

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

September 3, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 8

Pastor's Word

The word for September is perseverance. The dictionary defines the word "perseverance" as "persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success."

Someone has said "perseverance is a very important character trait for you to be successful in life. It means **determination at working hard** regardless of any odds or obstacles that may exist. It is to insist and to be firm on getting something done and not giving up."

The Bible teaches that, for the believer, perseverance is a product of the testing of their faith. And choosing to persevere results in a faith that becomes mature and complete. To "persevere" is continuing in "a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success."

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 NIV

At times I need to be reminded and encouraged to persevere. I need to be reminded of the purpose behind the trials I face. That the testing of my faith is God's way of making my faith mature and complete so I will have everything I need to endure. I am working on the "Consider it pure joy" part. It helps to read this passage in The Message:

²⁻⁴ Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

Okay, "when tests and challenges" are a "gift" which allows me to put faith into action I can find joy in that. My faith (what I believe about Sovereign God) is seen in the attitude I embrace and actions I take when I encounter trials, tests, and challenges.

⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

1 Peter 1:6-7 NLT

Pastor Jerry



Women's Luncheon
Saturday, September 25th
10:00 a.m.

- Movie
- Lunch
- Fellowship



Be sure to invite a friend and join us!

September Verse of the Month

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord.
"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to
give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

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Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

A Penned Note from the Pastor's Wife



The phrase “you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink” is a proverb that means you can provide someone with a nice opportunity, but you can’t make them take it if they don’t want to.

I think that is true of our walk with the Lord. The preacher can preach, the teacher can teach, but if you personally don’t desire that deep, intimate walk with the Lord it won’t happen.

That thought led me to the verses found in Ezekiel 36:26-27 NLT where it says, ***²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.***

But God doesn’t give us a new heart just on a whim. It’s at our request that He works in our hearts. Here are some other reminders of that great truth.

Psalm 26:2 NLT

***² Put me on trial, Lord, and cross-examine me.
Test my motives and my heart.***

Psalm 51:10 NLT

***¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.***



Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

***²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.***

God encourages us to seek Him:

Proverbs 3:5 NLT

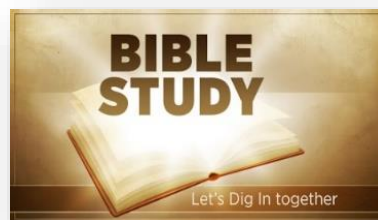
***⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.***

Proverbs 23:26 NLT

***²⁶ O my son, give me your heart.
May your eyes take delight in following my ways.***

And when we do seek Him, and He replaces our stony heart with a tender, responsive heart we can say, like the psalmist wrote in Psalm 19:14 NLT:

***¹⁴ May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.***



Opportunities available at FSBC to
study God’s Word together:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. both in-person
and on FB

Fridays at 11:00 a.m. (women)

JOIN US

For more information call the church office
at 784-1641.

Follow us on the church’s Facebook page at
First Southern Baptist Church:

- “Worship and Word” broadcast at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays by Pastor Jerry; upon viewing you are encouraged to **Share** and **Like** so that it will be available to your friends on FB



- Also, “Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Jerry” broadcast at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

New opportunity happening at FSBC

GRIEF SHARE

Dates and time still to be determined but if you have lost a loved one and want to navigate the grief process then this is the group for you.

Watch our FB page, announcements on our broadcasts as well as Sunday morning worship for upcoming information on this group.

As it says in the song, “This is where the healing begins...”

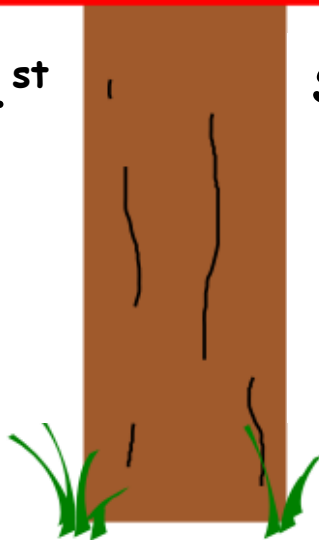
Church Garage Sale

Friday, October 1st

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, October 2nd

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Questions: Contact Rotha or Glenda

Proceeds will go towards the Church Parking Lot Replacement

North American Mission Board

Prayer Calendar – September 2021

Debbie Inselman

Chaplain

Disaster Relief and Volunteer Fire Department

Lucien, OK



Pray for guidance when encountering people who are suffering from emotional and spiritual needs. Pray that God will give me a heart that cares, ears to really listen and a voice to share the hope they can find through Jesus Christ.

Victor and Ludmila Moura

Church Planter

Grace Church

Beverly, MA



Pray that God continues helping us to have spiritual, emotional and physical health and that He helps us to build strong friendships.

Charokee and Melany Molina

Military Church Planter

Coastal Community Church

Corpus Christi, TX



Pray for Coastal as we “Bring In, Build Up and Send out” our military personnel to all nations as ambassadors for Christ! Our prayer is for God to bring permanent laborers to the ripe fields of Corpus Christi in order to stabilize our “Sending Platform.”

Ryan and Tricia McCammack

Church Planter

Gospel Hope Church

Avondale Estates, GA



Pray that God will help our church to display the reconciling hope of the gospel in the midst of our divided culture. Pray that God will give us wisdom as we prepare to send out our first church plant to the Dominican Republic.



During the month of September we will be promoting the California Mission Offering.

There are 35 million people who don't know Jesus in California, and we have an opportunity to reach them. With so many leaving our state, we are calling to re-engage our churches, our communities, and our convention. This year's theme is inspired by Dr. Bill Agee as he called churches in California to focus on re-engaging their neighbors. With so much heartache and hardship in the last year, California needs the local church to show up. The long history of Southern Baptists has proven the power of collective resources for the sake of the gospel. The California Mission Offering is that collective in action. Together, we can reach more.

Be in prayer about how God would have you support this mission offering.

