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FAITH
Presbyterian Church

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FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

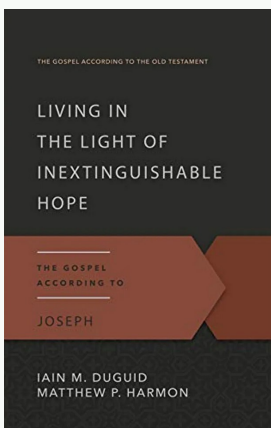


Why do humans climb mountains? There is no earthly benefit to climbing Mt. Everest or Mt. McLoughlin. There is nothing at the top that is not also at the bottom. Yet thousands of people climb mountains like this every year. I believe that God made us with a desire to do hard things. We all have different motivations, but in the end we are the most satisfied when we are succeeding at something hard. This is just part of human nature.

Pastor Karl Thompson As those who know the gospel, we have even more than just human nature to push us to do hard things. We have the godly fear of the Lord, the expectation of reward and the knowledge that Jesus has already given us everything in our salvation to push us to do hard things for Him. Now it is just a matter of saying, "Lord, what hard thing do you want me to do? Give me wisdom so I can direct my hard work in the right direction!"



LADIES BIBLE STUDY IS BACK



Praise the Lord for His goodness and for the opportunity to study the Old Testament with Marj as the leader to guide us through the life of Joseph. Our new study will start Tuesday, September 10th at 10:00am at Faith OPC.

Through this book we will learn how the story of Joseph prefigures the gospel, testifying to God's electing grace and showing how he redeems and restores broken and dysfunctional sinners to accomplish his purposes.

All women are invited to come study the enthralling life of Joseph, from hated brother to ruler of the goods of the land. What happens to his brothers after they abandoned him? Come to the study to find out.

SHINING UP YOUR MARRIAGE— “HOW TO SHOW YOUR WIFE YOU LOVE HER” #3

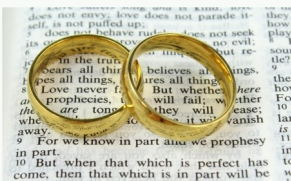
By Keith Hansen

It's the little things that count! True, but some of us need extra help with both the big and little practical ways to express our love to our wives. Prayerfully use these ideas to identify and fine-tune how God would guide and strengthen you to improve your Godly love. Rejoice in how God can change us to be more loving and thoughtful when an expression of love comes from the heart.

You may express love to your wife by:

1. Functioning as the loving leader of your home.
2. Telling her frequently that you love her.
3. Giving her a regular amount of money to spend in any way she chooses.
4. Leading family devotions regularly.
5. Smiling and being cheerful when you come home.
6. Helping her wash and dry the dishes or doing them yourself so that she might have time for herself to relax.
7. Taking her out to dinner or to do some fun thing at least once a week.
8. Doing “fix-it” jobs she needs done around the house.
9. Greeting her when you come home with a smile, a hug, a kiss.
10. Giving her a lingering kiss.
11. Patting her on the shoulder or some other place; holding her hand or caressing her frequently.
12. Being willing to talk to her about her concerns and not belittling her for having those concerns.
13. Sitting close to her.
14. Shaving, taking a bath and brushing your teeth before bed.
15. Wearing her favorite aftershave lotion.
16. Writing love notes or letters to her.
17. Letting her know that you appreciate her and what you specifically appreciate about her. Do this often and for things that are sometimes taken for granted. You are communicating to her that you think she is great and very important to you.
18. Fulfilling her implied or unspoken desires or wishes, as well as the specific requests she makes of you. Anticipate what she might desire and surprise her by doing it before she asks.
19. Sharing her hobbies and recreational preferences enthusiastically; and including her in yours.
20. Seeking to set a good example.
21. Talking about her favorably to others always, whether or not she can hear you.
22. Bragging (Godly of course) about her good points as a wife and in every other area to others; letting her know that you value her and are proud to have her as your wife.
23. Maintaining your own spiritual life through Bible study, prayer, regular church attendance and fellowship with God's people.

Credit to Dr. Wayne Mack.



SARAH MILLER'S BRIDAL SHOWER

It was tea time and a celebration bridal shower for Sarah Miller on Saturday July 20th.

We played fun games and laughed and ate some great tea party themed food. We are so very happy for Sarah and Daniel and their future together following the Lord.



SARAH & DANIEL WILSON

On August 3, 2024 a marriage union took place at Faith OPC with Pastor Thompson officiating. Sarah was an absolutely lovely bride and wore a beautiful dress. After their honeymoon they will reside in Grants Pass. We congratulate the newlyweds and praise God for this union.



Married August 3, 2024





A member of a certain church, who had previously been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace, and waited.

The minister made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the minister

took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember, and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone.

He sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The minister glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the minister reached for the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your fiery sermon. I'll be back in church next Sunday."

It has been said for a church to have a revival, it must be on fire. If the fire is there, the lost will come to see it burn.

From the last part of Verse 4 of "We are God's People"

...we die alone for on its own each member loses fire; yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth & light and to inspire.

Credit: except for the verse from the song, the rest was taken from the September 2000 issue of the *Arkansas Gideon*. FJ



Congratulations to Rachel Lammers (aka VanderWall) on being nominated for favorite **Rogue Valley Family Nurse Practitioner** by Grants Pass residents.



Young adults

Young adult discussion group starts Sept. 10th at the Goodwill's home at 6:30pm alternating with the Wagoner's home. Study will be on Colossians

4TH OF JULY

Our annual 4th of July picnic was held at the Pavilion at Riverside Park. It was a hot one, but that never stops good fellowshiping.



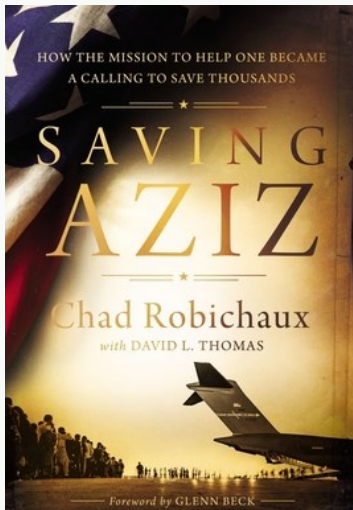
SAVING AZIZ BY CHAD ROBICHAUX



July 2, 2024 [Frode](#) rated it 5 stars

Goodreads review by Frode Jensen

This book is not yet in the library.



Revealing, for those of us not involved in the Afghan situation and dependent on the news, revealing describes this book. In synopsis, Chad, the author, set about trying to get his interpreter, Aziz, out of Afghanistan when he heard of President Biden's decision to withdraw US forces by a given date. The red tape, bureaucratic inadequacies, and faulty high level decisions all put pressure on Chad to "do what is right." Aziz, having helped the US forces, became a hot target for the Taliban, so he and his family were targets.

Trying to help Aziz turned into helping thousands of others escape. Chad calls them the vulnerable, girls, orphans, US citizens, Afghans who worked for the US, women who had become professionals, Christians, and anyone who spoke against the Taliban. That represented a lot of people, and getting many of them out represented a lot of time, money and effort. Along with others Chad formed a group called Save Our Allies (SOA). It became an NGO, non-government organization. As such it had some recognized status but also some limitations. SOA was not the only NGO; there were others, but this is Chad's story, so SOA and its work figures highly in the book.

What was revealed in the book? Here's a short list: the true nature of the Taliban, the ineptitude of the Biden administration, the false numbers given by the media, the dire nature of many of those who needed to get out, the complexities of moving people by various means to the airport and then out of the country, the costs and cooperation needed to be successful in extracting folks. Literally, it was a zoo to get things done during the final days prior to the deadline set by President Biden.

Chad's personal story of overcoming PTSD, conversion to Christ, setting up Mighty Oaks, and his experience as a Marine recon guy all qualified him to do the job. He had lots of connections and some valuable experience. Above and beyond that, he had the heart and will to do it. It is his story, a good and uplifting story, and he tells it well. As a former Navy Seal says on the back jacket, "It will leave you disappointed in America's leadership but proud to be an American." Thank you, Chad, for writing this book and for your above and beyond service.



Christians and Patriots

Words and their uses are to be meant for better communication between individuals, but often people will arrive at different meanings for the same word. What we are talking about is semantics, simply an attempt to come to a right conclusion about what words are to mean. Words are absolute; they represent presuppositional thinking. A series of letters strung together have an arbitrary meaning hung on them; the meaning is established by someone or some group. We will look at the two major words in the title of this article and hopefully clear away certain misunderstandings which may have arisen through usage or misuse.

The two words used separately do not seem to generate too much confusion except in degree. Establishing whether a person is a Christian or a patriot might vary somewhat from group to group according to their particular standards or lack thereof, but in general the label can be made to fit a given series of characteristics. The purpose here is to look at the two words when they are used in conjunction with one another.

These two words can be put together in two distinct manners. We hear the term *Christian patriot* much more often than the other variation, *patriotic Christian*. The first term puts the words into a relationship which is decidedly different for the second choice. It's time for a short grammar lesson. You will notice that the first part of each combination is an adjectival form and thus is modifying the second part of the term, the noun. Grammar here is important since the position and the function of the word determines its relative importance in the phrase. In *Christian patriot*, the emphasis is on being a patriot, and being a Christian is simply an added classification. For example we can also have atheistic patriots, Islamic patriots, cultish patriots, and so on, and that is the actual situation. Each of us can think of those who claim to be patriots who do not profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Let's look at the second phrase, *patriotic Christian*; here the emphasis is on being a Christian while being patriotic is of secondary emphasis. This is, of course, the Scripture would have us utilized the two terms. As Christians we are to live in particular countries and have citizenship in those countries, but we are also to have a higher allegiance to Jesus Christ. John 17 talks about being in the world and yet not of the world. Paul was a citizen of Rome but was faithful to Christ. The point is that the noun is the important factor while the adjective is a descriptive category and is secondary by virtue of position, function, and part of speech.

So what? We Christians need to get our priorities straight; that's what. Let us understand that there is nothing wrong with being patriotic; in fact, it is an admirable trait. Let us understand that being a Christian is more important than being patriotic, but the two can and should work together. Teddy Roosevelt stated that he would stand by his country right or wrong because it was his country. Can we as Christians say that when it comes to abortion, IRS laws used to harass the church, denial of God and prayer in the public (state) schools, and a host of other areas where the country is in conflict with Christian moral principles and Scripture? No, we cannot and should not. If we put country first, our priorities are off.

We should, however, work to change our country to conform to God's standards. Our patriotism should be directed to reviving many ways that the Founding Fathers intended us to be. "God, family, and country" is a popular saying, or it used to be. It has the priorities right. God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of His universe is right placed at the head of the line. The family, God's fundamental social unit, comes next; following that is the country. The hierarchy is obvious.

What will be the effect on unbelieving patriots upon the reconstruction of our land? The end result will sum as zero. How do we know? Scripture tells us. Look at all the examples in the Bible and history when men have

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decided that their ways are better than God's ways. Those men and countries have been consigned to the dust bin of history. What does God promise to a country? "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." *II Chronicles 7:14*

Take heed fellow Christians. Be patriotic, but look to God and His Holy Word for your marching orders, not some conservative personality or ideal. FJ



JOSEPHINE COUNTY FAIR

Almost 90 Years Old and Still Making the Headlines!

Marj Robertson entered four of her hand knit items in the Josephine County Fair in August and won three blue ribbons and one red ribbon!

Marj's mother taught her to knit as a child but she didn't start knitting in earnest until she was about 30 and needed a gift for her niece's two children, she knitted each child a sweater! She knitted socks for Mel, scarves for anybody who asked for one, winter hats to sell and most recently, she knits the winter away making cozy, warm lap blankets for residents in skilled nursing facilities in Grants Pass. She has also knitted soft, comfortable doggie blankets and made those pups happy.

So hats off to one of our oldest members, our Ladies Bible Study teacher, our precious sister in the Lord, Marj!



Part 1 of 4

The Man With The Colorful Arms

I have always been at a disadvantage during medical procedures that require me to take off my eyeglasses. I am nearsighted and cannot see things clearly beyond a few inches from my face. I have difficulty seeing all the people and equipment in the operating room, which is perhaps a good thing. As I am wheeled into the operating room I observe with my fuzzy eyesight that the room is large and white. Several people walk about the room preparing for what is about to come. In the middle of the room there is the table where I will become the center of everyone's attention. Two people are standing near the table. They've been waiting for me.

My gurney is wheeled alongside the table. For what seems like a very long minute I execute a series of gymnastic maneuvers scooting myself onto the table a few inches at a time, being mindful of the IV line inserted into the back of my left hand. You would think in this day and age that there would be a better way to get a patient onto an operating table. There is a man at the end of the table who is pleasantly speaking to me helping to guide me in my journey onto the table. He is close enough that I can see that both his arms are covered in tattoos. Not just any tattoos, but full color tattoos. Yellow, red, black, blue, green. I'm unable to make out exactly what the designs are but I remember a big red heart about midway up his left forearm. I am pondering the unusualness of this in my operating room.



Having completed my journey onto the table, the man with the colorful arms instructs me to swing my legs over the side of the table. More gymnastic scooting maneuvers. He has come close to me now, standing directly in front of me, presumably to make sure I don't fall off the table. My face is at the height of his chest. I look up at him. He is wearing a mask and surgical cap so I cannot see his facial features, but I can see his eyes. He is smiling. That's reassuring. He tells me to put my arms onto his shoulders. He puts his hands onto my upper arms, presumably to steady me. A small moment of time passes, but long enough for me to look to the left and right beyond him to see a long table against the wall. There are many silvery devices on the table. Two people are standing near the table discussing one of the devices. Without my eyeglasses I cannot determine what the devices are, but my mind envisions they are the power tools they will use to rebuild my hip.

After about ten seconds I feel a burning sensation running through my left hand. I am thinking that something must be wrong with the IV port. I pull my arm from the man's shoulder and bring the back of my hand close to my eyes so I can inspect it to determine if something is wrong. I inspect it closely for several seconds. I see that the liquid going through the tubing is a reddish rust color. Or is that my skin

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color showing through the translucent tubing? Unknown. Being convinced that nothing is wrong with the port I return my hand to his shoulder, whereupon the man with the colorful arms tells me, “You can lean into me.” My brain understands that is the right thing to do at this moment, so I tell him in perfect English, “I’m going to do that.” I bow my head into his chest. Then, I am out like a light. Under normal circumstances I would have answered in lazy English, “I’m gunna do that.” I don’t know why, but the way I answered is an important point. Deep inside I realized the seriousness of what was about to happen.

The spiritual implications of this moment are not lost. Our Creator and Savior is always there with His arms around us. “You can lean into Me.” We must train our minds to know that this is the right thing to do. Remember the man with the colorful arms.



PASTOR PONDERINGS

By Karl Thompson

Romans 3:10-11 says, “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God.”

That “No one” there is referring to those who have not been born again. No one seeks after God. The man that climbs the cathedral stairs on his knees before being born again is not really seeking after God. The person who climbs the highest mountain to commune with God, apart from God’s saving work, is seeking a god of his own design who will meet him on his own terms. No one seeks God.

But God seeks and finds people. He takes them and makes them His own. He does not wait for the unregenerate to show signs of change, He comes along and radically changes them. If you are in Christ, that is what happened to you! You were dead in your trespasses and sins, and God came along and made you alive in Christ Jesus! If you are saved, there is only one person to thank, the Lord Jesus Christ!



Thank YOU LORD

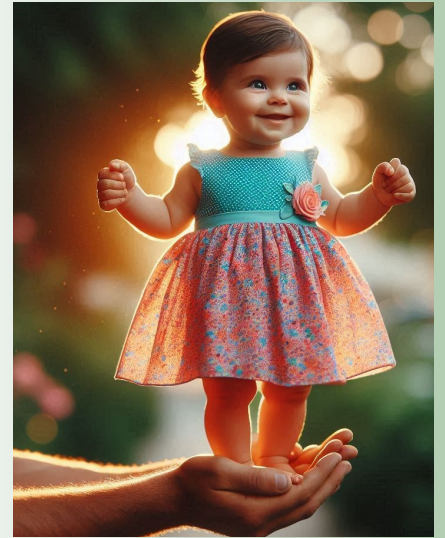


TEACHING MOMENT

By Karl Thompson

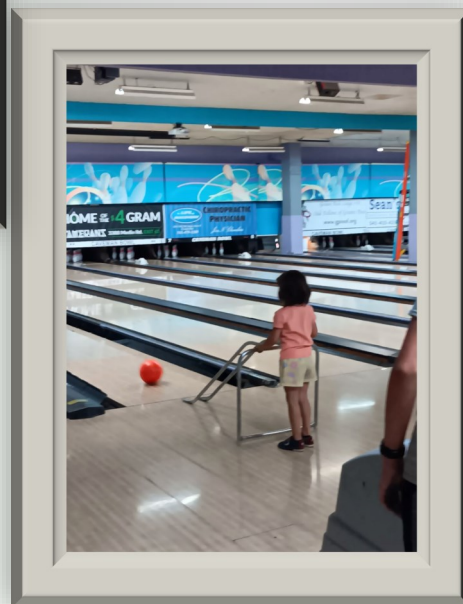
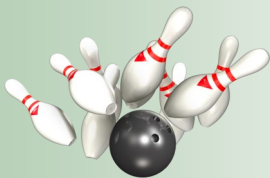
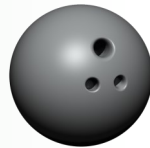
When my kids were just about one year old I used to do a trick with them. As soon as they were strong enough to stand rigidly, but not coordinated enough to balance, I would stand them up on my hand at arms length. They would stand and I would balance them. I've seen many other dads do the same trick. It only worked for a little while. Eventually the kid would mature enough to know that their life was in peril, and they would not cooperate with the stunt, and then it never worked again. But for that moment, they trusted that Dad held them safe!

Jesus, in Matthew 18, teaches us that we need to become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven. At least in part, this is talking about the unflinching trust that a child puts in their parents. There is that sweet spot of trust that says, "If Dad is taking care of me, I must be just fine!" We are to be like that with our father in heaven. In every circumstance, if God is taking care of us, we will be just fine!



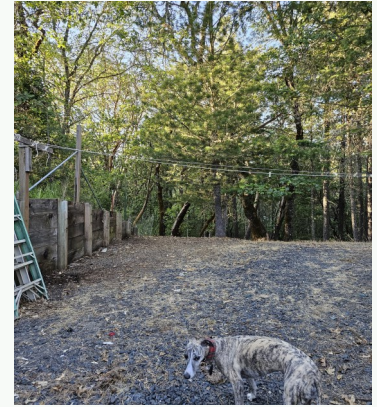
FAITH OPC GOES BOWLING

Everyone had a great time bowling on June 22nd, especially the kids. Family fun for sure.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group is always looking to help out members, so if you have some projects that need to get done contact the Pastor. Recently, they helped out Linda Gay remove deteriorating wood structures and made a big dump run. Linda was ever so thankful for all who showed up to help.



BEFORE-----AFTER



On August 15, 2024 we lost a special friend **Nathan Bolen**. He was in the hospital and his loved ones had time to say their goodbyes while reading the Psalms.

Please keep Carol, his wife, Kathy Metcalf, step-daughter, and Martha Weeks, his sister in prayer along with the rest of the family as they deal with this loss.

Please remember our shut ins- **Carol and Ralph Swanson** thank the Lord for all the help they receive and thank everyone for praying and they give thanks to the Lord for having her son and family living next door. Their 18 year old grandson is a worker and was out chopping wood to prepare for this coming fall. Carol's wrist injury has healed and Ralph's heart problem was due to too much blood pressure medication, so that being rectified and they Praise the Lord for the good health!

And please pray for **Jake VanderStoel** as he continues to deal with the loss of Doris, his beloved wife.

COMING UP

Sept 1 — Faith Fellowship meal

Sept 13 — 6:30PM Faith Movie Night (TBA)

Sept 14— 7AM Men's Breakfast

Sept 23— Men's meeting

Sept 27 — Faith Game Night

10am — Monday Stand for Life

10am— Tuesday Ladies Bible Study-starts 9/10

6:30pm—Young Adult Discussion Group-starts 9/10

6:30pm— Wednesday Bible Study

To view the church calendar— [CLICK HERE](#)

FAITH 2024 BIBLE ACADEMY

The session has decided to do a chronological approach to the Bible reading starting last year. You will be given a chart each week. It will be on the church website, www.faithgp.org, sent via email, and in print on the table in the foyer each Sunday. The reading did begin in the Old Testament but we will be pausing and reading in the New Testament for December then back to the Old Testament. The reading will consist of about a chapter per day except for Sundays. Sunday will be a review day; you will not have to read anything but a good review day. The session is asking you not only to read the Bible but also to react to it. The goal is to get you to think a little about what you are reading. You will find space to write on the chart; we are asking you to do two things; see below.

You will be asked to generate a short thought about the reading, probably 15 words or less will fit in the space given. It can be a summary, a reflection, whatever you decide. For instance, let's say you were asked to read Leviticus 25. It is relatively long being 55 verses, and it covers a lot of material: the Sabbath year, the year of the jubilee, and the redemption of property and of the poor and enslaved in that year. You could make a summary statement about content. *It covered the Sabbath year and the year of Jubilee.* You could reflect on the chapter's content. *God gave them specific rules for redeeming property and people. The 50 year redemption is a shadow of Christ's ultimate redemption. I don't think the jubilee system would work today.* You might even ask a question? *How would this affect investing in property in year 48?* The point is to get you to think a bit about what you have read.

The second thing you are asked to do is copy a verse you like. You are not asked why you liked it. Just pick a verse you happen to like for whatever reason and copy it down with the reference, V14 for instance. Sundays are review days. Again, you are asked to write two things. First, look at your chart and make some sort of statement about the reading for the week. Second, pick one of the six verses you had previously copied down. Write this verse in the review section and think about and maybe even jot a note as to why you picked it. At the fourth Sunday evening service of the month, we will talk about your review items, 1st week, 2nd week and so forth. It would be helpful for you to bring your sheets with you to that service. This is an experiment. We think it will take about 15 minutes or so per day to read and fill in the chart. After a time, maybe a couple of months, we will take a bit of time for evaluation of the process. Our desire is to get you involved with your Bible on a daily basis. If you have some other reading plan already in place with which you are comfortable and believe is profitable for you, that's fine; you can continue to follow that in lieu of what we are proposing. We will be continuing through 2024 in finishing the Bible reading, but will switch over to the New Testament.

Date	Chapters	Instruction	Notes
1-Jan	Review		Finish 2022 Reading
2-Jan	Gen 1	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you like.	
3-Jan	Gen 2	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you like.	

A lot of care, time, and effort went into the publishing of this newsletter and we would love to hear your comments, recommendations, and thoughts. Drop us a line at:

office.faithopc@gmail.com

Special thank you to the proof readers, Marylou Hansen and Frode Jensen.

Feel free to write an article anytime, just email to the above link.

