

## TAKE THE 30-DAY CHALLENGE

Make a commitment from **January 1 through January 31, 2023** to **GROW IN FAITH** by reading the devotional by **Max Lucado: God Is With You Every Day.**

# BREAKTHROUGH...

*Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. James 5:14-15*

*Join with us to pray*

for those that have requested prayer. We believe that "the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick and the Lord will raise him up."

## PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONS TEAM...

scheduled to go to Ecuador in February.



- 1 That God will use their gifts to encourage the church.
- 2 That God's preached word will break down barriers.
- 3 That COVID-fear would be dispelled.
- 4 For a fresh outpouring of God's grace and His Spirit.

**2023** is a SEASON OF **hope!**  
do not cave in to the naysayers.

# Choose

Jan 01 » We've Come This Far By Faith  
 Jan 08 » Better over Busy  
 Jan 15 » Purpose over Popularity  
 Jan 22 » Surrender over Control  
 Jan 29 » Prayer over Panic

## Prayer REQUESTS

### ▶ SALVATION

- Walter Miner III    Gearen Family    Tom M.    Stein Family  
 Ryan K.    Tyler M.    Mandy W.    Dave. O

### ▶ HEALTH ISSUES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art B. » Health Issues          | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Arias » Kidney Issues     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Armando » Back Issues           | <input type="checkbox"/> Kensey Dunlap » Broken Back   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jean G. » Health Issues         | <input type="checkbox"/> George I. » Hospitalized      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carlos V. » Leukemia            | <input type="checkbox"/> Samantha B. » Health Issues   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karla D. » Cancer Recovery      | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob A. » Kidney Cancer        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evelyn K. » Cong. Heart Failure | <input type="checkbox"/> Dave O. » Hospice             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandy W. » Cancer               | <input type="checkbox"/> Christine P. » Bone Cancer    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maggie B. » Chemotherapy        | <input type="checkbox"/> Howard P. » Diagnosis Pending |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merle » Health Issues           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chuck » Hand Injury             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carlos V. » Health Issues       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angie & Family » Life Issues    |  |

### METRICS THAT MATTER (01/08/23)

ATTENDANCE ▶ 37   GIVING ▶ \$1,145   GUESTS ▶ 0

VOLUNTEERS ▶ 15   DECISIONS FOR CHRIST ▶ 0

# Choose

## Purpose over Popularity

**Imagine a world:** Everyone likes you. Approves of you. Admires you. It will never happen.

**Imagine a world:** You don't care what others think. Focused on pleasing God. People's approval doesn't matter.



One of the biggest choices you can make:

Purpose over popularity.



## Living for the approval of people keeps you from the purposes of God.

Moses—Hebrew slave raised by Egyptian royalty!  
Comfort—Calling. Popularity—Purpose.

*By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. Hebrews 11:24-26*

## The Power of Purpose

### Purpose diminishes distractions

One of the biggest distractions for most of us is the curse of comparing.

- Comparing educational achievements.
- Comparing earnings or income.
- Comparing marital with single status.
- Comparing home ownership.



## Purpose pushes you through the pain

The pathway to your purpose is paved with pain.  
Moses—David—Nehemiah—Esther—Mary—Jesus!  
Doing what God calls you to do—others won't like it.  
Purpose pushes you through pain.

How do you handle the critics?

So many people don't like you.

Nothing is easy. Purpose pushes you on!

Critics can't stop you.

Obstacles won't deter you.

Pain won't slow you. Purpose drives you.

You can't—with Christ I can. You won't—with Christ I will.

## **Purpose empowers you to please God**

When Pharaoh tried to stop Moses—Moses wasn't deterred.

When the people complained...

When the people criticized...

When the people rebelled...

Moses stayed on task.

**Purpose empowers you to please God.**

**Peter and other apostles preached Christ.**

**Religious leaders said, "STOP"**

*Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings." Acts 5:29*

We can't please everyone—but we can please God.

## **CHOOSE: Purpose over Popularity!**

*He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. Hebrews 11:26*

### **Value**

- Being liked by people
- Fun with friends
- Start something important
- In comfort
- Being popular

### **Greater Value**

- Being loved by God
- Faithful to God
- Finishing
- In answering God's call
- Serving God's purpose