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#### PathPointe Magazine

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# Betrayal

*Dr. T. D. Worthington*

Have you ever been betrayed? I would guess many of us have in one way or another. It is one of the most bitter experiences of life. Someone you loved pulled out a knife when you weren't looking and stabbed you right in the back. Betrayal rips apart your heart like nothing else, as anger and grief course through you, leaving you feeling used, cheated, and helpless. Betrayal can change your outlook on life permanently, especially if it is at the hands of an individual that is close to you. It can cause you to question your ability to really trust anyone again and it also can cause you to question your own judgement. It can destroy your confidence in yourself. As Shakespeare wrote, it's "*the most unkindest cut of all.*"

Betrayal is serious because it destroys trust, and without trust there can be no relationships. Without trust, society, families, institutions, and most certainly marriages cannot function. Betrayal shakes a person to his core because it ruptures his ability to trust. Whether it's a spouse having an affair, a friend spilling your secrets, a co-worker sabotaging your career, or a fellow Christian shattering your reputation, betrayal is one of the worst things you can do to someone. It's so bad Dante put it as the lowest level of hell with the greatest betrayer of them all; Satan himself.

Why did Dante make betrayal the worst sin, surpassing even rape,

theft, and murder? We may not know his thoughts exactly, but one reason must have been that betrayal is the intentional defilement of the greatest gift God has given to us, that gift is the very essence of God's nature; love. It is only fitting, therefore, that those who betray love are condemned to the realm farthest from love and where they keep company with the greatest hater and betrayer of them all. What causes people to betray the trust that has been placed in them? Let's consider a few reasons.

*The first may be excessive ambition, jealousy, greed, lust or passion.* When a person will not control his vices they will rule over him. An alcoholic or a drug

addict will betray the trust placed in him because his addiction is overpowering. I have known of teenagers who would steal from their own parents to finance their drug habit. It is greater than any sense of loyalty, integrity, or honesty we may have. A person's need to be wealthy and lead a luxurious life may cause him to steal, embezzle or misuse information given to him in confidence. Allowing sexual temptation to overpower the will may cause a person to betray his marriage.

***The second reason might be a feeling that betrayal is necessary to achieve a greater good.*** The person may consider betrayal in this instance not as evil, but as good. A person may feel that in order to help another person it is okay to betray him. For example, if you know of someone who is about to do something dangerous or illegal you might report them to their parents or to authorities to achieve a greater good. If you knew of someone who was a traitor to his country or someone who intended to commit an act of terrorism, it certainly would be wise to betray their trust. If you have a friend that intends on doing something foolish against the wishes of their parents or spouse; you might feel justified in exposing their intentions.

***The third reason could be because people like to prove they know best, or are smarter than others.*** Some people like to play with others' minds and manipulate lives just to stir up trouble. People like to think they are smarter than the people they are betraying, so somehow that makes them feel that it's okay. Often this deception might even

be satanic deception. Remember, knowing what is best is only half the responsibility; you also have to know how to present it. If you are tempted to betray someone because you think they don't understand what you are going through, make sure you do everything you can to let them know what you are going through, before you go through with your betrayal. Give them a chance; surely you owe them that much.

The act of betrayal can be driven by a lot of things. These things can push people, even as close as family, to act against you for their own personal reasons, even if it means causing you pain. Stories of betrayal have gone back as far as the start of mankind itself. No matter the reasons one thing is clear, the act of betrayal has consequences for both parties involved.

### **Consider Cain and Abel**

The biblical story of Cain and Abel shows how jealousy can cause a person to become irrational and take a course of action that under normal circumstances would never be considered. These verses from the Bible show us the foundation of what soon came to be Cain's betrayal of his brother.

***"And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."***

**Genesis 4:3-5**

This quote shows how Cain is jealous of The Lord's acceptance of his brother's offering of the firstborn of his flock, yet the Lord doesn't welcome Cain's offering of fruit that he cultivated. This event serves as the catalyst to Cain's unspeakable crime as it forms the jealousy between him and his brother.

***"And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him."***

**Genesis 4:6-7**

The Lord tells Cain not to be jealous of his brother, for if he does well, he will be accepted too. Despite the Lord's loving words to Cain, his jealousy continues to build up to the point that he rises up against his brother and murders him. Cain's envy of his brother had overtaken him to the point where he felt the need to betray his brother in the worst way, by taking his life. This is not the only example of betrayal that is found in the bible.





### Simon Peter's Betrayal of Jesus

Peter's betrayal was only temporary, and he quickly repented, but it also shows us some other causes of betrayal. With Peter it was probably a combination of fear, hanging around with the wrong crowd, and desertion from fellow believers.

### Judas' Betrayal of Jesus

Judas betrayal of Jesus shows how deception and greed drives even the closest people to you to betray. Judas was one of Jesus twelve Disciples, the closest followers and confidants of Jesus himself. Being in the inner circle of the Messiah was apparently not enough for Judas as he betrayed his master for silver.

*“Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them. And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money.”*

**Luke 22:3-5**

Judas' desire for wealth and power overtook him leading to his betrayal of Jesus. Even though he was one of the twelve, his personal desire was more powerful than companionship and loyalty. *“But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?” (Luke 22:48)* Judas ironically betrays Jesus with a kiss, a sign of affection, and not violence. Although Judas didn't crucify Jesus, he was the one who gave up his position so that he may be captured and executed. Judas was supposed to be one of Jesus' followers and have faith that he was the Messiah, yet his desire for wealth and power had caused him to give up what he believed in for money. In secular history, Julius Caesar, like Jesus, was also betrayed by one of his closest confidants except his followers sought power and not greed.

### The Betrayal of Julius Caesar

Acts of betrayal are also prevalent in secular history. The events of Julius Caesar's death show how betrayal can be caused by a desire for power; Caesar was murdered by

his own senators. They were driven to conspire against Caesar because their authority was dwindling due to his increasing power and popularity. They wanted the power they once held before Caesar had taken the throne. The conspiracy against Caesar encompassed as many as sixty noblemen, including Caesar's own dear friend, Marcus Brutus. Brutus was a very close friend of Caesar, yet he helped lead the plot to murder Caesar. The desire for power was so strong that even politicians close to Caesar still carried out his murder. Caesar's final words would show how disheartened he was when he saw one as close to him as Brutus was taking part in his murder.

It is likely that many times in life you will find yourself betrayed. It is important to learn to deal with it in a godly fashion. Let us also hope and pray that we will always have faithful friends and family that we can count on no matter what. Let us also pray that even when we are betrayed, we will seek God's grace to still be able to maintain our trust in others. Don't let the treachery of the betrayer rob you of that blessing.

If you have betrayed the trust of someone, it is not too late to repent. Do you really want to align yourself with Cain, Judas, Absalom, and Satan himself? I think not. You are greater than your failure. Through Christ, just like for Simon Peter, you can find forgiveness and acceptance. Don't be a betrayer.



*Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.*

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## *Zealous Until the End*

There is no need to deny it. We might as well fess up! The last few years have been difficult on a lot of us. Here at **GoMix**, we had to deal with floods which strained our budgets and quickly curtailed our plans for expansion. Next came **COVID-19**. This time our budget was slashed because the **Share-A-Thon** had to be postponed. We also had to deal with a couple of major lightning strikes and expensive equipment failures. Of course, many of our **Business Underwriters** and **Faith Partners** were also suffering, which required them to cut back on their monthly support. Now, mainly due to foolish government economic policies, all of us are seeing our budgets stretched to the limit. Perhaps it bears repeating; the last few years have been difficult on a lot of us.

Yet, through it all, God has been faithful. With the help of a substantial

gift from one of our partners, we were recently able to acquire a better signal in Jacksonville. **WJNC** is now broadcasting the **GoMix** signal on the AM and FM band. These new signals are reaching thousands of new listeners in Onslow County. Now, as we anticipate our **Fall Share-A-Thon**, we are asking all of our faithful listeners to once again consider a generous gift for our ministry. In spite of hardships, we are still connected to the power and resources of the true vine, our Lord Jesus Christ. In this we find great hope.

We believe our Lord has empowered His people to fulfill His mission. A big part of that mission is making disciples of all nations and helping others experience the life changing presence of Jesus in their lives. As God's people, this is who we are, and this is what we are to do; in the good times and in the bad. Actually, the word of God teaches us that this mission is so important that God is literally pushing back the end of time (**II Peter 3:9**).

Our Lord isn't late concerning His promise to return. Actually, He is restraining Himself, holding back the end because He doesn't want

anyone to perish. To that end, He is also giving us more time to share the message of salvation with a world that so desperately needs it. We must be faithful during these final moments of the church age. Soon, the night will come when no man can work (**John 9:4**). Until then, we will continue to zealously utilize the resources He has given us. We will also continue to seek for new opportunities of service as doors are opened.

Can we count on your help again this year? Ask our Lord to help you perfect your thinking, your focus, your motives, and your priorities so that we think, act, and focus on Christ... which allows us to accomplish even greater works for our Lord in these last days.



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# Artist Spotlight - The Silence Family

It is our joy to share a little about our ministry, *The Silence Family*, with you all! I (*Breanna Silence*) can testify that while it is always a privilege to worship our Lord, it is an extraordinary blessing to lift my voice in praise alongside my parents, Wayne and Dianna Silence, and sister, Morgann. As a family, we continue to stand amazed at how God has led us through some of the most fearsome valleys for the glory of His name. Our prayer has always been that His Spirit will minister through song and testimony as He continues to perform His perfect work.

Officially *The Silence Family* began in 2002 in a church where both my parents and I began singing regularly. However, for as far back as I can remember, I always knew home meant three things: Jesus, family, and southern gospel music. Whether we were singing along to the Cathedrals in my dad's truck or the Hoppers in our living room, I now recognize God was preparing our hearts even then for a calling we never anticipated.

Upon receiving much encouragement, we began singing for several events outside our church and intentionally seeking to grow our talents. With Dianna singing lead, Wayne singing base and tenor, myself learning alto, and Morgann learning tenor at the age of seven, we recorded our first CD *At Calvary* in 2012. The album is in fact a compilation of the songs most requested by the same people who encouraged us to take the first step of faith in ministry, our church family. It was also during this time and in years to follow that our family would face a series of challenges that would not only refine our faith, but also by God's amazing grace, testify of His unfailing faithfulness to us.

Due to a medical condition that forced my mom to stop singing, *The Silence Family* was suspended as we fought to make it day by day. It would be nearly 3



years before we would be able to sing as a family again. Still, this time was not wasted in the sovereign plan of our Lord. He drew us near to Himself, providing strength for each step and ultimately answering our prayers for healing. In 2016 He opened doors for not just the continuance of our ministry, but expansion throughout North Carolina and South Carolina as we passionately declared the truth: ***“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised” (Hebrews 10:23).***

This message is indeed the heart cry of our second and most recent CD released in 2020, entitled *Forever Faithful*. God richly blessed us to feature four original songs on the album, including “There is Hope” with words and music written by Morgann. Each song holds personal meaning for each of us, testifying to the faithfulness of our Father who is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**). It has been humbling through time to hear the testimonies of others and witness the Spirit's power to ***“restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish”*** His people (**1 Peter 5:10**).

We would consider it an honor to minister within your congregation or community, and we welcome you to find out more information about us by visiting our Facebook page and YouTube channel: *The Silence Family*. In addition, inquiries can be sent via email to [thesilencefamily@outlook.com](mailto:thesilencefamily@outlook.com), or you may contact us by calling 910-330-5291. Most of all, we value your prayers for our ministry, that God would be glorified as we continue to serve with you in the body of Christ.



What in the world is going on? I hear one crazy thing after another. Some situations are even horrific! The news makes you want to weep.

We feel so helpless. The Americans and the Afghan citizens that are Christians or sympathizers to the American people are counting their days. They do not know how long it will be until the Taliban comes after them. And if you are a woman, you do not have a pleasant future. The information is so terrible I cannot even repeat it here. These poor people have so much to complain about and fear.

Our country is in a mess for lack of a better term. So many people refusing to work. They prefer

to have a cushy unemployment check while businesses are begging people to work. When we go to a place of business, we have to wait longer. It is not because their current employees are lazy or incompetent. It is because the businesses can't find anyone who wants to work. Their employees are doing the best they can. The signs on the drive-up window state, *"Please be patient, we can't find anyone to work. These people came to work today."* Several restaurants have not opened their dining room, not because of COVID, but because they don't have enough workers. Others have closed two or three days a week and shortened their hours. Why can't our government open its eyes?

There are other concerns for our country. The list is endless. We have people who do not respect the police force, and they think they are entitled to burn down buildings.

Our government is trying to mandate a vaccine that is still in the experimental stages. If we don't get the shot, we lose our job, unless we work for the CDC. We have working families afraid of losing their jobs so they comply.

Our schools are teaching a false history, and the sad thing is many of our parents don't even know history themselves. Our children are also being polluted by social media. Most forms of media are so slanted the children can't see both

sides. The censorship is extreme. I don't even care if they put on the radical message but put on the conservative message, too.

The truth is foreign to most of us. Our society has been taught to let others do the thinking for them. When we need to know something we "google it." Who controls Google? The liberal left controls all facets of most media. We have found on many occasions when our students turn in papers that much of the information is incorrect, but they have a documented source.

Our government has convinced many people they cannot think for themselves. We are not capable of figuring anything out. Unfortunately, the younger the citizen is the more convinced they are that the government is right. Why can't we figure out that closing down American resources for gas was a bad idea? We now pay extra for gas for our own vehicles, but every company also pays extra for gas to get merchandise to the American people. Can you think of

anything that doesn't require fuel to get to us? Our president thinks the answer is electric cars. I challenge you to come up with why that is a bad idea. I can think of at least five reasons that would be a nightmare. Can you?

I could go on depressing you, but I am sure you are asking me where is the encouragement. Well, we have a lot to be thankful for. These are all pitiful things, but in America, we still have the opportunity to worship God. Yes, I don't know how much longer, but it is still much better than what Christians overseas are going through today. Thank God I am not in danger of being shot in the streets for my faith or defiled by those who are in power. Thank God I have the gift of prayer.

We are so fortunate. No matter how bad we may think we have it, there is someone much worse off. We are blessed to be able to breathe another day, spend time with loved ones, and share the Gospel. Many of the missionaries share their

experiences of persecution with a smile on their face and joy in their hearts, no matter how bad the hardship. Why do we complain and grieve over the smallest problem? Many of us get real upset when we don't have air conditioning. I feel sorry for the people that are working outside on a hundred-degree day, and I am thankful for an indoor job.

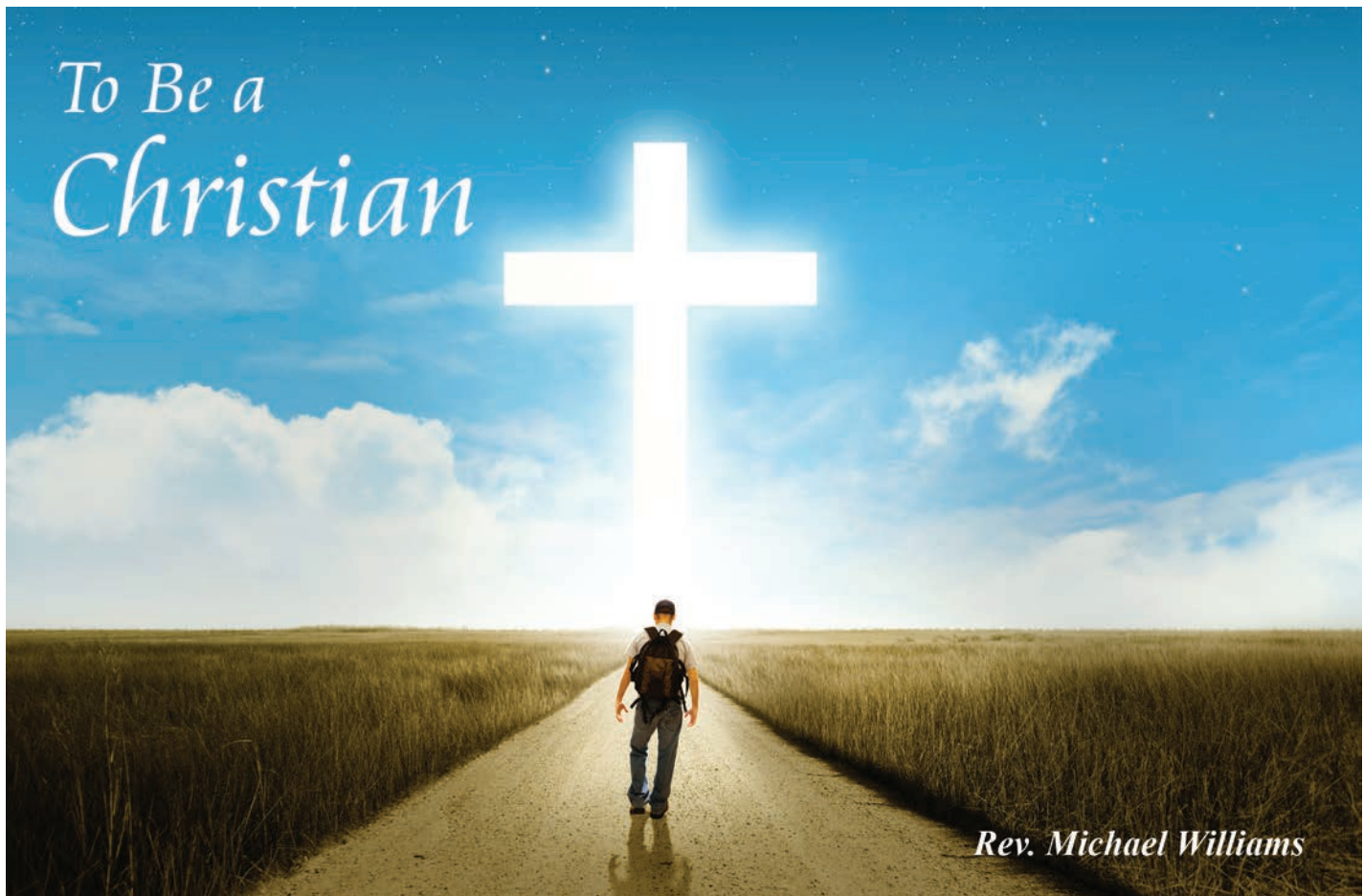
**James 1:2** states, *"...count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Philippians 4:4* states, *"Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice."*

When we look around us and get discouraged, as I often do, we must remind ourselves of these verses. No matter what is going on around us or what comes our way, we should be able to smile and have joy. We may not be happy about the situation we are in, but we can still have that deep joy that only comes from within. Jesus is the author of that kind of joy. And not only that, we should be able to rejoice in the Lord. We should always be able to praise Him for His goodness. The keyword is "always". It doesn't say when the going is easy and convenient, it says all of the time.

Thank you, Lord, that you have given me so many blessings. May I always give you the glory! Let the trials come. You are my sustainer and my everything. Thank you for always loving me.



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



# To Be a Christian

*Rev. Michael Williams*

*“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

**John 3:3**

Biblical students will surely recognize these famous words as part of the discourse between Jesus and Nicodemus. John’s Gospel is the only record of this most profound statement, yet it is the starting point in becoming a Christian. No one can truly become a Christian without experiencing being born again. Let’s take a look at the meaning of being born again and how it is essential to being a Christian.

Since being born again is the first qualification to become a follower of Jesus, it is imperative to define the term born again. Being born again is a spiritual experience. It is truly a spiritual birth. Obviously, this description is certainly not describing a physical human birth. Jesus explains to Nicodemus that one must be born of the Spirit, this spiritual birth is a baptism into a new life. Without experiencing being born

again, no one can understand the things of God or enter into the Kingdom of God (**John 3:5-8**).

For those that have not experienced being born again, it is a mystery. Nicodemus was no exception. In **John 3:4**, he asks the question, “How can anyone be born that has already been born and grown up?” What is this “born again” talk? As said earlier, being born again is a spiritual awakening that can only take place by faith in receiving Jesus Christ as one’s Saviour. This happens when one’s Christian education becomes a reality and the student progresses into a believer of God and His Word. At this point, one begins to have a direct and personal relationship with God! At the very moment of being born again, the Holy Spirit of God begins to reside within the believer. Relationship in its most intimate form between believer and God begins at the point of being born again.

How does one experience being born again? The example of Nicodemus gives us great insight into the difference between religion and being born

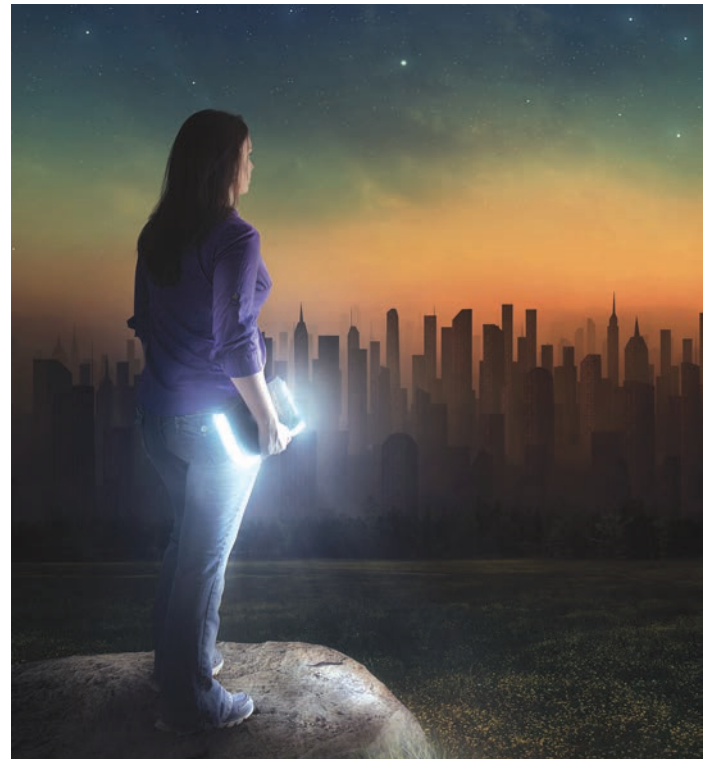
again. Let's begin by saying that Nicodemus was educated in the teaching of the Torah. He was a member of the Pharisee sect and the prestigious Sanhedrin, a religious ruling body of the Jews. In order for him to belong to this group, he would have to be both knowledgeable of Judaism and be a faithful practitioner. He was known to those around him as a respected teacher of Israel. With all of Nicodemus' religious qualifications, he was unable to understand the things that Jesus was sharing with him. This fact is clarified as Jesus engages Nicodemus with the question, ***“Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?”*** (John 3:10)

If religious education and training could produce a spiritual transformation, there would be no need to be born again. Jesus continues to enlighten Nicodemus by saying, ***“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.”*** (John 3:11)

Essentially, Jesus is challenging Nicodemus by saying, *“I'm speaking the truth from experience, things I have seen and done, not giving you secondhand information. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions.”* Nicodemus would come to the understanding that his religious training and position was of no avail in determining spiritual matters.

If we cannot be taught how to be born again, how do we obtain this experience? Our religious training and even reading God's Word cannot produce a born again spiritual transformation! These actions can bring us to the point of knowing we must be born again, but knowing and receiving by faith are two distinctively different experiences. Once a person comes to the knowledge that being born again is essential to becoming a Christian, an action of faith must take place in order to experience this spiritual transformation.

***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”***  
**Ephesians 2:8**



The simplicity of this can confound the wisdom of humanity. Humanity in every age tends to approach this spiritual concept much like Nicodemus. Many will procrastinate and waste precious time trying to achieve being born again by their own means and their own understanding. I cannot stress enough nor am I trying to be redundant when I say that the only way one will accomplish the spiritual transformation and renewal of being born again is to literally receive these words of Jesus by faith!

If it is your heart's desire to become a true disciple of Jesus Christ, please allow these words regarding being born again to become your reality by faith. Understanding what it means to be a Christian begins with a simple action of faith in God's Word. Begin your journey with Jesus today by believing that Jesus is the only name given by which men can be saved (**Acts 4:12**).



*Rev. Michael Williams was in the ministry for over twenty years. A long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio, Pastor Williams has recently been called home to be with our Lord.*

# And Finally...



## My Grandparents...

*My grandfather was such a cool, well-dressed, family man who worked hard all of his life, even as a child. He grew up on a farm where hard work was a part of his daily life. I model my work ethic in my life after him as an entrepreneur. My grandparents passed down that hard work ethic to my mother and ultimately my siblings and me. Through their sacrifices, I saw first-hand what perseverance would achieve if I consistently pursued a goal. I applied this logic first to my approach to college and its challenges, then later on in my adult life. My grandfather was a quiet man and didn't talk much, but as I got older, I realized that he had lived a hard life. Through it all, he managed to keep his family together, and they felt loved.*

**R. D.**

*My maternal grandparents were like a second set of parents, especially my grandfather. He was a rather gruff and boisterous man, but gave some of the best advice and was always there for me, no matter what. My grandfather had a very fiery temper, but had the uncanny ability to cool down in practically a few minutes. He had a razor-sharp sense of wit, was brutally blunt, very family oriented, and passionate about golf. My grandmother is what I'd consider a pretty classic grandmother. She's a great cook, very supportive, sensitive, and sometimes a bit dramatic. I always thought it was funny how she could remain totally calm when I was first learning how to drive, but can and would cry at the drop of hat at pretty much anything else. It always makes me a little sad when I meet people who never got to know their grandparents. I can't imagine what life would've been like without them, and I am eternally grateful for everything they all did and still do for me.*

**A. N.**

*My maternal grandfather was the sun, the moon, and the stars to me. I was his only grandchild, and a girl. I spent every Saturday with him. He would go to the bakery before I got there to get elephant ears and "chocolate swirl bread". We would sit in front of the television watching cartoons and eating breakfast. Then, it was time to walk the dog. We would tell each other jokes. He always had a new joke! We played cards a lot. Lunch was always SpaghettiOs and bottles of coke. Before I would go home, he would give me every single piece of change he had saved all week. I had this wonderful life from the age of 6 until I lost him at the age of 11. I can't smell Old Spice cologne without remembering that house and the man who made me strive to be the awesome grandparent that he was.*

**J. S.**

## "Thank a Farmer"

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

October 12th is Farmer's Day!

Write to us in 150 words or less and give a word of thanks to a farmer you know.

The deadline for submission is September 30, 2021.

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