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### PathPointe Magazine

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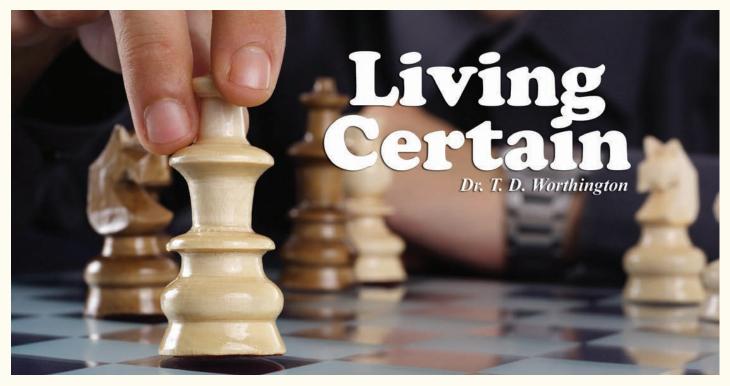
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There is not much that I know for sure. For example, I don't know what tomorrow holds. Will I be sick or well; alive or dead? I don't know. Will I have a safe trip to work today? Will it rain this week? I don't know. Uncertainty, that's what so much of life's anxieties are all about. And now the Coronavirus has added one more layer of uncertainty to our lives. Will I get it? Have I already had it? Will I get it and not know it? Will it kill me? Fact is, in this life there is not much I know for sure. That's good, because that uncertainty encourages us to focus on the few things that are certain. For example:

### I Am Certain That The Bible Is The Inspired Word Of God.

I am certain of it! So certain in fact that I have based my life on it for almost fifty years. It has something to say regarding anything you may be facing. It reveals the person of God, the plan of God, and the heart of God for all people. You cannot know God apart from His Word. The Bible is timeless and is relevant throughout

every generation. It is one of the key ways we understand our life's purpose and hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. What did Paul say to Timothy?

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

II Timothy 3:14-17

Just like Paul, I know for sure the Bible is the perfect Word of God. There is more physical evidence for the Bible than any other ancient manuscript. More original, ancient manuscripts have been found of the Bible than for any other writing. There are over 5,800 complete or fragmented Greek manuscripts that have been catalogued,

and 10,000 Latin manuscripts plus 9,300 manuscripts in various other ancient languages. Few people would argue or doubt that Plato really wrote the works ascribed to him, and yet the Bible is far more authenticated than the works of Plato.

Though the Bible was written over the course of many centuries, and though it was written by 40 authors, the messages contained on its pages are coherent and consistent. 40 authors tell the same story. The Bible is one, continuous story because although men wrote it down, it was the Holy Spirit who authored every word. That is why it has incredible continuity.

Archaeologists have confirmed that the Bible is an accurate retelling of history. Excavations of the city of Jericho reveal that the walls did in fact fall as the Bible claims. Other historical books, non-sacred writings, also corroborate what the Bible has to say. There have been some Bible passages which critics once called a myth, but through archaeological

digs and discovery, it has been revealed that the Bible told the right story all along.

The Bible is also a self-authenticating book. If you read it with the intent to hear from God, the Holy Spirit will speak to you and confirm that it can be trusted.

Another great determination of the Bible's claim to absolute inspired truth is in its supernatural ability to predict future events. Numerous prophecies have been fulfilled over the years. Whether you speak of the regathering of Israel to the predictions of end time events, all point to the validity of the Bible. For example, consider the well over 200 prophecies about the first coming of Christ. Each one was fulfilled. Jesus, as a mere man would have had no control over many of the prophecies such as His birthplace or time of birth. How could anyone doubt the Word of God? I am living certain that the Bible is the inherent and inspired Word of God.

### I Am Certain That Nothing Can Separate Me From The Love Of God.

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:37-39

Paul was convinced that there was nothing that could come between him and the love of God. Why? Because there is nothing more powerful than the love of God. Love is God's most powerful attribute!

Sometimes, when life is hard, when prayers aren't answered the way we want them to be answered or in the way that would seem consistent with a loving God, Satan wants to tempt us to doubt God's love. No one was probably more consistently persecuted than the Apostle Paul. He had it hard, not just because he was a human, but because he was a follower of Christ. Whenever he faced beating, stoning, imprisonment, or shipwreck, he didn't question, "Does God love me?" Are you faced with a present circumstance that has caused you to doubt God's love for you? God sends you the message that nothing can separate you from His love.

Satan cannot separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus. No political power can separate me from the love of God. No sickness can separate me from the love of God. No cultural shift can separate me from the love of God. No external pressure can separate me from the love of God. No disappointment or drama can separate

me from the love of God. No suffering I endure will eclipse God's love for me. It goes deeper than any pain. It runs higher than any mountain I will face. It is stronger than any force I will come up against. I am *living certain* today that God loves me.

### I Am Certain That God Will And Can Keep All Of His Promises.

"Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

Romans 4:18-21

Abraham was fully convinced that even though he and Sarah had never had a son and even though they were well stricken with age, that he and





Sarah would have a son and that from that son would be born a great and blessed nation. Abraham knew God had all power. Therefore, if God has all power, then God can do anything. All power trumps no power. All power trumps some power. All power trumps a lot of power. We serve the God of the impossible because we serve the God of all-power.

### I Am Certain Of Who God Is.

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

### II Timothy 1:12

Notice how Paul begins this verse. He doesn't start with "what" he knows, but with "who" he knows. It is important to know what we know, but it's far more important to know in whom we have believed. Anchor your convictions in the person of Christ who can never fail. He is the only way to know that one day when this life ends, you have chosen to

believe in the only One who knows the way out of this life and into Heaven.

Many people know what they believe, but they have no relationship with Jesus Christ. Your beliefs won't take you anywhere if they aren't anchored to Jesus. Paul knew he wasn't able to keep himself safe and to take himself from this life to the next. but he knew God could and would. Paul gave Jesus everything that was once important to him. He deposited his life into Christ's hands, knowing beyond a shadow of a doubt that it would yield a great return. He knew it was the life with the greatest benefits. He knew there would come "a day" when either he would go to Jesus or Jesus would come for him. Until that day came, Paul was living certain that whatever he would surrender to Jesus would be safe in His hands.

I also know that our God can keep whatever we entrust to Him. When we pray and share the longings of our hearts, when we dream and ask for God's desires and blessing, when we dedicate our children and marriages to Him, when we surrender our gifts and talents to Him to use—all of these are rightly placed within the capable hands of our loving God.

Are you living certain? Living certain brings me great peace. I don't have to wonder if I am loved, if I have a purpose for life, or if Heaven awaits. Living certain keeps me in a state of hope because it keeps me connected to the Person of Jesus Christ. Living certain puts me in a state of expectation which adds excitement to my life. Living certain gives me a positive track to run on. Living certain helps me be spiritually, relationally, and emotionally stable because living certain keeps me from ever having to panic. Living certain provides a legitimate testimony to others around me that God is real and that He will do what He has promised. If I am not living certain, how can I convince anyone else of who God is?

What do you know for sure today? If you'll be honest, not much! But, that's good, because it allows us to focus on the few things we can be certain of. But, if you are not certain over the few things that are certain, then by default, you can't be certain of anything. Sadly, that's where most folks are this morning. Do you know the One, the only One that can bring certainty to life? If not, I would remind you that receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior would be the greatest decision you will ever make.



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









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### Pulling Back The Curtain

Over the past few months, we have all been forced to recalibrate our COVID-19 has caused priorities. us all to rethink how we do things. Here at GoMix Christian Radio, one of our changes involved a subtle change in programming. Realizing that most churches could no longer hold services, we opened up several programming slots to allow pastors to reach thousands of new listeners with their message. Of course, along with the new listeners, they were also able to minister to their local congregations.

Another concern has been our fundraising efforts. We have tried to



balance our legitimate needs with the financial hardships being faced by our **Faith Partners**. As you may know, we postponed our **Spring Share-A-Thon** and held three shortened drives during the summer. Of course, with harvest season approaching, it is now time to raise the funding needed to meet our obligations during the winter months.

In weighing the decision to proceed with the Fall Share-A-Thon, we considered it to be very important to pull the curtain back and share our needs as clearly as possible. We have always been very close to our listeners, so we feel it is important to totally explain our reasoning. Most of our expenses are somewhat "fixed." That means regardless of the number of Business Underwriters or Faith Partners we have, most of our expenses stay the same. Although we are very much aware of the hardships of our Faith Partners, we also had to realize that our fall fund drive

would be essential to maintaining our ministry over the next few months.

So, with no "perfect" options available, we decided to once again utilize the *Mini-Share-A-Thon* concept. Our initial fall fund drive will be held **October 5-7**. We are calling it the "*Big Harvest.*"

If you have already given, we ask for your prayers. If you are one of our thousands of listeners that have not contributed recently, won't you please consider a special gift, as our Lord may lead? Thank you in advance for your support!

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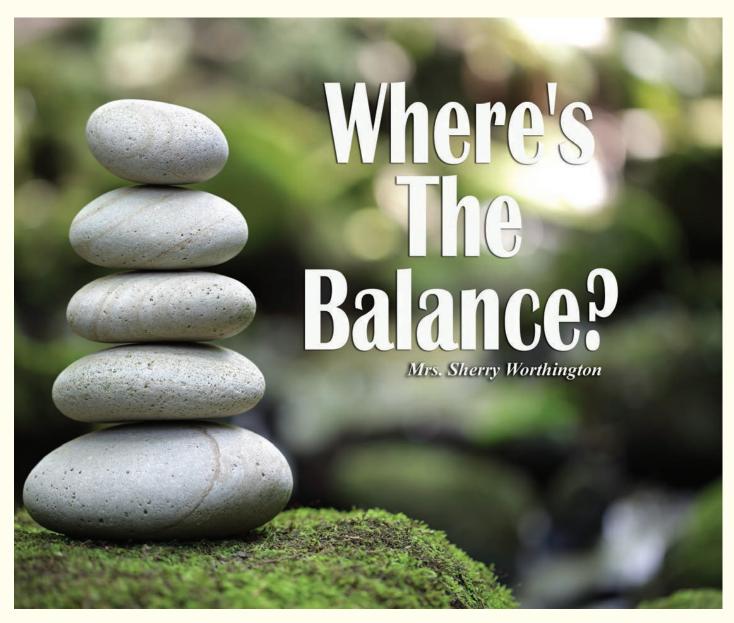
### **Artist Spotlight - Eternity**

The gospel group *Eternity* has been sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1993. The group consists of four singers and a sound engineer. It has been the mission of *Eternity* to go where the Lord leads, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and song. *Eternity* has been busy touring and singing at churches and events all over North Carolina and Virginia and they would love the opportunity to come and worship with your church!

Becky Williams, the lead singer for *Eternity* has recently opened a bakery, "Cakes by Becky", in Williamston, NC, and attends **Everetts Baptist** Church in Everetts, NC. John Jenkins is the bass singer for the group. John is a retired law enforcement officer and currently works as a security officer for Pitt County Schools and manages rental property. John is a member of Covenant Church in Winterville, NC. Alfred

Ezzell sings baritone for *Eternity* and manages the group. Alfred works at the State Highway Patrol Body Shop as a supervisor. Alfred's wonderful wife, Lisa, is the tenor/soprano singer for the group and works at East Carolina University as a Systems Programmer. Alfred and Lisa both attend **Open Door Church** in Winterville, NC. Jeff Whitley, *Eternity's* sound technician, is owner/operator of Viking Truss in Williamston, NC, and also attends **Covenant Church** in Winterville, NC.

Eternity has openings available now for 2021 and they are ready to sing and share testimony about the Gospel of Jesus Christ! They can be found on Facebook by searching "Eternity Southern Gospel". For booking or other information, Alfred Ezzell can be reached at 252-717-0495.



As a Christian, wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, boss, friend, teacher, writer, janitor, housekeeper, friend, errand girl, etc... it sometimes becomes difficult to keep everything in perspective. God uses busy people. We have heard the adage that Christianity seems to be a spectator's sport. Ten percent of the people do the work, and 90 percent are onlookers. Christians today are compared to the team on the field and the fans in the stadium. It sure feels that way sometimes.

Each day I get up knowing there is no possible way to get everything done that I need to do that day. I always

keep lists. I would be lost without them. I try to keep up with deadlines. Without these, I would get nothing done. I make separate lists for what I need to do each month, each week, each day .... you get the picture.

We all have to get certain things done by specific deadlines. When school was starting, we had a deadline at school for August 12th. We had to have the academy ready for public scrutiny with our new COVID policies by 8:00 that day. Payroll has to be done by a certain time. I don't think our staff would appreciate it if we did not getting around to meeting payroll.

In reality, I have lots of deadlines in our ministry. I won't bore you with all of those. But I have daily goals, too. I want to be a good teacher. I need to plan a devotion to minister to my students, grade papers, and study for classes. Teachers have responsibilities besides showing up for class.

If I am not careful, I can spend all of my time with the ministry and put relationships on the back burner. As you know, relationships must be nurtured. I need to minister to my husband, my children, and each person that is a part of my life. How in the world do we have balance? It is not easy. It is difficult to know what is the priority each day. I always feel I could have done better. I beat myself up a lot. It is impossible to be good at everything. I am frustrated because I do not feel I do my best at anything. I want to spend more time with my children and friends. I would love to spend more time with my grandchildren-but the time is just not there.

Luke 14:26 states, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Is this teaching I should hate my family? Of course not! The text is teaching that I am to love God so much that my love for my family would seem like hate in comparison. Who gets the short end of the stick most days? My Heavenly Father and my poor husband. If I am to love God the most, why do I spend the least time with Him? Yes, most of my day is spent in His ministry. However, it is not spent with Him. For part of my day, He wants my undivided attention in prayer and worship. His desire is for me to study and learn His Word. God wants all of me.

I know I am doing what God wants me to do, but I feel guilty so much because I always fall short. Maybe that is my flesh or the devil whispering in my ear. Yes, I am supposed to do my responsibilities and deadlines. Yes, I am supposed to minister to my family and friends, yes, and most importantly, I am supposed to spend time with my Lord. So how am I supposed to do it?

First, I must get up in the morning and ask, "Lord, what would You have



me to do today? What do You want on my list?" So often, we don't ask His opinion about our lists. We just make a plan and expect Him to bless it.

Second, I must learn to say "no" sometimes. If you just can't do it, say no. That means respectfully to your spouse, your parents, coworkers, or friends. Sometimes our spouses or friends don't know what is on our plates. My husband asks very little of me. But on occasion I may say, "Is it okay if I do it tomorrow.... or can it wait until ...?" If that happens, I always let him know when I can get it done.

Third, give yourself a break. When you can't finish everything, it is okay. I usually set a time when I make myself stop working, unless there is a deadline I must meet.

Fourth, we must be okay with the best we can do in the time that we have.

Fifth, as long as what we do is for our Lord, and we do the best we can, we are *not* allowed to beat ourselves up. I am sure there are more things I could mention. If you live a full life, I am sure you experience frustration when you are not able to finish your list. As long as we are not lazy or wasting time, we must be okay with doing our best each day. Maybe it is time to purge our lists. Let's get rid of the things that steal our time from the important things in life.

We must be sure that we give God the prominent place He deserves in our days. We need to talk to Him, and more importantly, we need to listen. Let God make your lists from now on. It will make for a much more fulfilling day!



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



There is a method of Bible Study that I have used for years. You may never have heard of it. It dates back to the sixth century (possibly earlier) and is entitled, using a Latin phrase, Lectio Divina (Divine Reading). It is good for you to use in addition to your current method of study.

It is just a little different than anything we are currently used to. When we are preparing a sermon or Sunday School lesson, we are using commentaries of some sort, looking at the cultural surroundings of the passage, and possibly some word study. All of these things are readily available on the internet although we need to be careful of our sources.

With Lectio Divina we begin with some quiet. We will see why the quiet is important as we go on. We will take a small section of scripture such as a story, or Psalm, or prayer, or a story from the life of Jesus. The latter is my favorite. You may want to read this story two or three times. Then in a time of quiet just ask yourself (and Jesus) what details about the story "shimmer". (A friend of mine uses the term to mean something that the Spirit causes to stand out.)

Is there something you have never seen before, or is there something that might cause you to do a little further research since you really do



not understand it? You may want to do this again the next day with the same passage. You could possibly do this in a small group and let several people tell what they see in the story. You are really letting the Holy Spirit speak to you, helping you see what He wants you to see. Instead of this being a matter of research it is now a matter of something being revealed to you by Jesus.

Let me give personal a illustration. In John 2 there is the story of the marriage in Cana of Galilee. I have never liked the Yes, Jesus story. turned water into wine. And yes, for Jesus it was the "first of miracles." However, no one

was healed, no one walked again, and no one saw for the first time. It was hard for me to understand why John (and it is only in John) who was probably writing on papyrus roll which limited his space, would waste time with such an insignificant story. I spent much time over the years pondering this story. One night as I approached this story (one more time) using Lectio Divina, it shimmered. The lack of wine was not the biggest of issues. But God cares about the small things, and many of His miracles often focus on small issues. He cares about every part of our lives and that is what we are meant to see. Suddenly it became one of my

favorite stories of scripture. Never again did I not pray over the small issues and not look for small miracles.

We believe that John was the last gospel written. He had been walking with the Holy Spirit many years. He knew why this story needed to be included since no other gospel writer had mentioned it.

This method of Bible Study can help you as no other. It has to do with the Holy Spirit speaking to you through Scripture. You will see what you otherwise just could not see. It is a matter of Grace, unmerited favor.



Dr. Randy Spaugh is a long-time contributer to PathPointe Magazine and a Retired Pastor residing in Kinston, N.C.





### And Finally...



### Why I Vote...

There are many reasons I vote. One of the most important reasons for me to vote is because of future generations. The decisions we make today will impact my kids, grandkids, great-grandkids and other generations to come. One by one our freedoms are questioned and even taken away. I want to do my part to make sure there is something left for the future generations.

G.R.

Every time I vote I think of the ones that fought and even gave their lives for me to be able to do so. There was a time in this country when women, minorities, and adults younger than 21 were not allowed to vote. Others before us worked hard and sacrificed so that we have the right to vote today. It's my duty and privilege to be able to do so.

E. B.

I vote because my vote matters. It may be only one vote, a needle in a haystack, but there have been many elections in the past that have come down to that one final vote. It's a specific time and opportunity we have to stand up for the things we believe in. Just as my vote counts, so does yours! Do your research so you can go out and vote.

K. U.

I saw a quote somewhere that said the world is run by those that show up. What a true statement! It's more important now than ever before to "show up" and cast an educated vote anytime we have the opportunity to do so. This world is changing so fast, and so is our country. The leaders we elect make the call whether or not we go to war, protect the unborn, have religious freedoms, have the right to protect ourselves, and how much of our time spent working away from family we have to give back to "Caesar". The past has shown time and time again that just one wrong leader can cause devastating effects for years and years to come. So, on a local and national level, I'll be there to vote every chance I get!

**D.** F.

### **"A Thankful H**eart"

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

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us what you are most thankful for.

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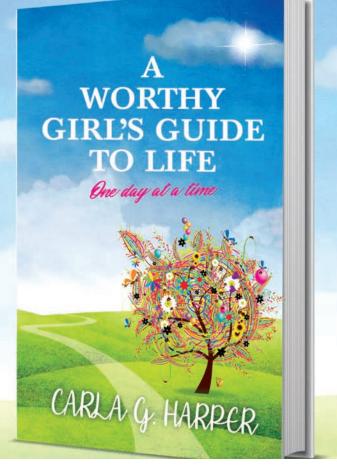
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# Join Us For The GoMix BC Harvest

This year we are doing something a bit different. A majority of our fall fund drive will be accomplished by mail or on-line. We hope to spend less time actually conducting the Share-A-Thon on the air. We have felt that especially during these uncertain times, our programming of music and teaching was more important than raising funds.

We will be conducting a three-day on-air mini-drive
October 5-7. Hopefully, with enough response by mail or on-line
we can meet our \$225,000 goal. As our Lord leads, please mail
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