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[www.eaglesummitministry.org](http://www.eaglesummitministry.org)

The Holiday season can be an especially lonely and depressing for those struggling with loss. The loss can involve health, finances, relationships, a job, death of a family member or friend or other disappointments. No matter how hard one may try to think positively, reality can come crashing in. Knowing that others have gone through and are going through the same discouragements does not ease the pain.

That's why it is so beneficial to stay in God's word and to look for ways to help and serve others. Bathing our souls in the balm of the very words of God will challenge and encourage us. This will help us see how God has worked in the lives of believers in the past and how He will work in our lives today. We can trust Him to keep His word. Serving others takes our mind off of ourselves. Jesus modeled this in attitude and action. He did not come to be served, but to serve others, not to receive, but to give (Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27).



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

- 3rd Monday monthly—Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA (Hippe)
- September-November— Country Bible Church, Dusty, WA (Morris)
- October 8—Cedonia Community Church, Hunters, WA (Hippe)
- September 17—Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA (Hippe)
- September 24—Country Bible Church, Dusty, WA (Hippe)
- November 4—ESM Board Meeting, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley, WA
- November 5—Country Bible Church, Dusty, WA (Hippe)

**WE ARE AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY EVEN ON SHORT NOTICE.**

**Do you need assistance with Pulpit Supply, 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"



### MORE BRUTAL FACTS OF LIFE

This is certainly not in the Christmas spirit, but here are more brutal facts of life. Some are reminders, others maybe fresh thoughts. 2024 is fast approaching. The sooner you face these truths and deal with them properly you will be able to focus on what's most important. Dealing with these facts will help your life take on greater meaning and purpose.

**#12 FAILURE TO GUARD YOUR HEART BRINGS MISERY.** roverbs 4:23 "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." What you allow to enter your mind can ultimately control your heart (sprit) and your actions. When good, godly things fill your heart, words and actions follow. The same is true if you allow the opposite to fill your life. Choose your friends wisely because you will ultimately become like them. Your hearts will form a oneness. You will develop the same likes and dislikes, the same standards and the same worldview. It's a truth you can't avoid; it is always easier to pull someone down than to lift them up. Of all you guard, your marriage, your family, your bank account, your passwords, guarding your heart is most important.

**#13 STOP TRYING TO HIDE YOUR EMOTIONS.** You were designed with emotions. Deal with them. You are a relational and emotional being created in the image of God. God is relational. He desires for us to have a relationship with Him. God is loving, and kind to you and at times angry and frustrated with you. To emphasize the importance of a relationship built on love, He said, "I love you" first and demonstrated that love through the death of His son on a cruel Roman cross. (John 3:16) Stoicism is not godliness. Embrace your God-given emotions. Solomon agreed with this as penned in Ecclesiastes 3:4, "There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." In Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Evangelist said to Christian, "Sometimes we see clearest through our tears." Jesus wept. A day well spent will have some laughter and some tears.

**#14 REJECT YOUR UNTHANKFUL SPIRT.** Studies have shown that the number one attitude that should be fostered to trigger the learning process most effectively is gratitude, thankfulness. It tends to be your nature to look at the negative, to see only the dark side of a problem. Keep an open mind and heart even in the face of life's most difficult challenges to look for the lessons God is trying to teach you. Instead of asking, "God, why me?" ask God, "What are you trying to teach me?" 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Work on developing an attitude of gratitude.

**#15 STOP ALLOWING NEGATIVITY TO RULE YOUR LIFE.** You can choose to see the positive in any situation. Do not let the negative of life rule your thoughts and actions. The negative is all around us and is often what we tend to focus on. That's just where the enemy of our soul wants us to dwell. Satan wants you as believer in Christ to be discouraged, depressed and defeated to silence you from communicating the truth of scripture.

**#16 YOU DON'T KNOW IT ALL, BUT YOU CAN SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED.** Allowing others to learn things the hard way may just be another excuse to not get involved in someone else's life. It may also be a way to hide mistakes you have made. Those closest to you should know that you are vulnerable and that you love them enough to not let them make the same sinful decisions you made in the past. David did just that in Psalm 51 when with a broken heart he painted a word picture of his sin. This is another example that the Bible is God's word. What man, without Devine coaxing, would expose his own sin for others to read about thousands of years later. The Apostle Paul was also so convinced he should share his knowledge and experience with young Timothy that he wrote Timothy two letters that are available today. Who can you help?

**#17 YOU ARE NOT PERFECT.** Face it, others are not perfect, and neither are you. Stop trying to pretend you are. It is impossible to be sinless, but it is possible to sin less. Keep short accounts with God. Be painfully honest with God about yourself. **(CONTINUED)**



1 John 1:9-10 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and his word is not in us." Make things right with God and anyone you may have sinned against or offended. Do that as quickly as possible to limit the time you may invest in blaming others or making excuses for your sinful actions or words. There is only One perfect human. That is not you.

**#18 STOP DREAMING AND START DOING.** If God has put something in your mind and heart to do, do it. God equips every believer to accomplish His will. Fear is often the hindrance. Fear is faith that things will not work out. Fear often makes sin seem like the only option. Like Jonah, you may want to run the opposite direction from what you know God wants you to do. Recognize the source of your fear. Remember the power of the Holy Spirit indwells in you. True faith is always accompanied by action. James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." Don't lie to yourself. Stop saying, "I'll do it tomorrow." You can do now what you know God wants you to do whether it is witnessing to your neighbor or coworker, serving at your church, or leading that Bible study group.

**#19 TAKE THE FOCUS OFF YOURSELF AND RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD.** Knowledge is important and wisdom even better. Even better than wisdom is understanding, which is putting knowledge and wisdom into practice. The more we know God, the more we will love God and the more we will serve God and others. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." Proverbs 1:7

**#20 YOUR IDEAS AND OPINIONS ARE NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT.** Many of the disagreements and conflicts you have are the result of the fact that you have never really learned to listen. You have two ears and one mouth. Do you think there is a lesson there? You can think and shut your mouth. You can't just think and shut your ears. Instead of just thinking about your comeback, listen to the person with whom you may disagree. I mean really listen. Learning to listen takes focus and practice. It is not natural to put someone else's ideas above our own and really try to understand them. It is supernatural. Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

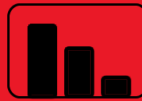
**#21 PUT INTO PRACTICE WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT TO DO.** What have you learned from God's word about how to live life? Samuel Clemens said, "It's not what I don't understand about the Bible that bothers me, it's what I do understand." If God has shown you clear truth, are you putting that into action? It's right to be honest. It's right to love your spouse. It's right to put others before yourself. It's right to take care of your family. It's right to attend church and get involved. You know what's right to do. Do it. James 4:17 "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." Stop making excuses for lazy character. Failing to put your faith into action is like trying to drive a vehicle without an engine.

**#22 NOBODY CARES.** Have you faced the death of someone you love dearly? Are you in pain? Are you suffering? Are you uncertain if you can meet next month's bills? Guess what? Everything you have ever felt or are going through has already been experienced by millions of others. Your pain is not special. Pain is part of being alive. You can have a sympathy party. You can send out invitations, but no one will come. Others may hurt with you for a moment, but they too are facing personal challenges. The One who deeply cares is God. Old Testament Joseph learned that even in a pit and in prison and as a slave, God is there, God is aware, God does care. I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your anxieties on Him, for He cares for you."

**#23 YOU ARE NOT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE** Believe it or not, the world does not revolve around you. American culture and your nature insist that you get what you want now. No one had to teach you how to be selfish. Romans 12:10 "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." Putting our wishes, wants and desires before others is not natural. That attitude is supernatural. You must learn to put others before yourself. That takes practice.

**#24 YOU LIVE IN A SIN-CURSED WORLD** On this earth, there is heartache and pain, sorrow, and loss. Bruises, broken bones, and sprains are part of the risk of life. There are hurricanes and tornadoes. There are floods and tsunamis. There are earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. All cause destruction, chaos, and loss of life. Cancer is real. Blood clots and heart disease are real. Suffering cannot be avoided. We have little if any control over life's most challenging situations. John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Enjoy the beauty of a sunrise or sunset. Take in the fresh air of a mountain forest. Take time to hear the song of a bird or smell the fragrance of a flower. Enjoy a beautiful blue sky and a perfect 70° day. Listen to the rhythm of the ocean or a peaceful stream. There is both beauty and chaos in the world. In chaos, may you find green pastures and still waters as you serve others and comfort the brokenhearted. The one you comfort today may be the one comforting you tomorrow.

## CONFRONT THE BRUTAL FACTS



**FACTS + FAITH**  
Have strong faith yet confront facts of your current reality



## Thoughts from Dawna . . . The life Changing Power of the Mundane

My name is Dawna. I clean toilets and I change the world.

When I was a young mom, I remember that the most difficult moments were remarkably mundane. They were the days I'd wake up exhausted and worried about paying that month's electric bill. There was no retreat from the responsibilities of two toddlers, a busy and inquisitive grade schooler, and managing my at-home web design business. Most days were like this, in fact, most of the days of my life before that point where ones I didn't specifically remember. I was learning that the times where we struggle, and plan, and prepare so hard to create "great memories" were the minority compared to the majority of all the other plain, simple, ordinary days in between.



Yet here we are focusing on special occasions.

Special occasions are to be celebrated but they're not the most formidable, influential times in our lives. There are good reasons to celebrate, it's healthy and it can take your mind off the hardships for a moment. However, most of life is comprised of ordinary, mundane people doing ordinary, mundane things. There are many examples in the Bible of God using ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary, world changing things. Here are just a few of them:

**Acts 4:13-14** Peter and John were unschooled, ordinary men and were used by God to perform miracles.

**Genesis 6-9** Noah drank too much but God used him to save the world.

**Joshua 2** Rahab was a prostitute who God used to help overtake Jericho.

Do you think any of these people were influential, popular, applauded, or promoted often throughout their lives? Or were there a bunch of forgettable moments where they got up, brushed their teeth, and made breakfast that were the majority of what prepared them for what God intended to accomplish? Even David, who defeated Goliath, went back and forth from King Saul to tend his father's sheep in Bethlehem. He didn't abandon the mundane because there might be something better. In fact, when David proposed to Saul that he fight Goliath, he substantiates his appeal to Saul by referencing his work in the fields. in 1 Samuel 17:34-35, "*Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off sheep from the flock, (35) I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.*"

Instead of being compelled, propped up, and pushed forward by what exciting thing is going to happen next in life, it's time to invest more in the routine and mundane, what you're doing when you're sitting in the field tending to the sheep. Here are some ways you can do that:

- Celebrate others on days that aren't holidays, birthdays, or anniversaries.
- Spend time with your kids and grandkids on unremarkable days and times.
- Put more emphasis on your daily routines that most people never see or know. This means plan better, work harder, and get more every single day.



If I **CANNOT** do **GREAT THINGS**,  
I can do **SMALL THINGS**  
in a **GREAT WAY**

When you or someone around you says, "*This is boring.*" Or "*I'm bored.*" Tell them to knock it off. This applies to kids and adults. Kids by default think that the world revolves around their entertainment and that adults are here to accommodate that. As adults we're equally guilty, we just have more control of planning our entertainment.

Every day of your life is profoundly important to considering the end. The goal is to remember the consequences and greatness of just another moment on just another ordinary day.