



**“God That’s
Impossible”**

In His Grip

Sometimes God says things in the Bible that cause us to say, “Are you kidding, God? I can’t do that! That’s impossible.” It really isn’t. If God said it, then he wants us to do it.

Take worry or anxiety for example. He said not to do it in Ph 4:6. This is the kind of anxiety that causes us to become agitated, distracted by the issue, and is like a twisting down in our gut. This usually occurs when we leave God out of the problem.

What happens is this: We think we’re second cousins to God and can cope with life all by ourselves. Then comes that sinking feeling inside that says, “I can’t be wrong, can I?” Our stubborn nature kicks in and tells us we’re not wrong. And our life takes on tension like the twisting of a spring.

You would think we would learn, but no, we press on ahead thinking, “This has to be right. These are my purposes, my plans, my designs, my body, and I’ll do what I want. And the muscles in our body get all tense and tight, and we get headaches, and give headaches because we were never meant to go it alone without God.

God created us to follow his purposes, get his wisdom, and live by his power. So when we assume the seat of control that belongs to God and God alone, in an attempt to order our life; it registers in the back of our neck and down in the pit of our stomach.

Worry has one major characteristic: It is treating today, treating the results of yesterday, and treating the possibilities of tomorrow as if there is no God.

The antidote to anxiety begins by us involving God and telling him we can’t handle it alone. When we make our requests known to God it’s as if we’re saying; “God, you’re the greatest and I want you to be in charge of all this. Here take over; it’s all yours, Father.”

Don’t forget to thank him for who he is and how he is to you. Prayer without thanksgiving can easily become an extension of complaining. The peace that God says come can’t come until we pray with thanksgiving.

Now go and make your requests known to God and discover his peace.

In His Grip,
Pastor Tim



"Home At Last"

Glenn Koster

Into The Community

In the classic movie "The Wizard of Oz," Dorothy learned that all she had to do to leave Oz and return home was to click the heels of her ruby red shoes and repeat, "There's no place like home, there's no place like home..." For Charlcie and I, it was a bit more difficult to return to Kansas following my walk across our country, but we finally made it in early September. Now that we are home, we heartily echo the good witch Glinda's words, "There is no place like home!"

We made it just in time for the Kansas State Fair, which we visited every day except the final day of its 10-day run. There is something special about the Kansas State Fair. We enjoy seeing the talents of Kansas in all areas – farming, baking, crafts, photos, quilting. Our state is awash in talent. We also enjoy meeting and greeting people from across the state - some who we know but rarely see, but many new faces as well.

When the Fair had run its course, we were able to move back into our "regular" space at Lighthouse Landing in South Hutchinson. Once we moved back into space #3, we truly felt we were home. It became even more real as we began to reintegrate into the activities at the First Church of God and as I resumed my role as an assistant pastor.

Coming home has caused me to pause and consider what makes a church feel like home? Is it the people, the fellowship, the teaching, or the preaching? Is it the presence of friends or family? I have come to the conclusion that, in part, it is all of these. But there is one overriding factor that cannot be dismissed.

For a church to be "home" it has to be filled with love. Not just the love that exists between family members nor the love that reverberates between close friends. The love of Christ must be present in every aspect of the congregation! The love of Christ is different from all others. It is a self-sacrificing love that expects nothing in return, but a love that is willing to go the limit – even giving of one's own life if necessary – for everyone, even the stranger that walks through the doors on any given day.

Christ explained when the Pharisee asked Him what the greatest commandment was. Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." But He didn't stop there. Jesus continued, "The second is this 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (see Matthew 22:37-38).

One of the greatest questions every congregation must ask themselves is, "Are we living these commands?" When Charlcie and I walked back in the doors of the First Church of God at 7th and Jefferson in early September, we truly felt this to be so – in every area, from Faithful Followers to Common Ground to worship to L.I.F.E. Outreach to Bible study.

May we keep those commands at the forefront of our minds. Truly, it will be through the evidence of this love that we will not only survive as a body of Christ, but we will begin to grow and to THRIVE!



Born Again!

By
Cindy
Hogan

I love watching reality shows involving fixing up homes. I've watched them all—Fixer Upper, Flip or Flop (which turned out to be a flop), Property Brothers, Love it or List It, and the list goes on and on. I've binged-watched most of them—usually when I'm home alone, because I like seeing an unloved beginning end up as a happy ending.

But I have to say, often—okay 9 out of 10 times, I know what is going to happen: “Rip out all the carpet and replace with hardwood floors...take down all the walls...add crown-molding...redo the kitchen and put in high end appliances (that will be in the landfill in 10 years) and an apron sink—oh, and rare is the house that does not get granite countertops. Scott often adds his snide input, “Do you think it's going to be an ‘open concept?’” He says that because he likes to be right every time.

Sometimes the demo scenes just hurt my heart. A dated, but totally workable home is practically taken down to the outside walls. A big production is made of throwing toilets out of the 2nd floor, or guys bodily throwing themselves through sheetrock walls, and taking sledgehammers to cabinets and countertops. It's apparent some homes were possibly updated a bit just to sell the house, but bulldozed into the trash bin just the same—which is a good thing because heaven knows our landfills aren't full enough. Really? Would it cost them that much more to just remove those perfectly good cabinets and donate them to re-use-it companies so they could be installed in someone's garage, or *gasp* someone's home for a reasonable price? I mean, not everyone can afford a \$300,000 remodel, right?

I've had to curb my binging to shows that focus on fixing up neighborhoods one house at a time, like “Rehab Addict,” or “Good Bones.” Taking stately old homes that have been abandoned and trashed and bringing them back to their old glory without replacing with brand new, and bringing character and value back to a neighborhood just keeps me watching one episode after another. I especially loved one episode when the star of the show was out in the trash bin, tossing things out because they can be recycled or used. That's trash talk I can get into.

Recently, I listened to one of my favorite podcasts, “Listening In,” where Warren Smith was interviewing John and Ashley Marsh, who began a movement called “Redemptification” in Alabama, which has gone national. They fix up homes and neighborhoods not to just “gentrify” them, but to *redeem* them—and the towns they are in. They invest themselves into that neighborhood to find ways to make it not only beautiful and useable again, but also sustainable.

I think I love these home improvement shows because I love the idea of redemption, whether it's with old houses, or people. I love the idea that what is ugly and broken and seemingly useless can be redeemed. Frankly, I love it because I am broken, and I can feel useless. I love it because God invented redemption. And knowing that because of that, God can make me whole and useful again—day after day after day—so much more so than I was originally.

Sometimes our redemption requires some replacements here and there, and sometimes it requires a full remodel. But instead of hauling the junk of our lives to the spiritual landfill, God uses it for His glory. And, what does God call his make-over show? Born again! You should check it out!

“...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”

Isaiah 61:3

OCTOBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Prayer Group 9:30 am	2	3	4	5
6 Hogan's Lakeside Service	7 Tanner George Overcomer's Outreach 6:30pm	8 Life Application 6:30 Tim Kraft Prayer Group 9:30 am	9	10	11 	12 8:00 am  Shelli Nisly
13 9:45 Common Ground 1:00 L.I.F.E. 5:00 Bible Study	14 Tammy Lind Overcomer's Outreach 6:30pm	15 Life Application 6:30 Prayer Group 9:30 am	16 Cindy Hogan	17	18	19 Completion Ceremony 5:30-8:00 Fellowship Hall
20 Glenn's Ordination 9:45 Common Ground 1:00 Life 5:00 Bible Study Glenn & Charlie Koster	21 Overcomer's Outreach 6:30pm	22 Council Meeting 6:30p.m. Life Application 6:30 Prayer Group 9:30 am	23	24 	25	26
27 Carol Heironimus 9:45 Common Ground 1:00 L.I.F.E. 5:00 Bible Study	28 Overcomer's Outreach 6:30pm	29 Life Application 6:30 Prayer Group 9:30 am	30	31 Halloween Trunk or Treat @ Fairgrounds Pat & Carol Moore		

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Dustin Jesseph, Administrative Assistant

Tim Nisly, Custodian

What's Going On?

I'm not sure what caught your attention, the title or the font. However, if you chose to keep reading, I hope that you will be able to gain a greater appreciation of some of the things happening in our church during October.

The first event of the month should set your teeth to chattering. On Sunday, October 6, our congregation will be meeting at Hogan's Lake in Little River. If you need directions or a ride, let the church office know. We hope to see everyone there for a time of worship, fellowship, fun, and food. I'm sure if you are really brave, you might even be able to go swimming in October!

The Faithful Followers class will remain faithful, meeting every Sunday except the first (because of the Lake service). Throughout the month the focus will be on our response to God's Faithfulness, focusing on our faith and what it can do in our lives. I Kings 17 talks about how we are blessed because of our faithfulness to God. Luke 17 examines how healing follows from faith. But the most significant response to God's faithfulness is a deep seated faith that saves us! Come on out every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and participate as Pattie Belden leads us.

The L.I.F.E. Outreach services on Sunday afternoons are not only a great opportunity to serve God, but they are also a great opportunity to meet the needs of those who need our friendship and encouragement. Throughout the month the worship service at 1:00 p.m. will focus on loving others as we love ourselves, beginning with learning to love ourselves first! Help with preparing the meals that are served after the afternoon worship is another opportunity to serve.

At the end of October, a trio of guys (John Muntz, Kerby Kennedy, and Pastor Glenn) from First Church will be venturing behind the walls of the Hutchinson Correctional Facility as part of the Kairos Prison Ministry. Currently there are 25 guys slated to enter HCF. The opening night of Kairos Inside is on October 31. If you wish to be a part of the prayer vigil for this ministry, let them know. They will also be "in training" on October 5 and 19. There are also ministry opportunities to help during their training. Talk to Pat Muntz for details.