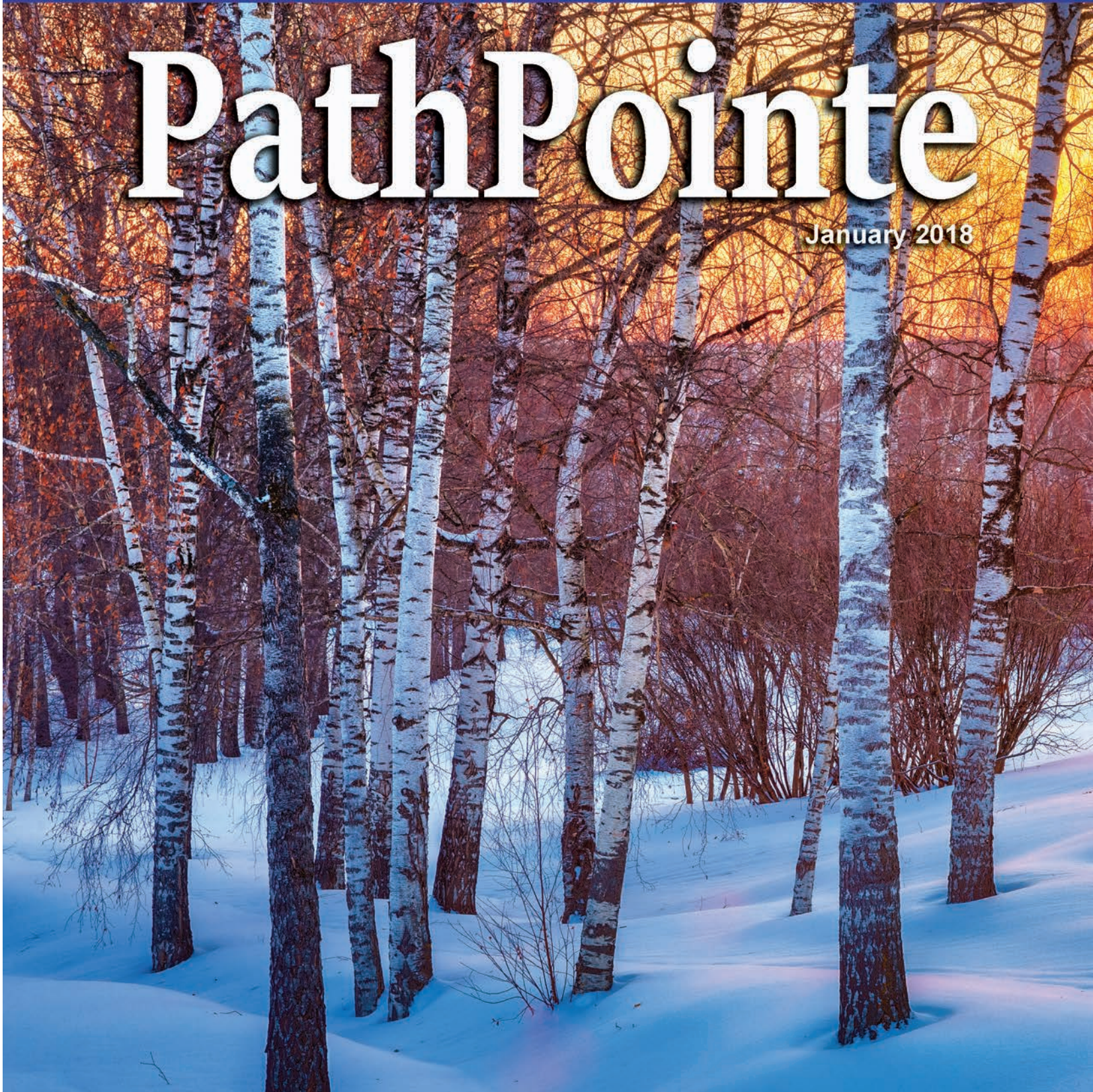


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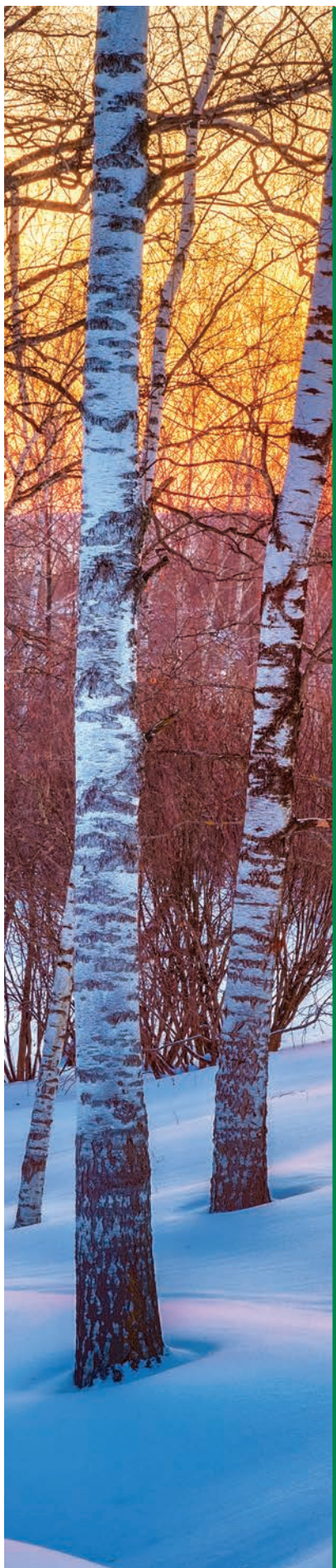
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President and Publisher: Dr. T. D. Worthington
 Editor: Tiffany W. Johnson
 Advertising Director: Ashley W. Lovett
 Contributors: Tiffany Johnson
 Amber Sherman, and Sherry Worthington
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The History And Prognosis Of The Now!

Dr. T. D. Worthington

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

I Timothy 4:12

Could it be that 2018 will be the year for mankind to do something radically stupid again? You see, every so often man likes to display his foolishness by starting a war or some other man-made tragedy to plunge the world into chaos. It is just what we do. It is apparently in our nature to go into phases of mass self-destruction and carnage.

In part, I believe this is caused by our limited visions of the past and future. We just can't see great distances very well. Actually, the information is there; we just don't bother to seek it out and apply it to our lives.

When I was growing up in the fifties, I had a realistic vision of history that went back about 100 years. This was obtained through my parents, grandparents, and from my history studies at school. The War Between the States was only 85 years in the past, and southerners still held some good-natured animosity for the “yankees”. In some ways, I was close to the history of the past century. I knew about World War I, the depression, the holocaust, and World War II from my family, not just from the history books. From childhood, I knew about Hitler and Stalin. I understood why my Dad, who fought in the Pacific during World War II, did not care for foreign cars.

I was also encouraged to weigh the decisions I made with their possible impact on the future. For example,

every time I even casually mentioned the idea of dropping out of school, I was warned how that decision had been disastrous to people in the past and would be a detriment to my future. I was given the history and prognosis of the “now.” I was encouraged to **zoom out** and see the big historical patterns to give me a deeper perspective in my thinking. Many people today seem to only look at the now, not the past or the future. Most do not study and challenge what they hear with an accurate historical record. The idea of living for the *now* is what's important to modern man. We are not interested in the history or future of the decisions we make in the now.

After working with young people for many years, it appears that most people in the younger generation

have no perspective beyond a 10 or 20-year window. Perhaps they have heard of Hitler, but they apparently don't recognize the danger of modern day socialists whose speeches sound very similar to Adolph's. Many younger Americans like to vote for candidates who offer a broad range of new federal programs. The concept of womb to the tomb federal care sounds appealing if you do not consider the long-range danger of such programs. Spending ourselves and our children into bankruptcy is not very frightening if you do not consider the historical consequences.

Even worse, we are shuddering the Biblical principle of personal accountability. When the sense of personal responsibility is lost, the alternative is to think that somehow "society" is responsible for everyone's mistakes, so individuals should not have to suffer the consequences. No society can lose belief in moral accountability to God for very long without destroying itself. So many young people today don't even try to visualize the end goal. They can see the easily defined endings in sports events or video games, but what is not so clear is their own personal end goal; who they want to be and what they want to accomplish. Their lack of historical perspective makes them unsure where they are going so they are pulled by the tides, pushed by the trends, and blown by the hot air that pours from their peers and the liberal media.

Perhaps this has been caused by the fact that this generation doesn't need to struggle like the previous generation. They don't need to work after school to support the family, earn their way through college, or labor on the family farm. They are spared from the need of contributing to the welfare of the

family. So they have learned to find purpose in being without a defined purpose.

If we could just encourage this new generation of Americans to research the history and prognosis of what is happening now by asking a few important questions. Has this, or something similar to this, happened in the past? If so, how did it turn out? How will this affect my children and grandchildren in the future? These two questions alone could revolutionize our thinking.

For an example, let's consider the modern homosexual movement. In the 1930s, British anthropologist J.D. Unwin studied 86 cultures that stretched across 5,000 years. He found, without exception, when they restricted sex to marriage, they thrived. Strong families headed by faithful spouses made for bold, prosperous societies. But not one culture survived more than three generations after turning sexually permissive.

As a matter of fact, it is hard to find any culture surviving once it ceased to support marriage and monogamy. In study after study, a breakdown of the traditional family is directly linked to an increase in violence, crimes committed at a younger age,

teen pregnancy, welfare dependency, and child poverty. Legalization of gay marriage will further undermine an institution that is essential to the well-being of children and our society. Do we really want to encourage a lifestyle that if adopted by every member of society would exterminate mankind in 100 years? Wouldn't this be a good study for the history and prognosis of the now? Wouldn't young people benefit if they would just research and think this through? This level of thinking is not taught in the government school system, so it will be up to the parents to teach this politically incorrect truth.

Perhaps we could study the history and prognosis of getting into debt or experimenting with alcohol or drugs. Would it be wrong to encourage our young people to have a five or ten-year plan of action with goals, objectives, and a meaningful payoff? Can the older generation give them more exposure to the realities of life? When I was a child, we would all sit down at the dinner table, and Dad would review some of the news stories of the day. He would explain things to me in a language I could understand. He would give me his assessment based on how the event was affected by history and how it might affect future generations.





I still recall when America came off the gold standard how my grandfather told me why it was historically a foolish decision and how my dollar would lose much of its value in the future. He taught me this at the dinner table when I was still a young man. By the way, he was right!

Most every kid used to have a part-time job; they often bought their own school clothes and helped to earn their own keep. Was this a bad thing? Don't our young people need real world exposure to experiences that will give them a taste of the challenges and rewards of life? Christians know that time is moving forward toward a goal. It began with the Creation and is moving toward a final judgment. This makes all history linear and goal oriented. Time is a valuable commodity, and we are instructed to honor God by being good stewards.

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
Ephesians 5:15-16

We also know that our Lord brings reward and success when our work is completed faithfully.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”
Galatians 6:9

God encourages His children to improve their lives and to make a positive contribution to the world around us. This leads us to take calculated risks, work hard, and to build for the future while learning from the past. It is difficult to make rational decisions if you don't know where you are; and it is hard to know where you really are if you don't know where you've been or where you're going. This is the handicap our young generation is facing. They have been taught to think but not to think things through. They may know what road they are on, but they often have no idea where that road will take them based on historical evidence.

There is so much information available to us today that it is hard for all of us

to discern the difference between fact, opinion, and outright lies; but it is especially hard for young people. The President says that much of what we hear is “fake news”. He is correct. Young people need to have someone they can rely on to give them sound advice when interpreting what they hear and read. We are living in a world where truth is a rare commodity, but our Lord gives His people the “*mind of Christ*” so we do not have to fall victim to all the deception. Mature Christians must use this resource to guide us in truth; a truth we can share with the young. Parents, should not just seek to raise compliant kids who never get into any serious trouble. We must also raise children who know how to think. Do not delegate this to the school or church. These institutions can help, but they cannot do it alone.

It is clear! The forces of our deceptive secular world will continue to bring torrents of misinformation into our lives. Truth will become harder to find, and even if we find it, we will be tempted to turn away our ears. This is expected in the last days. However, this makes it imperative that we teach our young people how to think deeper thoughts. Thinking, not just about the now, but on the history and prognosis of the now.

This is the only way to raise up a Godly generation of young people who will grow up to make better choices for themselves and for our nation.

May our Lord richly bless you during this new year!



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

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Trusting An Unknown Future To A Known God

2018 is here. It's time to pick out a new calendar to hang on the wall. 365 new, empty slots are waiting to be filled. Some gaps will be filled with doctors' appointments, birthday parties, school projects, and vacations. Many will be filled with work and other daily routines. We will make plans for happy times to spend together with family, friends, and those we hold dear. We will make plans for paycheck dates and mortgage payments. Some may even be planning on a big transition this year like a move, wedding, or birth. Oh what potential those 365 open slots have!

Although planning ahead can often be beneficial, undoubtedly many of us will have unplanned events that will also take up those calendar slots. Some events may be good and joyful,

but others may not. What about those things? Even now as we look back on 2017, we can each remember dates and times we were not prepared for. There could be a day that sticks out in your mind from the past year where you suffered the loss of a job, a home, a friendship, your health, or even a spouse. You didn't plan for it. It just happened. There was no time to prepare. It was not marked on your 2017 calendar months in advance or on your daily to-do list. It simply came and went like a quick, summer afternoon thunderstorm.

Uncertainty in earthly things will always exist as long as we live in this sin-cursed world. We can plan and prepare in every way possible, but nothing is guaranteed. It can be a scary and overwhelming thought sometimes as we think about the future and realize just how many things are really out of our control. As Christians, we do have comfort in these words:

“Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee,

nor forsake thee.”

Deuteronomy 31:1

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

Philippians 1:6

Holocaust survivor Corrie Ten Boom once said, *“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”*

If you know Christ today, don't fear the uncertainties that may come. Know that He is for you and has your best interest at heart. If you don't know Him, let this day be one you look back on as the day you met the Saviour and trusted Him with your tomorrows.



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Artist Spotlight - Canaanland

The year was 1977. A wonderful Sunday night service had just taken place at Whitley Pentecostal Holiness Church in Princeton, N.C. There were a few individuals that stayed behind after the service to sing praises to the Lord around the old church piano. As the small group shared their voices in song, they realized they each had the same burning desire to win the lost for Christ through the gift of music. That night, the Gospel music group **Canaanland** was born.

Over the past forty years, many miles have been traveled through many states as the group has shared the Good News of Jesus Christ through song and personal testimony. Though some of the faces have changed over the years, the desire of **Canaanland** remains the same, "To win the lost at any cost."

Shirley Edwards (*Manager, Alto*) is the only original member left of **Canaanland**. She is married to Raymond Edwards (*Bus Driver*) who is also a great support for the group. They reside in Princeton, N.C. and attend The Bridge P. H. Church. LaRue Tart (*Soprano/Tenor*) has been a member of **Canaanland** since 1997. She and her husband are members of St. John P. H. Church in Bentonville, N.C. and live in

Grantham. Jimmy Martin (*Lead/Tenor*) is the newest member of **Canaanland**. He and his wife live in Mount Olive and attend Dudley Christian Church.

Although **Canaanland** has limited availabilities in their schedule, they would love the opportunity to speak with you about singing for your church service or special event. Shirley Edwards can be reached by phone at 919-965-6276 or 919-612-9097, by email at jackson07281957@aol.com, or on **Canaanland's** website at www.canaanlandtrio.org.



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“Help! God, please help me! I don’t know what to do!”

Have you ever heard yourself praying that prayer? Especially concerning your children? I have - sometimes on a daily basis. We have the best kids in the world, but they are not perfect. Sinners, actually, just like their parents. So because sinful beings are raising sinful little beings, God is needed very much for a godly outcome. God has answered me in many ways when I pray to Him for direction. He often sends it through sermons at church or messages on the radio by other preachers and speakers. He often sends the help within a day or so of asking, too. Sometimes He sends it through other mothers or women who have faced the same challenges and can give good, godly counsel. Then there are the times He simply leads me with His Holy Spirit through His still, small voice. It is not overly loud, so I have to be careful to listen.

If I do not listen to Him, He stops talking. I wonder how many times we do not even ask God to help us raise our children. Sadly, there’s the ever common occurrence of not listening when given the answers, often because we do not like them and are unwilling to sacrifice what it will take to follow through.

Sometimes I get busy with daily responsibilities and He whispers, *“Make him pick up the toys he left lying there.”* I know it is easier to pick it up myself and keep going. It takes much longer to call him from the other room and follow through. But in the long run, it will teach him responsibility and accountability, if I follow through.

Next I’m trying to wash the dishes, and a commotion occurs among the children. Ugh! Can’t I even wash a dish? The Holy Spirit whispers, *“Stop now. Deal with this.”* If I listen, it doesn’t escalate into World War III. If I ignore and determine

I am going to at least wash three more dishes, then further chaos and trouble breaks out.

Later I am correcting my child and he talks back. I address it, but not firmly enough. The Holy Spirit whispers, *“That wasn’t enough. Be firmer.”* We are out in public, and our child does not obey right away or will not answer an adult who is talking to him. The Holy Spirit tells us, *“That is wrong. You are raising a disrespectful child. Change this.”* And He leads us how to do so. **Proverbs 22:15** gives solid council for this behavior, though contrary to what many psychologists and teachers say. When this happens, ask yourself what kind of children do you want to raise - the kind our society produces or the kind God’s Word yields?

“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”
Proverbs 22:15

A struggle we are currently dealing with in one of our children is screaming. Screaming when he falls, screaming when he gets hurt, screaming when his brothers take from him, and many other things. We usually discipline and put him in his crib - sometimes one, sometimes both. The biggest thing that is effective is correcting this bad behavior every time. I find myself slacking off sometimes because I am busy with something else or just plain tired because of the other issues faced that day or even hour. The Holy Spirit whispers to me, *“Deal with this.”* When I handle it with a small swat, nothing changes. It just makes me feel like I have somewhat addressed it, when really I haven’t. When I listen to the Holy Spirit, and deal with it effectively each time, the child improves in this area. When I do not, the habit continues to resurface and worsen.

The Holy Spirit is looking at this habit as a character issue, not just mere “childish behavior.” Think about what will happen as he gets older if we allow him to express his temper in this way...it is not pretty. That is how screaming and yelling occur between husbands and wives. They were allowed to do it as children. Habits only worsen. We do not outgrow them. Habits must be broken, and we have a huge responsibility in training our children into or out of habits.

I find that often the Holy Spirit’s leading shows me a deeper meaning to my children’s behavior, and honestly my own as well. His leading helps me to put the right setting in the home. My tone and attitude when dealing with



my children is a huge factor in the environment of our home. I am the one who determines the atmosphere. If I am angry and frustrated when I discipline, often the children cry a lot more and many more issues come up during the day. If I am calm but firm when I discipline, they still feel loved. Anger takes comfort, security, and love away from our children. When I discipline with love, calmness, and firmness, the children are secure in their position in the home and are not unsure and anxious. A child’s life is upside down if they do not know they are loved and feel secure in their family and home. My mind frame is greatly affected by how I respond as well. Keeping my cool is a must. The Holy Spirit convicts me of this. Does God ever yell and scream at us? Does He haul off in anger and just blow us away? No, He does not. Even when God disciplines us, we still know we are loved by Him.

So, do you find yourself praying, *“Please help me!”* Listen to the Holy Spirit. He will guide you throughout your day. A nudge here

and a whisper there. But be sure to obey and listen, because if we do not, He stops talking. God does not like being ignored, no more than we do. So listen to the help He offers. Go to church, listen to good preaching on the radio, find godly speakers and other mothers who have raised children for God, and then listen as He guides you moment by moment. Sure, the Bible may not always say, *“Thou shalt...when thy child...”* But He does offer teaching, preaching, and the Holy Spirit’s leading all along life’s daily challenges.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:...”

John 16:13a



Mrs. Amber Sherman is a homemaker and mother of four. She and her husband reside in Snow Hill, NC.



As we usher in the new year, different thoughts go through our minds. Some people view January 1st as just another day, while others view it as a time of new beginnings. Many of us set all kinds of resolutions, and some just want a chance for a fresh start. Either way, we all have areas we need to work on in our lives, and the new year is a good time to start. We have had or will have many new beginnings in our lifetime.

Our first beginning was at birth. Most parents have high hopes for their children when they are born. When we look into their eyes for the first time, our love rolls out of us onto them. We just hold them and cannot imagine

this new life came from us. It was definitely God's miracle, but He used us to bring this precious one into the world. No parent thinks of the hurts they will face at that time because of this child. I have heard many fathers have a panic attack because the reality sets in that raising this child is their responsibility, whereas moms are in "la la land" in awe of their newborn. But neither parent realizes the joy or the sorrows they are about to face.

At birth the child is a composite of both parents' genes. Yes, the baby cries when he is hungry and wet and perhaps when he wants to be held. But the bad habits he forms are largely due to parental influence at this early

age. As children grow up, they may be influenced by others, but our job is to mold our children into what God wants them to be. Even when we fulfill our responsibility, our children can make some bad choices. That is when the tears come. As parents we don't get a "do-over" for raising them, but our children have a chance to start over. Hopefully, if they take a wrong path, with a lot of prayer they will turn around.

Perhaps a child will turn around when he gets on his own. He has finished school, gotten a job, and has his own place. The reality that he has to make it or he will have to go hungry has set in. Most of all, he doesn't want to

have to ask to move back home. His parents are great, but he wants to be independent. He realizes how much his parents did for him at this time, and he is grateful. Ok, Moms and Dads, this admission would be wonderful wouldn't it. Many times young people move out of their parents' homes, but it isn't what they had hoped. Independence just isn't that great.

Another new beginning may be when the stars get in their eyes. I know I have seen it. There is no listening to reason. These fellows or ladies they are interested in walk on water and eat at the same time. Wedding bells are in their ears, and there is no slowing down. For many young ladies, they visualize the fairy tale-the beautiful white picket fence and a man that will adore them. For the young men, they visualize being with this beautiful creature that worships the ground they walk on. This is a slight exaggeration, but most people are thinking of what the other person is going to do for them when they marry, not the other way around. Unfortunately, in many cases the first year of marriage is a nightmare. Marriage is not what they had hoped it would be. Hopefully, the couple becomes less selfish and realizes that neither one of them is perfect. As time passes their love for each other begins to grow a little deeper. By the time they are married ten years, many of the rough edges are gone, and they can work on getting even closer. It is sad to say many people never experience the joys that married life can bring. They never conquer themselves.

Oh, but wait, there is hope. Another new beginning is about to occur. They are going to have a baby. This new beginning will bring them closer. Having a baby can be a very special event. It can be the glue that brings

a couple together, but if times are rough already, it is not going to make things better. When someone is already selfish, adding a baby to the mix doesn't help things. Life changes when a baby enters your life. It is supposed to anyway. There is no more spontaneity. Everything has to be planned. If you go anywhere you have to pack the kitchen sink, and you may even want to bring clothes for yourselves. Spit-up can be very messy. The first few months are rough because of sleepless nights, but the roughest part comes much later. It comes when you watch your child experience pain and heartache. The tears will come, and your heart will break.

Wow! Where did time go! The kids are all moved out, and it is time to look at retiring one day! It is a new beginning for us for sure. Ok, Parents, we can stop worrying now. Our children are grown and living on their own now. What a relief! I hate to disappoint you! It never stops. As parents, I think we worry more about our children now than when they lived at home. We have grandchildren in the mix now as well. Many more heads to be concerned about. Slowing down! When does that happen?

I guess I have painted a pretty bleak picture. When we center in on what happens next, our lives become one grueling day after another. We are so busy digging the ditch to get up and dig the ditch the next day that we miss out on everything. However, there is one new beginning that never disappoints.

I have never met anyone that is disappointed after accepting Christ as their Savior. This new beginning is full of adventure. In fact, it is the only thing that makes every new beginning worthwhile. Jesus Christ changes your life, and He makes life worth living. The secret is to follow Him and His precepts. In Luke 9:23, the Scripture states ***"...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."***

The problem for most of us is we forget the "denying" and "taking" part of that verse. When we become Christians we want to hold on to what we want. We don't want to be selfless. We still wrestle with being selfish. The only way to be happy is to deny our wants and desires and take up what Christ wants us to do. I will let you in on a little secret. When you truly are serving the Lord, you don't feel





you are denying yourself of anything. It is a beautiful thing. I haven't got self-denial mastered by any means. I go through stages. But when I am following my Lord as I should, I do not feel denied of anything. In fact, He has made life wonderful for me. Do I have troubles? Most definitely! However, all of the new beginnings in my life have become a joy. I have learned so much from each and every experience. I would not change any privilege God has given me.

My salvation is the most precious thing I have. The Lord promised to be with me, and He has. He has been with me through the troubles and the triumphs. He was with me when I was young and stupid, and He is still with me when I am older and less stupid. We are still working on the wise thing! The Lord has made marriage and raising children a joy. Jesus Christ makes life worth living.

If you haven't made Jesus Christ your Savior, make that your New Year's resolution. He will make the biggest difference in your life. Give it all to him, including you. That is what He wants.

A New Year's resolution for those of us who know Him as Savior, might be to live like we are His. Let us deny ourselves daily and follow Him. It will make the best new beginning we have ever had!

Paul sums this precept up beautifully in Philippians 1:20-21 when he says, ***“According to my earnest expectations and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.”***

God has a plan for every stage of our lives. The trouble comes when we only

submit to His plan when it matches up with ours. Those of us who know the Lord as Savior will one day give an account of how we represented Him here on this earth. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could stand before Him unashamed of how we lived each stage of our lives? Wouldn't it be glorious if the Lord could say, ***“Well done, thou good and faithful servant?”***

May we live every day of our lives to bring God glory. May each new beginning bring the Lord more honor than the one before. If you feel it is too late, remember God gives us all a fresh start when we submit to His will. What stage of life are you in? May this be your newest beginning ever!



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

And Finally...



Plans for the New Year...

This year, I have several family members that I would like to mend relationships with. We have been very distant over the years, and I feel it is time to “bury the hatchet” and end all of this silliness. As I am getting older I am realizing that life is too short to fuss and fight over small things or differences in opinions. I am hoping to soon write a letter to these individuals, and I am praying that the Lord will give me guidance as I reach out to them.

L. J.

I am working on several things for this year, mostly to do with time-management and being more productive. I am limiting myself to 30 minutes a day on social media. I am vowing to myself to never again look at a text message on my phone while I am driving. I would like to read one non-fiction book a month instead of watching television at night. I would also like to start cooking bigger meals and freezing some of the left-overs to use on days when we do not have time to cook instead of stopping for fast food.

B. B.

I’m in the process of starting a new business working for myself. Although I have invested some time and resources thus far, I am hoping to invest a great deal more over the coming months to really get things moving and get the business to a point where it can generate a monthly income to replace my current job. I have already planned out a goal for the

year, broken down in to specific monthly and weekly goals and a game-plan on the work I need to do to meet those goals. I am excited about the potential to completely change my career path in 2018!

J. K.

We are excited about getting out of debt this year! Hopefully by April we will have our credit cards paid off and by July our car will be paid off as well. We are using the debt snowball by Dave Ramsey and should have the rest of our loans paid off by November. After that, we will be saving to build our dream home, and we are super excited about the possibility of living debt free.

R. F.

“Mom & Pop Business”

We’d like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

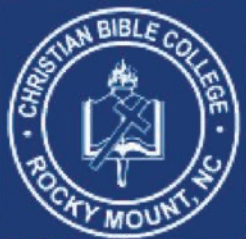
March 29, 2018, is national Mom & Pop Business Owner’s Day! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your favorite local Mom & Pop Business (past or present).

The deadline for submission is
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You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe
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