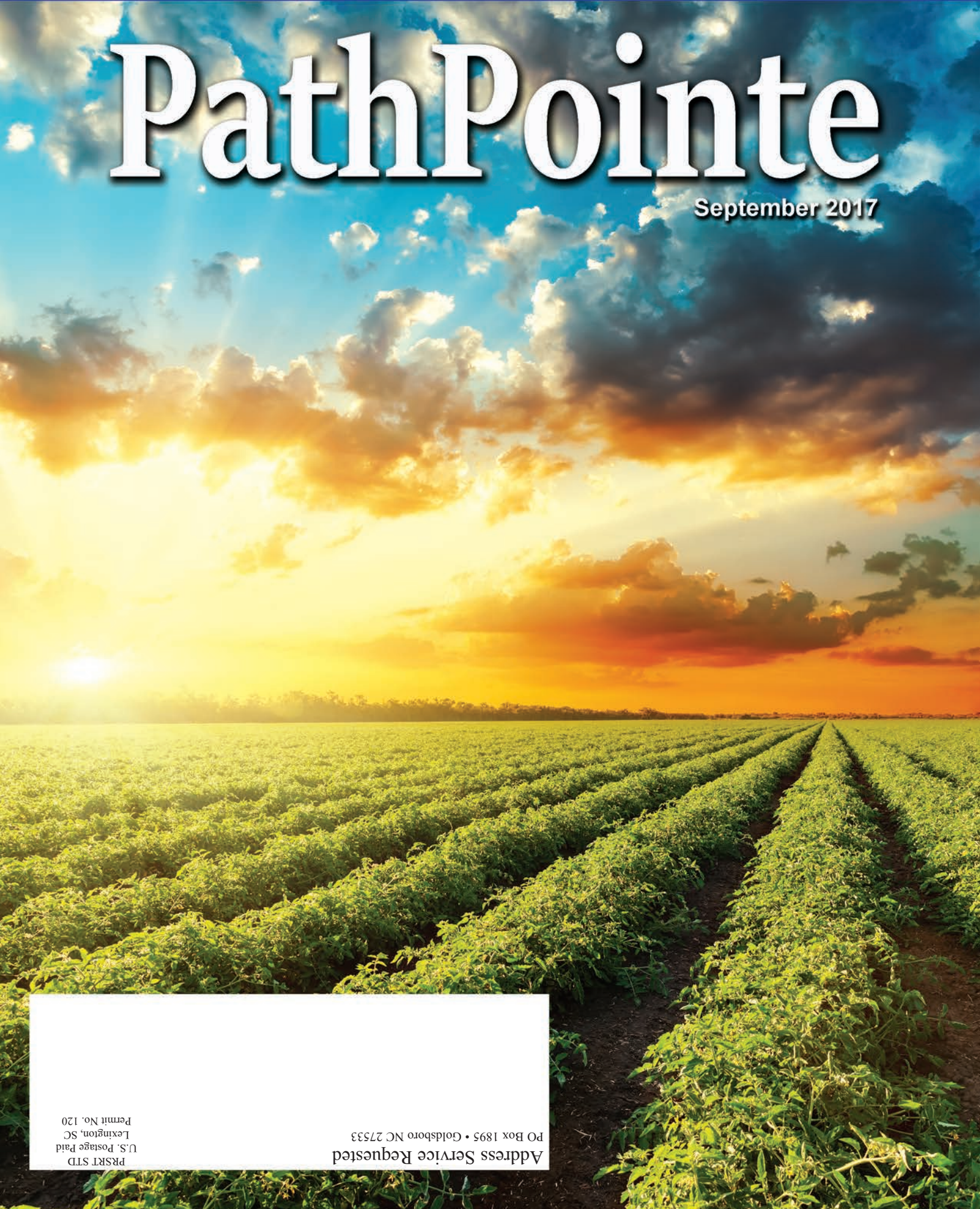


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# The Influence Of My Life

*Dr. T. D. Worthington*



*“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”*

**Romans 14:7**

When we take our last breath, our opportunity to do something for God during the church age will die with us, but our influence will live on. I believe one reason we do not go immediately to the judgment seat of Christ and receive our rewards is that the impact of our lives is not over until the last trump of God has sounded. Then, when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, we will rejoice over every opportunity God gave us to influence others.

The Apostle Paul said:

*“That I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”*

**Philippians 2:16**

Paul said he is going to rejoice in how the influence of a Godly life had a positive impact upon others. Every person has an influence. I thank God for every opportunity He gives me to actively serve, but I must also be aware of my subtle opportunities of quiet influence. Of course, at times they can be one and the same, but not always. One thing is certain, one day my life’s work will be over, but my influence will live on.

### **Examples of Influence**

The Bible gives us many examples of people with great influence. In the book of Numbers, we read about the twelve men who were sent to spy out the land of Canaan. Ten of these spies came back with an evil report while two returned with a good report. The ten used their influence to persuade the whole congregation to disregard

God’s will and not enter the Promised Land. The influence of ten men cost the lives of an entire generation of people and held back the promise of God from being fulfilled for forty years. They were apparently men of great influence, but their influence was negative.

In the New Testament, we read about the religious leaders of Israel and their rejection of Christ. Not only did they reject Him as the Messiah, they also attributed His mighty miracle working power to the Devil. These evil men used their influence to turn the nation against the Son of God. Sadly, the tragic consequences of their rejection live on today. No doubt many of the heartaches the Jewish nation has experienced in the last two thousand years are the result of the influence of those ungodly men. It is conceivable

that they have been in Hell for years, and yet their influence lives on.

### Men of Influence

I can easily think of several men who greatly influenced my life. I think of my grandfather. Every time I open the Word of God in my study, I think of that Godly man and the influence he had on my life to have a hunger for the Bible. I recall many godly pastors, missionaries, and evangelists I have known. Men like Lee Roberson, Jack Greene, Jerry Falwell, B. R. Lakin, and others I had the privilege to know. I thought of Godly deacons I have had the privilege to serve with. I believe God has blessed my life because of their influence. I pray I never get away from their memory and godly influence upon my life.

I would like to share four important facts about our influence:

### We Can Build Our Influence

*“But if any man love God, the same is known of him.”*

**I Corinthians 8:3**

The way you build your influence is simply to live right and be the kind of Christian God wants you to be. You can't build it overnight, but you can build it. Build the kind of life that God asks of you. Be the kind of Christian who is an example of the Lord Jesus Christ. You cannot build your influence by rebelling against the light of the Lord. The Holy Spirit of God brings light to a Christian, and then the Christian is to share that light with the world. You build your Godly influence as you allow the Light to shine clearly upon the darkened world.

God wants us to exert a positive influence by the way we dress. Men

who were bums used to dress a certain way. Women who were harlots used to dress a certain way. Today many men dress like bums and many women dress like harlots. They may still have influence, but it is not a Godly influence. I'm shocked when I see some preachers out trying to serve God and not looking like preachers. The Devil works harder to get us to compromise and destroy our influence than he will to destroy our opportunities. He knows that our influence can render our opportunities powerless. So, we must strive to build our influence.

### We Can Broaden Our Influence

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”*

**John 14:12**

The Lord Jesus said that if you have believed on Him, you will do greater works in life than He did. That's a powerful statement! What does it mean? It doesn't mean that we're going to have more influence than Jesus had; it means we will have more opportunities than He had.

There are men on the radio and television today who preach to far more people than Jesus did. There are missionaries today who will go to more lands than Jesus did. Abounding opportunities will come, but it's our influence that should concern us. We need to plan for a great influence and then broaden it day by day.

How do we do that? The way to broaden our influence is to identify with right things. Identification helps to broaden our influence; it helps to identify what we are and what we believe. That was a part of the prayer of Jabez. He asked God to enlarge his influence, and God honored that prayer. God is going to hold us accountable not only for the opportunities He has given us, but we will also be held accountable for how we have built and broadened our influence.

### We Can Borrow Influence

There have been times when I have had to borrow influence. The first church I pastored had a lot of problems. I thank God I was allowed to serve there because I learned a lot of things. That church had acquired a questionable testimony in the town and needed help. But, as a young pastor, I also needed



help. I decided to borrow some influence, so I invited men of renowned character and testimony to speak at our church.

When those good men preached from the pulpit, we were able to borrow their influence and to be identified with something positive. It helped us move out of the mud, out of a poor testimony, to another plane where we could be blessed and used of God.

I'm glad I knew some Godly men from whom I could borrow their influence to help build and broaden our own. You know the story of Saul. He got saved, but nobody trusted him. He wanted to live for the Lord, but he had to borrow some influence. He joined the disciples and borrowed their influence, and God blessed him.

The Bible says:

*“And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.”*

**Acts 9:26**

I am thankful for the borrowed influence of Godly men, and the way it has blessed me over the years.

### **We Can Destroy Our Influence**

*“It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.”*

**Proverbs 18:5**

I've spent years borrowing and building and broadening my influence, but I can destroy the influence of my life very quickly. How? By not protecting it as I should.

A business can destroy its influence by not treating their customers fairly. A church can destroy her influence by not standing for truth. Christians can destroy their influence by sin and compromise. Christians can also destroy the influence of another believer by their words and judgments.

We are warned against accepting the person of the wicked and overthrowing the righteous. It breaks my heart to

influence, and to guard my life so I will never destroy the influence God has allowed me to build. When I die, my influence will live on and affect other people. I want to stand at the judgment seat of Christ and rejoice that my life was not in vain. I want my life to count for God!

*“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”*

**Romans 14:7**



I remember several years ago a man called during our **Share-A-Thon** and gave a gift to the ministry. He explained that he did not listen to the station, but his mother had been a **Faith Partner** for a number of years. Our Lord had recently called her home and he felt led to continue giving her monthly gift. He called back the following year and renewed his gift. He also indicated that he was now a faithful listener of **GoMix**. Apparently the influence of his mother continued to have a positive effect on his life. We not only had a new partner, but also a new listener.

see men who used to stand for truth, who had opportunities to serve God as conservative Bible-believing preachers, and are now either out of the ministry or pastoring in liberal churches. God holds us accountable for our influence! That is one reason I do not preach on platforms with men who don't believe the Word of God. I will not take my influence and put it in that place. We live in a compromising day. We will be challenged all of our lives to come and join some kind of group.

I believe with all of my heart that I must do what I can to build my influence, to broaden my influence, to borrow

Thank God today if you are identified with the congregation of the righteous. Don't ever compromise and your life will have influence. Purpose in your heart that you will do everything you can to build and maintain your influence to bring maximum glory to our Lord.



*Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry over forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries.*

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# Radio**bits**

September, 2017

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## *...the Lord alone did lead him.*

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly twelve months since we faced the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew. Our entire ministry was affected. Several of our stations were off the air for days and the **Fall Share-A-Thon** had to be interrupted. Some of our buildings suffered minor flood damage and the roof on our main studio had to be replaced. **Christian Bible College** suffered a loss of enrollments due to our offices being flooded and telephones being out of service for an extended period. **Pathway Christian Academy** was dealt the hardest blow. We suffered nearly 3 feet of water in our building. Damages to the building and contents reached over \$100,000.00. Loss of revenue would add several thousand additional dollars to that figure.

Sometimes in spite of our desire to walk in faith, we still find ourselves wondering why our Heavenly Father allowed such a monumental



tragedy. Perhaps, this verse helps us to understand:

*“As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the Lord alone did lead him.”*

**Deuteronomy 32:11-12**

These verses speak of an eagle who has built a nest high on the ledge of a cliff; the little eagles have hatched and are growing. Just as any parent, these eagles have a responsibility to their young. The mother broods over those young for a while, but there must come a time in their life when the mother eagle needs to stir the nest.

Now an eagle first builds her nest out of rough sticks and then lines it with mud and leaves. After that, they will often kill some small animal and use the fur to line the nest. When the mother eagle begins to stir the nest, she will first take the soft lining out of the nest. Over the next few days she will also remove the mud and leaves requiring the eaglets to sleep on the rough sticks. Finally, she will take her powerful wings and will sweep the nest over the side of the cliff. That night the little eaglets will sleep on the cold hard stone. This happens so the

little eagles will learn to deal with the hardships of life.

In this verse, Moses is looking back over his life, and maybe he thinks of how as an infant he was taken out of the nest. God stirred his nest, and Moses was put into a little basket. He was then left in the Nile River, but the Heavenly Father always took care of Moses. Now, as Moses is coming to the end of his life, he says God has done exactly what he said He would do.

Our ministry enjoyed many years dwelling on the soft fur lining provided by our Lord. Although there were some difficulties and setbacks, things always got back to “normal” in short order. Over these past twelve months, we have learned to accept a new normal. The sticks get a little rough, and the cold stone can be a bit uncomfortable, but the Lord is seeing us through. Recovery is still not complete, and it will likely take several years to eliminate the debt.

As many of you know, we were not able to reach our **Share-A-Thon** goal in the spring. In order to avoid substantial cutbacks, we really need to achieve victory this time. Please prayerfully consider giving the most generous gift you can in support of our **Fall Share-A-Thon** beginning October 9th.

*For Additional Information:*

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## Artist Spotlight - Men Of Faith

The *Men of Faith* answered the call to minister in 2001, starting with four men who had a vision and a mission to serve God through song. They are dedicated to the ministry of the Gospel and have a strong desire to lift up the name of Jesus in song and personal testimony. Their yearning is to bring revival in every service. At every opportunity, they want to lift up the name of Jesus and ultimately help lead others to Him.

Over the years, the call to win souls for Christ and to uplift the hurting has never changed. However, the avenue in which the *Men of Faith* deliver the message of salvation and hope has become versatile: ranging from traditional Gospel, country Gospel, and even some progressive Gospel. With these different styles, this multi-talented group appeals to the young and old alike.

Their mission will always be to encourage the faithful, lift up the weary, and stir the hearts of those that have not yet yielded to the call of the Holy Spirit. Helping all to recognize that no matter what they are facing, or how difficult things may seem, there is only one answer and that answer is Jesus Christ!

The group members include Spencer Owens (*Tenor*), Grant Barker (*Lead*), Jeff Barker (*Baritone*), and Prentice Tyndall (*Piano*).

The *Men of Faith* can be contacted at 252-689-3318. To see their full schedule, booking information, videos, and more, visit their website online at [www.menoffaithqt.com](http://www.menoffaithqt.com).



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*Dr. Glenn Mills*

*“Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”*

**Psalm 150:6**

If ever you want to know the condition of your heart, then just simply listen to what comes out of your mouth. The Bible states plainly in **Luke 6:45** that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Life has a way of catching us off guard when we are not watching. Satan is constantly bringing up past issues we thought we had already dealt with and put away. But regardless of the what, when, where, or how, we can all be vulnerable to this type of attack. No one is above it or truly beyond it. We all hear the voices from time to time. What voices you may ask? The voices of doubt, fear, anger, jealousy, failure, defeat,

uncertainty, and many others. Voices that come at the most frustrating times.

You just had a great experience with the Lord, and then you hear the voices. You just got that long anticipated promotion, and then you hear the voices. You took the class, wrote the letter, made the call, gave forgiveness, turned the other cheek, but still you hear the voices ringing loud and clear.

I wish I could say I am beyond the voices, but truth is, I too, hear them calling my name from time to time. Just recently to be exact! A situation happened that caused a chain of old thoughts, feelings, and emotions to resurface. I soon learned from the Holy Spirit why this happened and why I was now having to deal with it. This just might help you in some way so here it goes...



The reason the enemy was able to bring back up the old voices is because I had not dealt with the situation, only hidden it deep in my heart. The Holy Spirit lovingly reminded me that had I truly given the situation, hurt, and disappointment to Jesus and put it under the blood, the enemy would have nothing to bring up against me. Instead, he would have to deal with Jesus and we all know how that would go. WOW!

So, I gave it all to Jesus and asked His forgiveness and for the Holy Spirit's help. I quickly felt the release and God's peace flooded my soul. Then, a few days later, I heard the voices. But now there was a difference. My mind was being troubled, but not my heart. My heart was at peace over the past. It was only the enemy trying to get me to pick it all back up again and attempt to deal with it on my own.

I cried out to my Helper, the Holy Spirit, for instruction.

*"How do I deal with the voices?"* I asked.

I honestly heard the Holy Spirit say, *"Glad you asked."*

He went on to reveal to me a force that has the power to drown out those nagging, taunting, condemning voices. It was nothing new mind you, just something often neglected by many Believers. The Holy Spirit showed me something with more influence than what the voices were able to produce. He asked me, *"What has the greatest power that you know of?"*

*"God, of course."* I said.

The Spirit continued, *"Well, if that is true, then wherever GOD is, evil has to flee."*

Now we are getting somewhere. I'm getting the big picture. It was something I have said hundreds of times on the radio.



*"What is the fastest way to get God's attention?"* the Spirit then asked.

*"Praise!"* I said, *"God inhabits the praises of His people."*

When we praise God, His Presence and Power rises up in us and around us. When this happens the voices not only become silent, the forces behind them flee.

So, here is the solution to those tormenting voices... Praise the Lord at all times. If you have something hidden in your heart, place it at the cross so you can be free. Then when you hear those voices, submit to God by praising Him. The enemy will flee and the voices will be silenced.



***Dr. Glenn Mills is a full-time Evangelist with the Open Arms Evangelistic Ministry. He can be heard each weekday on GoMix Christian Radio.***





# Yes, Lord... I am Ready!

*Mrs. Sherry Worthington*

*“Ok, Lord! I think I am ready for this! School has been in session for a couple of weeks, and I have already recognized my new challenges.”* Each new school year I get new ones in addition to the old ones I am already experiencing. I have been teaching so long one would think I would have it mastered. It would be nice to have an easy year, but what is the fun in that?

Albert Einstein said, *“Once you stop learning, you start dying.”* I obviously am going to live a long time. I face so many challenges every day. Some are simple, and others are more difficult. I learned how to do something new on my computer

today. I was so proud of myself. Each day that I teach I learn a new way to approach a concept or some new tidbit of information. My students teach me a wealth of information. When I study the Scriptures, the Lord shows me something new from His Word. In addition, I am still learning how to be a better wife, mother, and grandmother along with many other interpersonal relationships. The list is endless.

The biggest challenges I face are the ones I can't learn from a book or a computer. Self-discipline is one of the most difficult character issues I face on a day-to-day basis. I need to discipline the use of my time. Do you

know how much time can be wasted in a day? I try, I really do. I have list upon list.

I also need to discipline my tongue. People are often hurt unnecessarily by the tongue. Sometimes we say too much, and other times we don't say enough. Many times, it is not so much what we say but how we say it. We won't even start on my appetite for food, that is another battle in itself.

I would say the biggest challenge I face is putting into practice the things God has taught me. All of the previous difficulties I just mentioned would be taken care of if I would let

God have control of my life. I know how to watch the words I say, but I don't listen. Many times the Holy Spirit will tell me to wait or to stop. He will say, *"Think this one through,"* or *"Don't get in on this conversation."* But, do I listen?

Last year, one of my greatest challenges was getting through the flood with the right attitude. Outwardly I was saying all of the right things, but in my heart I was doubtful and fretful, at least in the beginning. The Lord touched me and by the time we started working on repairs in the school building, He had taken me to the shed and straightened me out. God put His arms around me and reassured me of His love and provisions. My faith grew through the whole ordeal.

The Lord has taught me many things over the years, but one particular lesson has been a major foundation for our ministry to these children. I have been teaching for over thirty years, and I have yet to have two students with the same needs. Every child is different and is a special gift from God. When I first began to teach, I felt I knew exactly what to do. Within a few weeks, I realized I didn't know hardly anything. I had book knowledge, but I needed something more than that. I needed God's wisdom and blessing in order to be a good teacher. I needed His grace to love every child as He would love them.

In my first year at Pathway, I had a very difficult student. She was in the fifth grade. This student was not a behavior issue as such, but she was difficult to work with. She really believed she knew more than anyone else. She was arrogant and self-absorbed. This child had a temper when she did not get her

way. That included anyone telling her she was wrong. I got word one day she was going to home school. If I could have gotten away with it, I would have danced on the desks. I was so relieved. I wouldn't have to deal with her any more. Of course, on the outside I said, *"I am so sorry!"* I was busted, though. The Holy Spirit knew exactly what I was thinking.

In my heart, the Lord said, *"Sherry, you haven't learned to love people like I want you to. I think you need to be able to deal with this type of*



*individual and love her for Me."* The next year my heavenly Father sent an eleventh grader just like her, only worse. When I realized this, I knew exactly what had happened. I prayed and asked the Lord to help me love this student. She was difficult to say the least. This young girl ended up getting suspended because of her temper, but she did finish the school year and went on to graduate. I prayed a lot, and we both grew during our time together. I have learned to love a student no matter what. Even when I have to tell a child they can't return, it hurts my heart. I feel I have

failed in some way. I am thankful I have grown in this area.

I believe when I didn't want the student to stay, I was telling God, *"I don't want to do this your way."* I want students that are easy to handle. I don't want any difficulties. In Luke 14, the Lord wanted many people to come to Him, but they made excuses. Don't we do that? Lord, I will serve You, but not unless I can do it my way. How many times do we say "no" to God's will because it doesn't fit into our picture of how things should be? When have we refused to help someone because it was inconvenient?

In what ways do we reject God's will because we can't do it our way or it is not what we had in mind? *What lesson do we need to learn in order to move forward?* God is going to bring the exact situation or person in our lives until we learn to deal with each difficulty. It is paramount to our growth as a Christian. How can we grow if we are not willing to do His will?

What challenges do you face in your Christian walk? Take the challenge and move straight ahead. Ask God to help you through each struggle and help you to face each difficulty. May we each grow with the challenges we face each day—whatever they may be.

May our response always be, *"Yes, Lord, I am ready to follow You!"*



*Mrs. Worthington has five children and ten grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*



## *The Last Lost Cause*

*Dr. Randy Spaugh*

While I didn't feel like a complete failure, all indications were that I was headed that way. Prayer was an issue I had made the central point of my preaching, both at the local congregational level and on the radio. I felt it was crucial. Then I received an email stating all the things I should pray for as a good conservative Christian. None of those were bad, but the praise of God, even when it was mentioned, was almost an addendum. Listening to God or sitting at His feet was never suggested. You could have folded it up, put a stamp on it, and mailed it to the North Pole. This was something you would send Santa Claus instead of our God.

For many, prayer is no more than asking God to do something for us. It is as though His only purpose is to serve us. Much teaching about prayer seems to focus on those mechanisms that we might use to get God to do what we want Him to do. Have we forgotten that it is more important to hear what God is saying to us than it is for God to hear what we're saying to Him. He is not here to serve us, we are here to serve Him. It seems to me, we

have gotten it all backwards. It is important we lay our needs before Him, because we are dependent on Him for everything we do. But if we do not have a focus on listening to our Master, just look at how much we are missing.

Moses did not lead the children out of Egypt because he was asked to, but because he was commanded to. Jeremiah did not ask to be a prophet, but rather heard the dictating voice of God. Paul did not ask to preach the message of Jesus to the Gentiles, he was commanded by God to do so. Read **Psalm 123** sometime if you want to know our proper stance towards prayer. If these folks needed to hear the guiding voice of God, what makes us feel that we do not?

Our children are being taught to ask, not to listen. To hear God, you need to be quiet. Silence has always been seen as a prerequisite to prayer. To sit in quiet during worship is not unheard of, but it is rare. The beat of the music determines whether worship was good or not. Sitting in quiet worship seems to be antiquated. To allow both to be a part of our

worship seems to be the better part of wisdom.

Turning off the radio and the iPad does not make us quiet before God. When you turn off the external noise, you simply find out there is a lot of internal noise. There is a lot going on between your ears that will keep you from hearing the voice of God.

To sit in silence, to pray, to expect an answer and listen for it, to listen for an answer to the prayer you haven't yet prayed; these are lessons we just don't teach anymore. The Bible teaches Jesus is the head of the church. The finger knows it should listen to the head. Instead of calling Jesus the Head of the Church, maybe we should call Him the Director of Operations. It is not our task to tell Him how to operate the church or the world. It is our task to listen and become a part of what He is doing.



*Dr. Randy Spaugh is the Pastor of Faith Fellowship Church in Kinston, N.C.*  
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# And Finally...



## Grandparent's Day...

*My grandma and granddaddy were sharecroppers. When I went to their house, the smell of collards, fried chicken, biscuits, and fresh vegetables tickled at my nose. Nobody could cook like Grandma. If it was summer, I could smell tobacco curing in the barn, and I could see piles of it in the old pack house waiting to be taken off the stick. I would go play outside with my cousins and look at the chickens in the pen eating corn while the "ole" rooster strutted around. Sometimes my granddaddy would hook up a tobacco trailer to his tractor and pull all the grandkids around the tobacco field. Grandma would sit in the house and talk to her Sunday guests - my mom and all my aunts and uncles. Those were the good old days back in Deep Run, NC. My grandparents were poor materially, but they left me with rich memories.*

**V. C.**

*I used to love to hang around in the kitchen, and my grandma taught me how to catch and clean a chicken, cook, bake bread and pies, as well as can fruits and vegetables. Another of my fondest memories of Grandma was late in the evening just before bedtime. She never had a haircut in her life, but she always wore her hair up in a bun. In the evening, she would sit on a dining chair in the kitchen and let her hair down, and it would reach the floor. I used to sit behind her and comb it out. At bedtime, Grandma would open the oven on her old coal stove and take out a big firebrick that she had heated up. She would wrap that brick with a towel, and I would head up to*

*the bedroom, brick in hand. The brick was placed under the covers at the foot of the bed to keep our feet warm.*

**L. P.**

*As a small child my brother, mother, and I lived with my grandparents. When I would get up in the morning with Grandpa, while everyone else was still sleeping, I would drink coffee with him. He always made mine special! I had a small glass with mostly milk and only a touch of coffee. I remember feeling like a grown up as we spent those few precious moments together every morning.*

**S. S.**

## "Thanksgiving"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..."

Thanksgiving is in November!

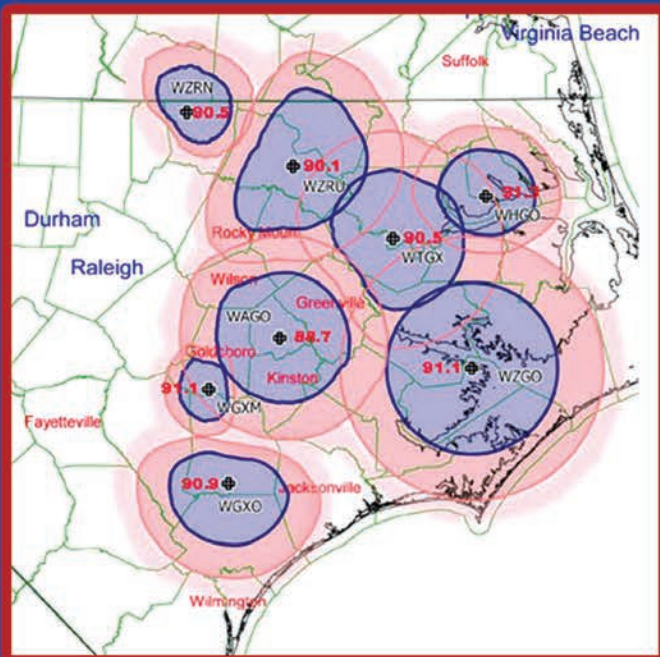
Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us what you're most thankful for. The deadline for submission is September 15th, 2017.

You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe  
wago@gomixradio.org  
Or write to: Pathway Ministries  
PO Box 1895  
Goldsboro, NC 27533

# BREAKING NEWS

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS...

**WE ARE CALLING ON ALL CHRISTIANS AS WE PREPARE FOR THE GOMIX FALL SHARE-A-THON BEGINNING MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH. YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT ARE VITAL TO THE NEEDS OF THIS MINISTRY!**



**THE NEED AT HAND IS URGENT. THE HARVEST IS READY AND GREAT. THE LABORERS ARE FEW. HELP IS NEEDED NOW. WON'T YOU ANSWER THE CALL?**