

Join us for

Faith
Family
Camp

Hungry Horse,
MT

June 22nd-25th

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FORTRESS OF
JOY CHURCH

The Faithful will Abound with Blessings

I have founded and pastored a church now for over thirty-five years. From time to time I am asked what is the greatest thing I have ever seen. I used to think it was a miracle, the souls we have won or our largest financial gift. But now I can tell you without hesitation that the most impressive thing I have seen in my church is faithful people. I am talking about members who are in church every Sunday, at intercessory prayer on Tuesday and Bible Study of Wednesday. These folks are worthy of praise; they are totally committed to their Savior.

All pastors know who I am talking about, every church has people who are referred to as the pillars of the church. They become the core group of a church and without them the church would not make it. Jesus had followers who believed in what He was called to do and they believed in His identity.

Luke 8:3 Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, Susanna and many others which ministered unto Him of their wealth.

I believe people such as these are God's gift to His ministers and they need to be honored. These folks always appear to be **low-maintenance** people. They don't require an over abundance of attention, but they must know they are appreciated and this is usually all they need. I believe these

folks will receive some of the greatest reward in heaven, perhaps more than some pastors.

Proverbs 28:20 A faithful man shall abound (increase, multiply) with blessings.

The faithful need not petition the Lord for a blessing, their faithfulness is their petition. God is moved by their appreciation for His sacrifice, He can't help but want to bless them with abundance. These folks seem so committed to their Lord, not even the devil can dissuade them otherwise. When I was growing up Catholic my church was always full on Sunday, but people didn't come to worship God, we were taught that if we didn't come to Sunday mass we would go to hell. Our motive was all wrong, God didn't bless us because we came out of fear instead of reverence.

Luke 7:47 I tell you, her sins and they are many, have been

forgiven, so she has shown Me much love, but a person who is forgiven little shows only a little love.

We were all sinners and we were destined for hell, so all of us have been forgiven much. Jesus was provoking the Jews to take responsibility for their sins because they were all headed to hell. Perhaps some of them didn't think they were all that bad because they were keeping the law. All of us should love God with all our hearts because without Him we would share the devil's hell for all eternity. Grateful people who love the Lord with all their heart become the faithful people in the kingdom of God. We cannot train or manipulate folks to be faithful, it is a decision they make based on their gratitude to be saved. I can't help but to notice all the people who testify regularly of God's blessings in my church are all the faithful ones. All born-again folks should demonstrate to their Lord how grateful they are to be destined for heaven.



Every Man's Course

Every born-again believer has been set on a course or a race, the common objective of every course is to keep the faith.

Jerry Savelle came to Helena about thirty years ago, as he was walking out of the service he stopped and asked me a question. How long have you been here? After I told him he said this to me, "Your message will preach just as loud as your longevity". Folks are drawn to ministries that have a permanent, solid foundation. Years ago Helena had an influx of "trailer house preachers", When things didn't work out they hooked their trailer to their truck and away they went. Good people are not attracted to unstable ministries, they are looking for something that is established.

Joshua 1:2 Moses My servant is dead, now arise and begin to lead the people.

God ordained Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt and to the promised land, but he died before completing his course. Joshua served Moses and shared his vision and so God tagged him to finish what Moses started. A lot of good ministers do not have a Joshua in the wings that can step in and continue their calling. A lot of good ministries have failed and many more will because the founder has no successor. Jesse Duplantis says there will be a lot of ministries come to and end be-

cause they have no successor. He goes on to say those ministries will no longer be needed because the church will be caught up.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course (race), I have kept the faith.

Every born-again believer has been set on a course or a race, the common objective of every course is to keep the faith. Are we going to believe the Gospel until we meet Jesus face to face or will we lay our faith down and pull out of the race? We cannot do what God has called us to do without faith, so our faith is our number one asset. Without faith it is impossible to please Him, so now we know

ple. None of us can be perfect but all of us can choose and be determined to be fruitful.

2 John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have gained, but that we receive a full reward.

God is not pleased when one of His kids start out on the right path but choose later to go their own way. It pleases our Lord to hand a faithful son a full reward, it grieves Him when He must withhold something good He wanted to give. Don't be deceived my brethren, we know when we are pleasing our Heavenly Father and when we are not. When we get off our course and go our own way, we will tangle with the devil but we have chosen to be on

our own. Rebellious people don't hear God very well and He doesn't hear them very well. There is one thing He has His ear opened to and that is the repentance of any of His kids. He loves prodigals and He is eager to hold them in His arms no matter what kind of pig pen they have been living in. If it were not for the mercy and grace of our Heavenly Father we would all be on our own to deal with the devil. Get on course and stay there. God will walk out every step with you and the end will be greater than the beginning.



what God is looking for. I want to reiterate what the Lord said to me again, God is not looking for perfect people, He is looking for faithful peo-

Has Your Love Failed?

Over the past thirty-five years I have had the misfortune to witness the exodus of a lot of good people. I am talking about men and women who loved the Lord, but for whatever reason they went back and no longer walk with Him. The Apostle Paul had to deal with these same folks and he gave an explicit reason for their departure.

Revelation 3:16 So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of My mouth.

I believe that when Jesus spits you out of His mouth, He no longer confesses you before His Father nor the angels. I hear people all the time trying to explain what a lukewarm Christian is. If they

loves them. So, I have been interceding for all the lukewarm Christians and those who have come back and walk no more with Him. I began to see there are three basic reasons these folks have turned from their Savior: 1. **Offended** 2. **Luke-warm** 3. **Bored**.

Have you ever heard a person excuse themselves from an activity? The conventional reasoning is a headache or they don't feel good. Well, the standard excuse of a Christian is that someone hurt them and they got **offended**.

I have witnessed a lot of people come to my church and they

were a mess. We loved on them, prayed for them, taught them the Word and in some cases gave them money. But once they started "feeling" good, they walked out the door, never said good bye, and they became **lukewarm**.

Another common trait I see is people just became bored with the whole church thing. If I can't tickle their ears and demonstrate the power of God they simply drift away. It's as if God must entertain them or they will find excitement elsewhere, these Christians have become **bored** with God. Now God loves all these folks and I pray that every one of them have a personal revival.

In
essence a
lukewarm
Christian

is one
that
has
become
content
with
what
God
blessed
them
with
and
now
They
don't
have
time
for
Him.



2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world and he departed.

Demas loved Paul, he ministered with him and stood with Paul during hard times. But Paul says Demas found something in this world he loved more than his Lord. We don't ever know whatever happened to Demas, the Bible doesn't tell us. The Holy Spirit just wanted us to know that Demas stopped fighting the good fight of faith. Most folks who forsake our Lord can eloquently justify their decision, they can even make you the reason. I know because many told me I was the problem.

just kept reading, the Bible would tell them precisely what a lukewarm person is.

Revelation 3:17 You say I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing. But you do not know that your wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

In essence a lukewarm Christian is one that has become content with what God blessed them with and now they don't have time for Him. Please don't misunderstand, they still expect God to take them to heaven and reward them for the short time they walked with Him. I was once angry with these folks until the Lord reminded me that He

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**Restoring the
supernatural power
of God back
to the local church**

Bloom Where You Are Planted

God has a designated place for every one of His children that He prepared before the creation of the world. You could have been born at any time and any place, but were born for a time such as this. The number one priority of every child of God is to know and find their place and to hold fast to their calling. Some believers bounce around their whole life looking for something that they don't know what it is. God knows where you belong, but how many folks inquire of the Lord?

1 Corinthians

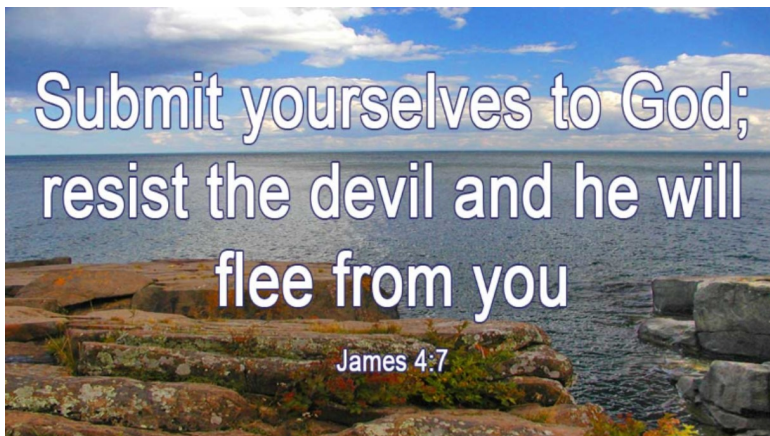
12:18 Now has God set the members, everyone of them, in

the body as it has pleased Him.

If we are not where God has picked for us, we are out of His will and not in line for the anointing or the special blessings. A lot of folks don't care, they simply like where they have cho-

experiencing the favor of God daily, that's an indication you're out of His will! You will definitely know when you're in His perfect will because He causes you to overcome every challenge.

James 4:7 Submit yourself to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.



If you're not submitted to the Lord, will the devil flee from you? When we are not submitted to the Lord, we are not under His authority and the devil knows it. Submission is more than a word, it requires an adjustment in our life. I know that I know I

am in the perfect will of God and I know the Lord has got my back.

sen to be. Listen, if you are not