victory over death are founded on the character and promises of God. This is a death-defying confident **HOPE**.

We **WAIT** and **HOPE**.

“May the God of **HOPE** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **HOPE**.” Romans 15:13

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS—OOPS!!

- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: ‘I Upped My Pledge — Up Yours.’
- The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- Stewardship Offertory: “Jesus Paid It All”
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- “The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals.”



Thoughts from Dawna . . . Are We Missing the Point?

What does it mean to be a Christian? How can you actively participate in a life that honors God so that it changes the course of not only your life for eternity, but also effectively changes the lives of those around you? Maybe Christianity has to do with having good routines like reading your Bible and praying every day. Maybe a Christian should go to church each week so that they're around other believers, and so that scriptures can be reinforced by a pastor who has studied the Word. Maybe a Christian should always be encouraging to others and be a reminder that no matter what the problem, God always knows what He's doing, and His ways are always the answer. These things could all be positively right, or they could all just be *good* things to do. Sometimes in these things we're missing the point.



About 15 years ago, I read a little book by Oswald Chambers called, “*My Utmost For His Highest*”. When I first held that book in my hands, I didn't expect it to mean much. I kind of figured that it'd be one of those reads that I'd get a couple pages into and then realize that I had no idea what I'd just read and would have to flip back to the beginning to start over. I was shocked when I realized that not only was I drawn into Oswald's words, but that so much of what he had to say smacked me straight across the face. How could this guy born 148 years ago have this much to say that was pointed directly to me? More on Oswald in a minute...

It's easy to read Isaiah 40:31, “*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles...*” and when we read that part of the verse we want to stop on that part. We want to imagine our life as Christians and our faith as strong, powerful, fearless, tenacious, having a vision, and flying high. We have the strength of God, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are fierce. Except there's this, the rest of the verse, “*...they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*”

Oswald Chambers says this, “*A life of faith is not a life of one glorious mountaintop experience after another, like soaring on eagles' wings, but is a life of day-in and day-out consistency; a life of walking without fainting*” (see Isaiah 40:31). I am not suggesting that you can lose your Christianity or that you must work for it. I am suggesting that a life of Christianity will not happen without active participation. God did not create and then proceed to disrupt all of creation, so that we can read the first part of Isaiah 40:31, feel inspired, and then absolve ourselves of personal responsibility. Every part of Isaiah 40:31 is there to remind us that a life of day-in and day-out consistency is what will result in times of soaring. It is also imperative to know that if you lack discipline in areas that you believe are of no spiritual consequence (and please tell me what those would be), you will not be disciplined to walk without fainting in any part of your life. You cannot separate one from the other.



A relationship with God will be painful, it will be hard fought, you will wrestle, question, and have doubts. A relationship with God means that you will grieve, you won't always have the answers, it won't always feel good, you won't always get what you want. A relationship with God means that sometimes you will get what you want and realize you never should have had it in the first place. A relationship with God means that sometimes you have no idea what to do or what to say.

You don't become proficient, believable, or effective in any area of your life without work and discipline. There is no part of a Christian life that exists in exclusion to what it means to know God, not mental, not physical, not emotional, and not spiritual. Be constantly preparing to walk a long and arduous journey without fainting. It is the discipline that yields the exhilaration, strength, and rapture of the flight.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 STANDING FIRM WITH MY MOM, DAWNA