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PathPointe

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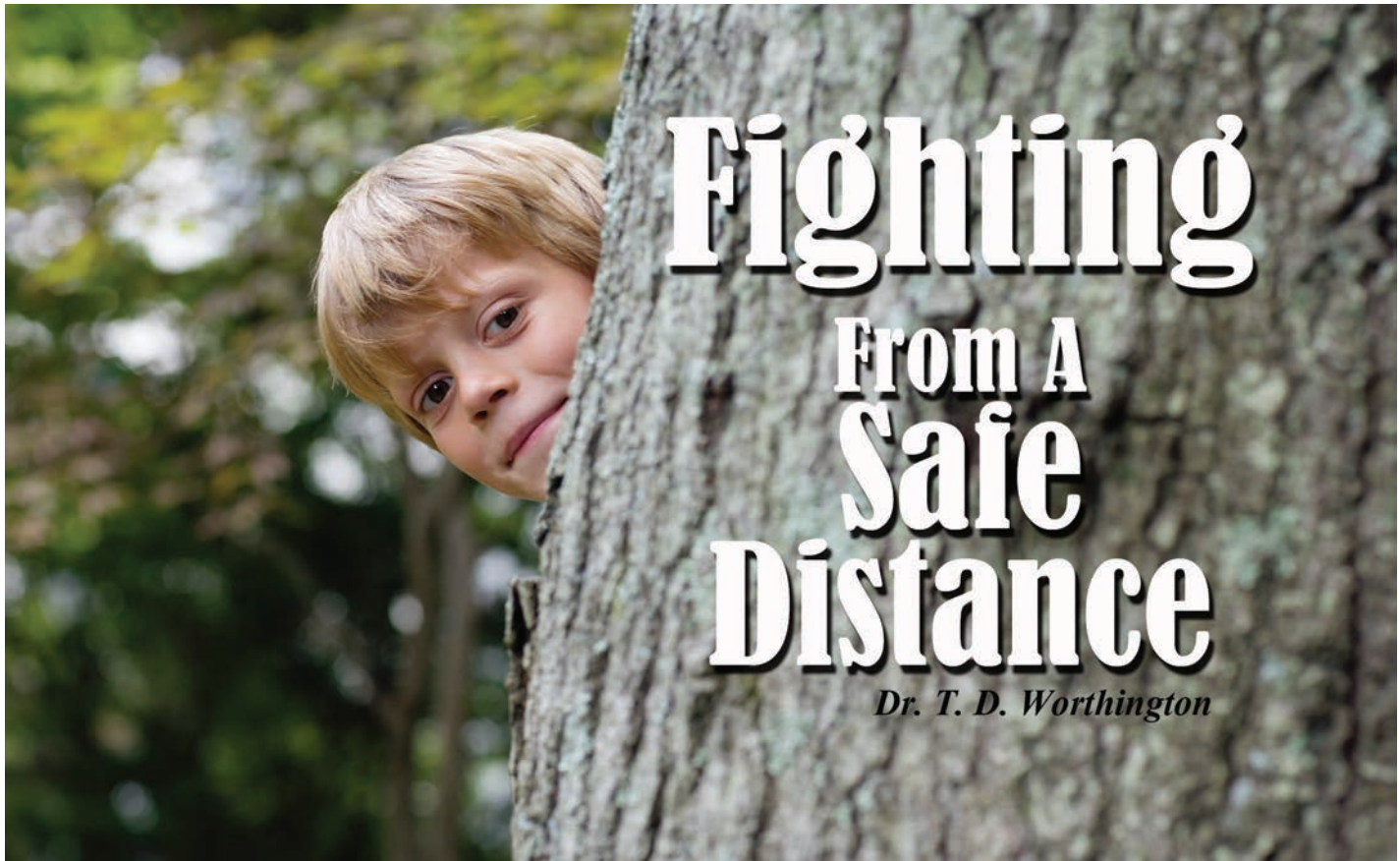
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“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.”

Proverbs 24:10

When I was a kid, I always found it prudent to confront a big bully from a safe distance. My bravery at pointing out the guy was a jerk was best displayed from behind a tree fifty yards away. Such was the courage of a child. Men of courage prefer to confront enemies face to face.

No man longs for small strength. No godly man can stomach the thought of fainting before adversity; faltering when he should otherwise stand firm for his family, his church, and his Lord. In Proverbs, this man gives his son a different charge:

“...to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;”

Proverbs 24:11

He trains his son to be a strong man of God. A man who risks his own comforts to rescue others. A man who exerts his mind, his will, and his heart to restrain those stumbling toward destruction. Every playful sword fight your child fights in the back yard, every dream of battling dragons, every ache of valor, testifies that even fallen man has not completely forgotten his purpose. It's in his blood. Man was created to fight for what is right.

No man wants to be weak; but strength comes at a price. Danger and hardship await those who do not faint. Demons fight those who do not play dead. Men want to be strong, and yet no man wants to suffer, at least not much.

In this modern generation we have devised a plan whereby we can travel the path that seems to be the hard way, but requires nothing but

small strength. One way we do this is to ride our horse triumphantly into yesterday's battlefields, and boldly proclaim, *“If I had been here things would have been different.”* Yeah, right. But, that way you can avoid the dangerous, frightful, unpredictable place of the here and now. We cowardly avoid the place where real bullets are whizzing by, yet we can still make a show of strength by combating the yesterday of adversity.

Students at the University of Virginia desecrated the statue of Thomas Jefferson, the university's founder. Why? He was a slave owner. There have also been calls for the removal of President George Washington's and President Abraham Lincoln's statues. Some have called for the renaming of schools that honor Washington, Jefferson, and 11 other slave-owning presidents. Leftists have called for the renaming of

streets named after slave-owning presidents. There have been many liberal calls for the elimination of Columbus Day. Their success at getting Confederate statues taken down has emboldened them. Of course, right here in North Carolina, Fort Bragg is no longer Fort Bragg. This, to many eyes, has the appearance of courage. But is it? Chesterton, for one, would not be impressed:

“There is not really any courage at all in attacking hoary or antiquated things, any more than in offering to fight one’s grandmother. The really courageous man is he who defies tyrannies young as the morning and superstitions fresh as the first flowers.”

How many of us are tempted to be men who fight grandmothers instead of facing living giants? We all can position ourselves on the right side of history retroactively, instead of putting on the uniform of those drawing fire today. It is easier, of course, to shoot arrows onto a battlefield that has already cooled, at an enemy that has already left. ***“Were I around back then,”*** we boldly proclaim, ***“I would have done thus and thus.”*** We denounce our ancestors’ blind spots but say little about our own.

Today, unlike yesterday, is full of enemies that will strike you back. You can lose face, lose money, lose your job, and more. It is less troublesome to fight those who can’t fight back. Instead of focusing on men who have been dead for centuries, why not use your resources to fight today’s battles instead of attacking what is often a single dimension of our forefathers.

Why don’t we stand against China and other countries that still practice slavery today? Why not stand against Islamic cultures that execute homosexuals? Instead of blasting Washington, why not go to China and blast Chairman Mao? Why? Because you are a coward and you know they would fight back!

Feigning ignorance of the real evils of our times, though convenient, will not absolve us. The king continues,

“If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?”
Proverbs 24:12

God knows the characteristic sins of every crooked and twisted generation. He knows well our current abominations. And more

than that, God knows we know about them too. He knows, for example, we are murdering our children at the altar of the goddess called choice. And some shouting down our grandfather’s evils are also the loudest advocates for this generation’s more heinous abominations. Standing before the judgment seat of God, we can say we did not care, but none can say we did not know.

Being men of great strength for today’s challenges will require us to be willing to fight where the battle rages, to be ready to suffer for the truth, and to live with Christ, without the comfort of being welcomed in the world. The foe we fail to meet at the gate in our own generation is the foe that will reign over our children in the next. Fail to show up on compromise, marriage, manhood and womanhood, and sexuality today, and the camp will be overrun tomorrow.





Where the battle rages is where the loyalty of the soldier is proved. It is here, before Pharaoh's courts, that God commands us, ***“Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh.”*** Our Founders had decisions to make. Most were good, some could have been better, but God gives us the sobering task of destroying *this* generation's lies.

You might imagine the heroes of yesterday were loved by their contemporaries. Some were; many were not. Charles Spurgeon said, ***“We admire a man who was firm in the faith, say four hundred years ago, but such a man today is a nuisance, and must be put down.”*** We love our heroes like many love lions, in the zoo and at a safe distance.

C.S. Lewis wrote, ***“They that know have grown afraid to speak. That is why sorrows that used to purify now only fester.”*** In every day of adversity, sorrows fester when men who know the truth grow afraid to speak. When they faint,

when they grow weary, hopeless, unwilling, listless, the vulnerable and victimized are not rescued. Evil gains a foothold.

No man longs for small strength. But then again, who among us loves so deeply, believes so fiercely, trusts Christ so unshakably that he will not — *cannot* — faint with so much at stake? Today, souls will be lost. Today, children will be murdered. Today, Satan launches assaults on the church, and blinds the minds of unbelievers from the glory of Christ. Today is the only day we have, and today, not tomorrow, is the day of salvation. We are living in a dangerous time. Will we fight today's battles or just hurl our accusations against those who fought in the battles of old? Will we speak, or let sorrows fester? We were born again to fight battles, to extend God's kingdom, to war with devils.

Dozens of counties, hundreds of municipalities, a state, and our nation's capital have all been named

after George Washington. There are countless statues, monuments, and memorials to Washington all around the country. Think of the millions of individuals that still think this imperfect man is worthy of being remembered. So, here you come, like a coward fighting from a safe distance. Arriving on the battlefield 250 years later, but you want to be remembered too. So, as a mouse you stand in judgement of men. I wonder, my liberal friend, did you have ancestors that lived back then? If so, why didn't they make a stand?

Our society, our families, our churches will not survive without us; without men molded to be good soldiers for such a time as this.



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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Clinton Update and More!

During our *Spring Share-A-Thon*, we announced plans to establish a new radio station in Clinton, N.C. Although these plans are still underway, equipment delays have pushed the on-air date beyond what we originally predicted. Sadly, many parts needed to complete this project are no longer made in America. Not only has the quality of these products decreased, but the time it takes to actually receive the equipment has increased.

This past year, we had to order a new transmitter for one of our stations. It took an astonishing nine

months to receive the new equipment. We've been waiting for months to make simple repairs to parts needed for other locations as well.

Amid all the delay, we are excited about another opportunity the Lord has sent our way. You may have noticed we now have a fourth option called "*GoMix Early Light Classic Praise & Worship*" under the **Listen Live Banner** on our website, www.gomixradio.org. Our listeners who live in the Greenville, Washington, and New Bern areas will also be able to listen to **WGML 88.1FM**. It is not our intention to divide our current Southern Gospel congregation, but rather we hope to reach a new audience with these classic inspirational songs from the past. These are songs which lift up the name of Jesus with a slightly different flavor

than our traditional Southern Gospel mix.

Although our suppliers are doing the best they can, the delays are still frustrating. Yet, while we wait, we are trying to redeem the time and reach more people with the message of hope. Please pray that our Lord might intervene so our work can go forth in these last days. We humbly thank you for your encouragement and understanding.



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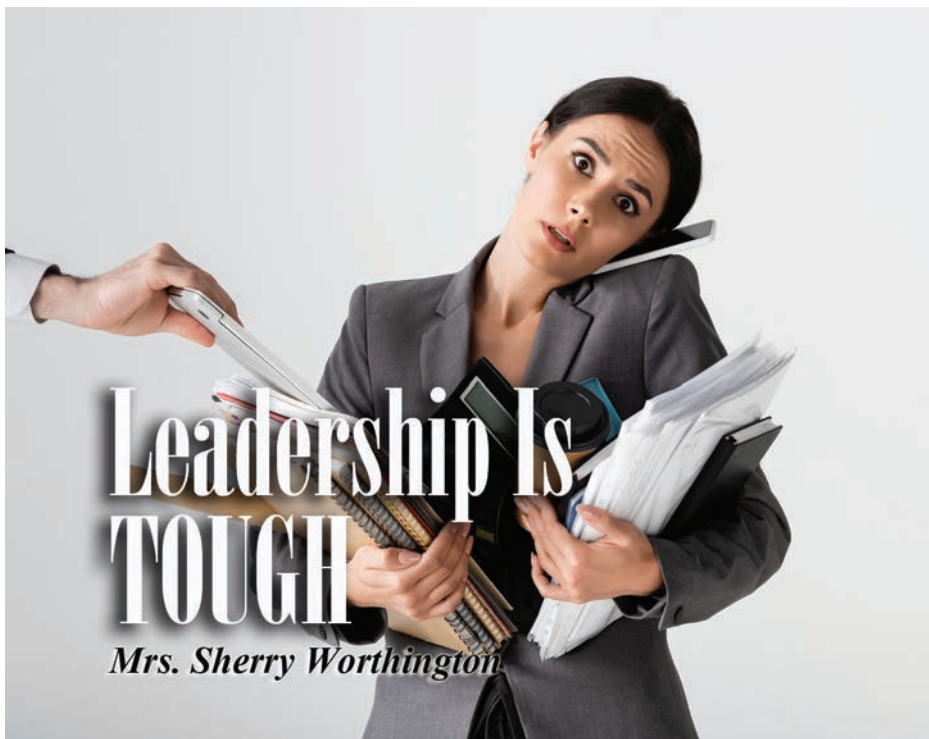
If You Were King

Think about it for a moment. If you were king of the land, and let's assume you did not embrace all the doctrines of Christianity, wouldn't it make your job easier if your people paid their bills, didn't steal, treated their neighbors with respect, and were hard working people of integrity? Honorable people don't need a lot of rules. Honorable people govern themselves. As king, you could just sit back and sip lemonade. On the other hand, immoral people, like rebellious children, need rules, regulations, and boundaries to keep them in order. This seems to be a big part of what we have lost in America today.

We are thankful that our country overall remains a place where Christians *"...may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty,"* as Paul

wrote in **I Timothy 2:2**. That kind of peace and quiet is what the Founders of our great land hoped for when they adopted the First Amendment's guarantee of free exercise of religion.

So, here is our challenge: We must always walk in legitimate truth. You might find it in accurate history books, science books, or in the instructions for putting a table together. If it is truth, then walk in it. However, we must not forget that the **Word of God** is the perfect truth. It is a truth that has been proven over the years. Such is the truth we share every day here at **GoMix Christian Radio**. The Word teaches that if you walk in this truth, you will prosper. In God's Word, you will find what you are searching for, and it may be as easy as turning on your radio.



As a teenager, I was in positions of leadership. I was a leader in my youth group, I had my own bus route, and I was a lead puppeteer at my church. In all of these situations, I was still under an adult's watchful eye. If something went wrong, it was not my responsibility to figure out what to do next. If the bus broke down, I did not have to find a way to fix it.

When I married Thurman, the definition of leadership changed for me. Thurman became the pastor of *Pathway Baptist Church* and we started *Pathway Christian Academy*, so my responsibilities rose to a new level. As a mother, I was used to the responsibility of leading my children and keeping my home in order. But now, I was responsible to lead other people, and I was responsible for their spiritual guidance. Besides being a wife and mother, I was a pastor's wife and a leader in a fledgling school. I knew we had very little money coming in, and our teachers were working for their children's tuition. I had to

show confidence in the future and God's ability to provide. I could not show my doubts, and I had to be strong.

My husband often reminded me that a general cannot show fear during a battle. His soldiers would become afraid and lose confidence in the battles to come. We were like generals in God's army, although I felt like a private. I was having to learn so much so fast. I read a couple of John Maxwell's books on leadership along with studying some leaders in the Bible. I also learned a tremendous amount from my husband, but the greatest lessons I learned were from my mistakes.

For example, I learned that even though I was upset, I must show confidence in the Lord's ability to work things out. There were so many times that I faced this type of situation. As a parent, when our children were sick or had been injured, I had to show them a calm face of assurance. I

remember when our son fell on his bicycle, and his stomach began to swell. I was terrified that he may have been seriously injured. I put on a confident face, although I was afraid on the inside. He was not seriously injured, just bruised. When my parents were very sick and the doctors had said their time on earth was short, I had to find ways to be encouraging and make their remaining days as pleasant as possible. I fixed their favorite foods and tried to find ways to make them smile. There have been many occasions when I had to put on a confident face and have tried to share encouraging words in different relationships.

The most challenging time as a principal at *Pathway Christian Academy* was when Hurricane Matthew came through, and the academy flooded. When I saw the aerial pictures, I cried many tears, but it was in private. I knew this one was going to be tough. Fortunately, I had many opportunities to face my fears and to control my emotions before this flood. I had learned that as a leader I could not let my emotions be in control. I had to let Christ lead through me. We knew when our staff saw the school for the first time, we had to have a plan. The expense was going to be great, the work was going to be hard, our students had to have a place to go while we rebuilt, and we had to show a positive attitude and confidence in the future. There were times when my heart was heavy, but we pressed on. The academy was rebuilt, and the students came back to their school. We finally paid off the debt from Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence a couple of years ago. It took about six years,

but we did it with God's leading through my husband and generous contributions from friends and family of Pathway.

In so many instances in the last 30 years, I have made so many mistakes. There is no way to recall all of them, but I will share about one situation. When I first began to work at the academy, I was told by Mrs. Hughes, my predecessor, "You realize half of what you do this year will be a mistake." When I heard that, I honestly felt she didn't know what she was talking about. By the end of the year, I was a believer. I would tell the parents everything their children did and my opinions of what they did. I learned quickly that most parents cannot handle unbridled truths about their children nor should I tell them every infraction. I made a lot of people mad because of this. I learned I must tread softly. I can only cover one thing at a time. I must always be kind and thoughtful with my delivery. One set of girls wanted to sing "Friends" at graduation that first year. I refused because all they had done was fuss and fight all year. It was constant drama. Well, the parents became angry because I was judgmental, and the girls did not return the next year. I was unkind and thoughtless. I learned that not all truth has to be told, sometimes I am not right, and sometimes I keep it to myself. Fortunately, I have learned to work with people and control my tongue a lot better. There is always room for improvement.

As a leader, I must remember that people are counting on me. My husband needs me to be by his side and support him in all that he

does. I need to be his sounding board and speak up when I see something that he doesn't. God gave us each other for a reason. My children were counting on me to be their mom. When they were younger, they needed my love and support, but they also needed me not to be afraid to tell them no and make them mad. It was more important to teach character than to be their buddy. Now that they are grown, they need a friend who will love and help guide them through



the unknown. As a teacher, my students are counting on me to be there and teach them about God along with their academics and character lessons. As the principal, my staff needs someone to love and care for them, but someone unafraid to point out ways they can improve and teach them from my own mistakes. People in our ministry depend on my husband and me for their paychecks. God is the Provider, but we are the tool he is using. We must continually seek ways to spread the Gospel and grow the ministry so that we can continue to be the conduit from which it flows. As a pastor's wife, if someone doesn't do it, I get the opportunity to serve. I have taught Sunday school classes and served in the nursery many times because no one else was available or able. It is my responsibility and privilege

to check on the elderly ladies and the sick. The responsibilities are endless when you are a leader.

As a leader, your work never ends. I never stop thinking about one area of my responsibilities or another. Your mission doesn't stop when you clock out for the day. There is work to be done all the time. No matter when or where, there is always a problem brewing. The desire to fix the problem is always prevalent. Some problems are easier to solve than others. It may be as simple as running to the store to pick up an item we need or building a stand for the air conditioner unit. Some problems are more difficult. Whether it is a student issue or a family issue, the people problems are the most difficult to fix, especially when the person doesn't want the issue to be fixed. The most daunting thing about leadership is that you are an example to everyone that follows you. They are looking for an example of how they should live their lives. Jesus Christ is the true example, but we are the flesh and blood on this earth. **Philippians 3:17** says we are to be ensamples to all of God's children and lead others to Him. Leadership has been one life lesson after another. I am still learning and will be learning about leadership until I am in the grave. Each stage of life brings new problems and challenges, and we must learn to face them as God would have us to.



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



Blessed. Broken. Blessed.

Dr. Glenn Mills

“And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.”

Matthew 14:19

Whether we like it or not, God has a strange way of doing things when He wants to do something great in our lives. My first point being, God can still make something out of nothing, and even more with just a little. On two occasions, Jesus fed a multitude. Once with five loaves and two fishes, and at another time with seven loaves and some fish. God most always has a process for how He does things. Please allow me to explain in more detail.

Before Jesus did the miracles of increase, He had all the people be seated. I believe He put them in a position to receive. How often is it we don't receive what God desires for us because we are too busy or trying to stand on our own? Like Mary, we must be eager to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn. I'm sure we would receive more if we would learn to wait on the Lord and His Holy Spirit. Waiting is not idleness, but more so worship, praise, study, meditation, and prayer while we seek God's direction.

Once God has our attention, He often blesses us by first breaking us. What I mean by this is God sees the things that often hinder our promotion or next level in the Spirit. It may be a bad attitude, a seed of bitterness, pride, hidden sin, some level of rebellion, or even deep-rooted doubt. He knows before we can go farther, we must first go deeper and not only be honest with ourselves, but also be honest with Him. The Bible says the person who covers their sin will not prosper. Well, hidden sin is not the only thing we hide that can affect us in a negative way.

Believe me when I say we are not alone. In Bible history, God blessed many by breaking them open first. Such as David's murder, Gideon's insecurity, Joshua's uncertainty, Samson's arrogance, Elijah's fear, Jonah's anger, Peter's denial, Zacchaeus' greed, Saul/Paul's ignorance, the Disciples lack of faith, and the list could go on. All through the Bible, God blessed people by breaking them first so He could then bless and use them even more.

Once we are broken of the things that hurt and hinder us, then we are ready to move on into the destiny God has planned for us. We must be willing to die to our selfish nature, take up our cross and follow Jesus (**Matthew 16:24**). Dying to self allows God to break the chains

of the things that would hold us back. His desire is to promote us and in no way hurt us. Thank God, He knows what we need and when we need it. Once we are blessed by being broken, then He can bless us with wholeness. Then in our weaknesses, He is made strong. The joy of our Lord becomes our strength. Peace calms our minds and waters our souls.

Not only are we then blessed by brokenness, but those around us get blessed from the overflow. All through the Bible, once God broke someone, they became a better person which impacted those around them for the good. The Bible is full of victory stories of those broken, then made whole. They then did great things with and for God. Once whole again, our gifts, talents, and service touch the lives of those we meet and know. Lives are transformed by the transformation we allow God to first perform in us.

Is there something that may need to be broken in you, my friend? If so, I pray you will allow God to bless you by breaking you so you can be made whole and be a blessing to others. Allow the Holy Spirit to examine your heart. There are many blessings prepared for those willing to be broken for the Master's purpose.



Dr. Glenn Mills is a long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio and a full-time Evangelist with the Glenn Mills Ministries. www.glennmillsministries.com

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Remind Me, Lord

Have you ever wondered how your life would be different if you had a consistent awareness of God's indwelling presence? I am sometimes frustrated by how easy it is to go about living life without giving any thought to His constant presence. How easy it is to overlook the fact that He accompanies me everywhere I go and knows my every thought! We become preoccupied with the responsibilities that we have each day; and in carrying those out, our minds stray from remembering the God Who is with us.

A conscious acknowledgement of God's indwelling equips us to fight temptation more successfully. The realization that God is present when we sin and that every sin is ultimately a sin against God Himself serves as a deterrent to sinful behavior. Focusing on Him causes the tempter to flee, giving us victory over every temptation.

When we face difficulty or trials along life's way, our recognition of God's presence increases faith and hope, and it brings peace and comfort. He will not allow any occurrence in our lives without a purpose and without His continuous support.

Awareness of God's presence reminds us to seek His guidance. Whether it involves crucial decisions or seemingly insignificant decisions, God is always willing and waiting to be called upon for guidance.

God's habitation in our lives empowers us to do His will. Constant communication with Him allows us to know His will on a continuous basis. Knowing that He is with us helps us to overcome fear in witnessing. His presence helps us overcome weariness in serving Him when our human strength is spent. When we feel too tired to attend church or do some work for God, He will give us enabling strength until the task is complete.

When we are cognizant of His constant company, we are prompted to offer our praise to Him. Because we are never alone, we praise Him for being a constant Friend. He helps us notice blessings that we would overlook without the realization of His presence. As a normal reaction to recognizing His blessings, we offer our praise to Him.

Our fellowship with Him is sweeter when we experience His constant presence. Taking Him on a walk with us helps us notice His creation and praise His majesty and wisdom. Taking Him to work increases our productivity and accentuates our testimony. Taking Him to church helps Him communicate with us better as we participate in the service. Taking Him to sleep each night gives us better rest. Continuous fellowship with Him teaches us the meaning of praying without ceasing.

"Thank you, Lord, for Your promise to be with me always. Remind me when I forget that You are with me."

What difference could constant acknowledgement of His unfailing residence make in your life? Ponder that!



Mrs. Peters has two children and resides in Princeton, NC. She serves as an instructor at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.

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Mrs. Connie Peters



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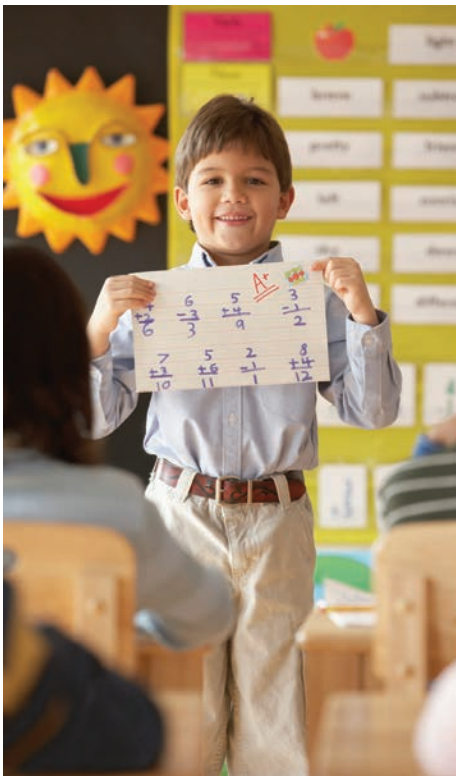
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