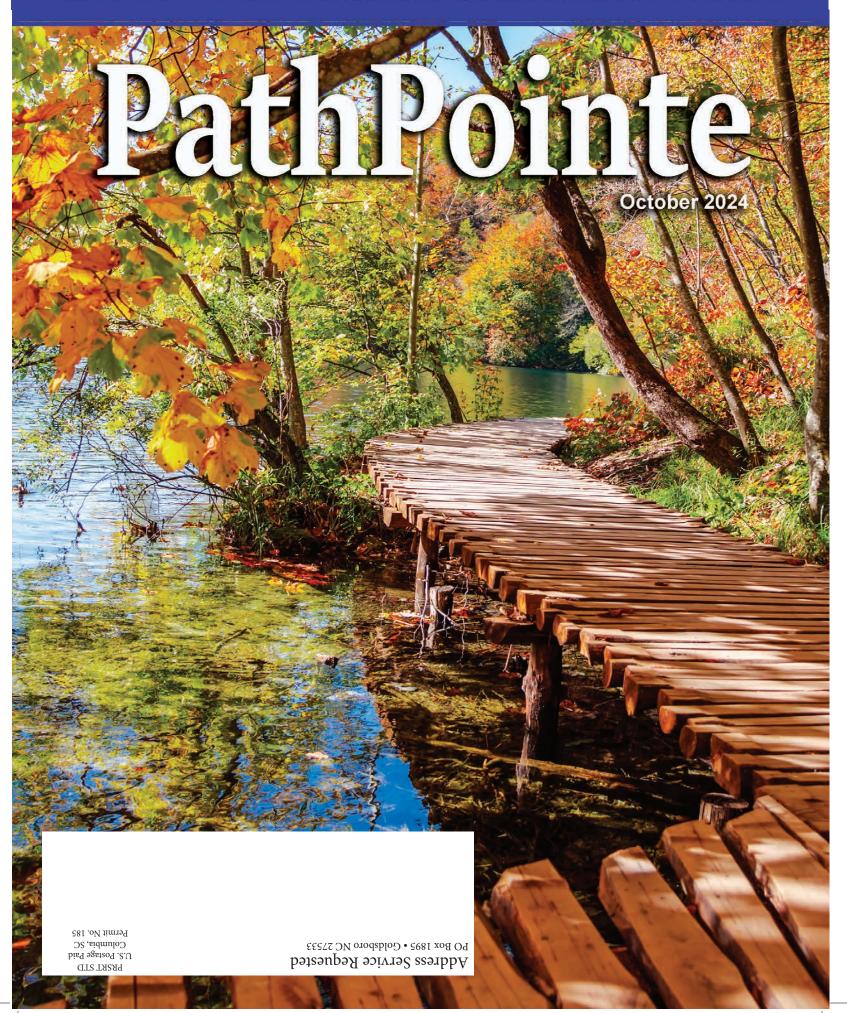
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President and Publisher: Dr. T. D. Worthington Editor: Tiffany W. Johnson Advertising Director: Ashley W. Lovett Contributors: Tiffany Johnson, Glenn Mills, Connie Peters, and Sherry Worthington PathPointe Magazine PO Box 1895 Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895

PathPointe Magazine

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I guess I'm old fashioned, but I like to have a spare tire. The last minivan we bought a few years back didn't have one. It didn't even have a jack. Although it was a new car, all Chrysler gave us was a can of "Fix-a-Flat." They mentioned it was a measure to cut back on space and weight so it would meet federal fuel economy standards.

Well, I know it will do in a pinch, but I don't care much for "Fix-a-Flat." It may be okay for your wheel barrow or loan mower, or even for emergency use on your car, but I personally don't care for it. It often will mess up your tire sensors. If it does temporarily stop the leak, it makes it very hard for your mechanic to find the puncture. It also doesn't always last very long. Of course, I am sure it is a great

product when used for its intended design. It just wasn't designed to be a permanent solution. So, a quick fix may have a place, but a permanent solution is a lot better. A quick fix meets the pressing need of the moment and temporarily controls the problem. A permanent solution seeks to eliminate the problem. Personally, I don't care for addressing the same problem over and over.

Now, I think that is why many of us have so many problems in so many different areas of our lives. We've been looking for the quick fix while ignoring real solutions. It's like overspending each month until we max out our credit cards. We all may have been guilty of that at one time or another; emergencies do come our way. But most folks

learn pretty quickly, that this is not a permanent solution to a financial problem. Sooner or later your quick fix is going to blow up in your face.

I remember back in the late 1960s and early 1970s the United States had a huge grain surplus and our grain storage facilities were full. Farmers growing grain crops could not sell their crops for enough money to cover the cost of production. So, the government proposed a solution. They would instruct all the farmers not to grow grain for one year. Then they would take the surplus grain already in storage and sell it on the world market. Next, they planned to use the funds from the grain sales to pay the farmers for what they would have made had they grown their crops. The plan

would be completed when they returned to normal production the following year.

On the surface, that sounded like a simple and quick-fix to a big problem. But, it wasn't. Pretty soon the seed industry informed the government that it could not survive a year with no seed sales. Then, the fertilizer dealers in the affected areas began to inform the government that they could not survive a year with no fertilizer sales. Soon, other companies and industries began to chime in about the damage that would be done. Lesson to be learned: It is always dangerous to oversimplify the problem, or a solution.

The concept of the "quick fix" is very popular in our society today. I suppose there are many reasons that make the quick fix look very appealing.

First, there is our view of time. Today, people value time more than they value money. We are fanatics when it comes to saving time. Why fix it right when a quick fix can be done in half the time? It is like ripping the top off weeds instead of digging up the roots. It may be quicker, but over the long term you will just have more trouble.

Second, there is our pace of life. We don't think we can work a permanent solution into our schedule, so a quick fix becomes necessary. Almost everyone is living too fast and trying to do too much. We are so over committed that modern families do not average eating a single meal together at the same time, at the same table, during the average week.

Third, we are impatient. All of us are amazingly contradictory. We complain about the pace of life being too fast, and agree that everyone is too busy - "things need to slow down." But, what happens when we get in line at the drive-up window? Do we still want everyone to just slow down? Yeah...me neither!

We jump head-first into things because thinking them through takes too much time and effort. I often look at folks and think, "have you really thought this thing through?" I know these are intelligent people, so why do they keep on making these stupid decisions? Sometimes it seems like our commitment to the quick fix transports itself to every area of our lives.

For example, we demand a quick fix to our relationship problems. If being your friend starts requiring too much effort, then I don't need your friendship anymore. Frankly, you are just too much trouble.

We demand a quick fix in our marriages. We expect things to turn around fast, or else. Why look for long term solutions when I can just say I'm sorry and buy her flowers every couple of months?

We have learned at the Academy that people want a quick fix with their kids. Many are not interested in long term solutions regarding behavior or academics, they just want a quick fix.

That leads to an interesting question: is Christianity a "quick fix" religion? Through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, Christianity provides an immediate solution for the sins of the individual. It destroys the past and current guilt of the believer who comes to Christ by providing him or her with immediate forgiveness. I am immediately baptized into the body of Christ. It certainly didn't take the repentant thief long to get things straight.

But salvation just begins our relationship with God. This is just the beginning of our new life in Christ. This is just the process of being born and only produces a spiritual infant; regardless of their chronological age. From that moment forward, the person must be spiritually growing, developing, and maturing in Maturing in Christ is Christ. a slow process that involves time, experience, and learning. Spiritual maturity is not a "quick fix".



Christianity is a permanent solution to a big problem, but at its depth, it is not a quick fix solution. It is impossible for a person to go from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity quickly. Just as a child cannot reach adult life without living through the years, neither can a Christian reach spiritual maturity without going through a period of growth.

On top of that is the fact that it may take years for some people to come to the Lord in the first place. Sure, it would be nice to find a quick way to convince people to get saved, but I haven't found one. I have been praying for some people nearly fifty years, and they still are not saved.

This is also true of backslidden Christians. They need to get right with the Lord. They should do it quickly, but often they don't. It can take a lot of time and prayer and fasting before the Lord can finally get their attention. The changes we seek in the hearts, minds, and lives of people are faith changes that change the person, from the inside out. And that is seldom a quick fix.

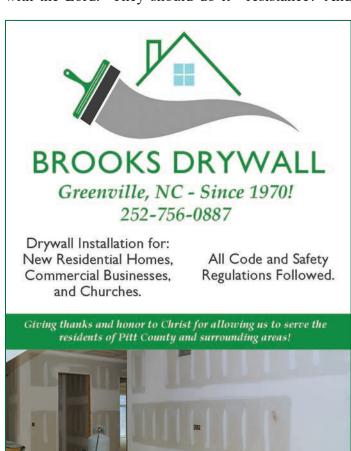
May I ask you, what's one thing in your life, if it were fixed right now, just might transform everything else? Perhaps it is your marriage, or perhaps it is financial, or maybe it is your career, your attitude, your laziness, or your bitterness. Maybe you have tried to fix these things, but you have not been successful yet. Could it be, maybe it's not, but could it be because you keep looking for the quick-fix, the easy answers, the path of least resistance? And then you continue

to do that because a permanent solution just requires too much effort.

So many "quick fix" decisions made for short-term gain, have devastating ramifications. can leave some deep wounds and ugly scars in the long run. Often, we shake our fist and wonder why our circumstances are so terrible, instead of understanding that if we make foolish or selfish choices, instead of seeking permanent solutions, we will often end up with devastating consequences.



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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Our fund drives are not just a time of raising finances, they have also proven to be a time of reaping a harvest of joy, favor, abundance, and answered prayers. This is the season when all of us have the special privilege to plunge into



God's inexhaustible storehouse and receive until the need is met. God is prepared to bless, but we must be prepared to receive.

Of course, the harvest season does not last forever. I know many of us will be glad when **Share-A-Thon** is over, however when the fund drive ends, so will the reminders to give. All the encouragement to step out in faith and help us reach others with the message of Christ will come to an end. You will no longer be reminded of the opportunity you have to make a real difference in someone's life. Perhaps that is a good thing, or perhaps we need those reminders. One thing is for sure: If we fail to reach some souls in time, it will be too late.

Is the purpose of harvest only for the growth and future of *GoMix*

Christian Radio? Of course not. There is a much larger purpose - a purpose beyond our own lives. The ultimate purpose of harvest is for all of us to learn to trust God to meet our need as we accept our responsibility to share the message of Christ.

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He's Got To Be Joking!

God has a sense of humor. He has to! He helped one guy (Samson) defeat a whole army of Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey. In another instance, He used a donkey to speak literal words of truth to Balaam (Numbers 22).

There is a reel circulating on social media of a girl holding her phone while walking on a neighborhood sidewalk. She makes the comment, "God's got jokes today," and you can't help but chuckle along with her as you watch the short video. She says she was just praying to the Lord as she was walking and telling Him that she really needed a "hand today." About that moment, she looked down on the sidewalk to see a tiny baby-doll hand without the baby-doll attached. The small, plastic hand had to be no more than an inch or so long and sat clear as day in the middle of the white sidewalk. Her next comment as she laughed was, "Lord, You're trying to be funny. You know that's not what I had in mind."

As you open and read the comments from other viewers, you read story after comical story of

the ways God answers prayers and often gives us glimpses into the lighter side of His personality.

No, He may not always answer our prayers quite the way we think is best. There may even be times when we question the answer He gives and we think to ourselves, "He's got to be joking. This can't be the answer!" But even in those times when things seem hard and don't go as expected, take comfort in the fact that He's there and He's involved. If He cares enough to put a little baby-doll hand in the middle of the sidewalk just to make you smile and brighten your day (along with thousands of others you shared that story with), how much more is He involved with the "bigger" needs you have? Oh, how amazed we'd be if we only knew!

So, does God "got jokes?" He sure does! Those "jokes" are just another way of showing just how much He loves us and cares about our day-to-day struggles.



Have you ever gotten a song stuck in your head? It is a frustrating experience. When my children were little, it was the kiddie songs from TV or something as simple as "Itsy Bitsy Spider." Those are so much better than "Who Let the Dogs Out." Talking about a brainless activity. "Who let the dogs out, woof, woof?" Ugh!

It is like a recorder in your head on a continuous rewind cycle. Sometimes it can be a problem I am facing, and I can't seem to stop thinking about it. If I am honest, it has turned into worrying. I keep giving it to the Lord and taking it back. I am a fixer by nature. I want my family, friends, and ministry to be running smoothly, like a well-oiled machine. But as we all know, that seldom happens.

Some things in everyone's life present challenges and even pain. It seems that everyone around me is having their share of heartache including myself. I know people who have a terminal illness, lost loved ones at an early age and lost jobs. They are experiencing

financial troubles, rebellious children, marital difficulties, and hardship from every direction. I look around this world and wonder if it will get any better, but we all know the answer to that question.

But I am a Christian and my faith is not in this world. I have a wonderful Lord, and He is always with me, so why do I let it get me down? I sought the Lord in this matter because, like you, I had become discouraged and tired. When I awoke one morning, a song was going through my head. It was the strangest thing.

Every morning when I awoke, the song was going through my head. Every time I awoke in the night, it was going through my head. In the afternoon, it was going through my head. It was one of those songs that just wouldn't go away. It has been about three weeks now since the song has been on my mind constantly. Soon after it started, I realized it was not just a song stuck in my head. As far as I can remember, I hadn't heard this song in years. It is a worship song, and I

believe the Lord put it there. Then I began to try to figure out why He put it there.

Make Me Like You, Lord Make me like You, Lord. Please make me like You. You are a servant, make me one too.

Lord, I am willing.
Do what You must do.
To make me like You, Lord.
Please make me like You.

[C]1978 Jimmy & Carol Owens

I was honestly perplexed. I asked the Lord, what are You trying to teach me, Lord. I thought I was a servant. I thought I was doing pretty good at serving honestly. I thought my whole life was centered around serving. I could not figure out what He was trying to teach me. I ran into a dear friend I had not seen in a while. I have always admired her walk with the Lord. She has so many ways she could question God, but she never seems to. She shows His love to all who know her. I talked to her about the song. She told me perhaps the Father was trying to encourage me.

I needed to keep doing what I was doing and stay on the right track. I could only hope that was what it was. Maybe it has a dual meaning. Perhaps it is not a reprimand but a source of encouragement.

I kept praying and thanking God for His encouragement, but I felt there was more. I realized that He does encourage His children in ways that we don't always see. Sometimes it is just a simple hug from a friend or loved one. On occasions, I have received notes of gratitude at just the right time. So, I began to look deeper. Lord, what are You trying to teach me?

I began to look at the words of the song. What is a servant? The dictionary definition that fits best for a Christian is someone submissive to the wishes of another. We also know in the Scripture we are to put others above ourselves and our needs and wants should be last. God will take care of those for us. Philippians 2:3 states, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves." We also know that in many verses the Bible teaches us the first shall be last and the last shall be first. I was still perplexed. Lord, I know these things. It must be the "Make me like You" part You are trying to teach me.

Lord, I am willing! Oh-that part. Am I really willing? Am I willing to experience His tears, am I willing to experience His pain, am I willing to experience His heart, and am I willing to have His heart? Am I willing to completely depend on Him? When things aren't going as planned and I feel I can't go on, am I willing to trust Him? Am I willing to say God has this? Am I willing to be like Him?

What is involved in the words, "Make me like You." Am I really willing to experience all that would come with really saying those words? What would that mean? It would mean that every



decision, every emotion, every want or desire, would be filtered through "Make me like You."

I finally got it! I have a long way to go, but perhaps by realizing I don't always die to self (Mark 8:35) in my desires and wants, it puts me a little closer to the mark. To fix a problem, you have to realize you have one. I also know we are expected to be His messengers on this earth. We are to be like the disciples and the prophets of old and do all we can to further and protect the cause of Christ. But we must leave the results to Him.

Yes, I grow weary of the physical, mental, and emotional strains of life just as you do. But I must strive to be like Him and look at this world through His eyes. I must not be selfish and think of my own struggles, but the condition of a lost and dying world. I must do what I can to help my family, friends, ministry, and the lost and dying world that depends on my faithfulness. To be a servant, I must be more like Him.

Yes, I must be like Him. The command to seek God first is paramount. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33.

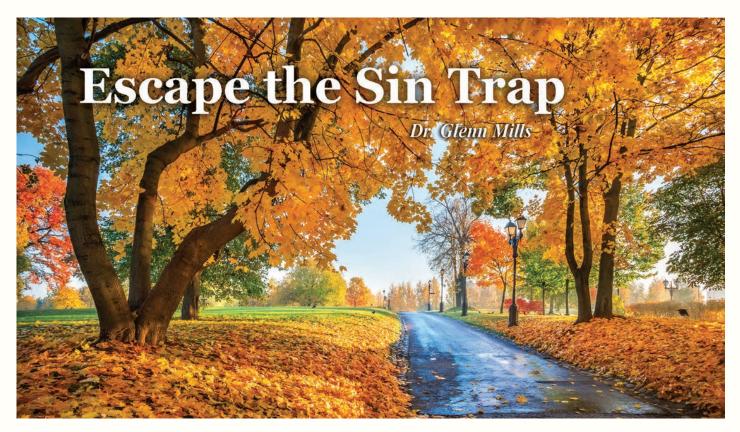
In verses 31-32, the Lord tells us not to worry about our needs because our Lord knows them all. So if I seek His Kingdom and all the things that entails, God is going to take care of me. How could it be plainer? God always does what is best for His Kingdom if I allow Him, too. He

is not going to surpass my free will. But if I allow Him to make me more like Him by serving Him selflessly, I will become more like Him.

How about you? Are you willing to become more like Christ? Will you undertake the challenge with me? The only way possible is to be His servant and be more like Him. After all, He is the greatest servant of all.



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



"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:6

Over many years of ministry, I can remember counseling people who felt defeated by the sin in their lives. They loved God, but for some reason they kept going back to their sin. I did not in any way doubt their love for God or their commitment to live as holy as possible. It just seemed the harder they tried, the more they failed. To make matters worse, I have often found myself as one of these broken people.

I know the Bible plainly states we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory and His perfect, divine nature. As a young believer, I was encouraged when I learned that even the Apostle Paul dealt with the issue of our sin nature. This is what he was referring to when he says he did those things he did not want to do, while not doing the things he really desired to do. He later explains how that mindset was changed in his life (which we will cover in a moment).

In **Romans 7**, Paul talks about two forces at work in us: the flesh nature (old man) and the spirit nature (new creation). Sin was not a problem until we came to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. His blood paid the price for our sin, but did not remove its influence

towards our flesh. While the penalty of sin is paid, the problem of sin remains. This is where people struggle the most. They desire to live holy before God, but feel shame and guilt when sin hinders them. So where is the freedom we have in Christ?

When God created man, He gave him something that would prove to be for man's good or bad. With it, men have in many ways changed the world for good. But some have also used it to bring great destruction and pain. This thing God put within man has propelled many to new heights and great achievements. Nations have risen when this thing was applied, and fallen when it was neglected. It still guides us today in almost every area of our lives if we will but practice it. What is this thing that can impact us so greatly? It is called, "focus."

Paul went on to tell us that God gives us Someone to help keep us focused. He is the precious Holy Spirit. In **John 14:16**, Jesus said He would send us "another Comforter," helping to fulfill God's promise when He says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5c)

I pray in some way you know how special and needed this relationship is with the Holy Spirit. He is our Comforter, Teacher, Guide, Strength, and many more things. We are not alone in this battle with sin. He is there to help us every step of the way.

So where does focus come into play when dealing with sin? Whatever we focus on, we soon follow. When sin is knocking at the door, the Holy Spirit will not point at sin, but at the Father. His goal is to get us to focus on God and His love for us. The only time He points to sin is when we have yielded to it and need to repent for it. But even then, He reveals God's love and faithfulness to forgive us of sins if we will confess them. As Paul said, we don't have within us the ability to defeat sin on our own, but we can turn from it with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The more we focus on God and His love for us, the less we will think about and be drawn into sin. The more I adore God, the more I will hate sin and its effects. No one is unfaithful to a spouse they adore. It is only when they lose focus and allow other things to distract them. If I focus on sin, I will follow sin. Satan will use many tools of influence to get our focus off God and on worldly things. But the Holy Spirit

also has tools to help us stay focused on God and His sweet presence.

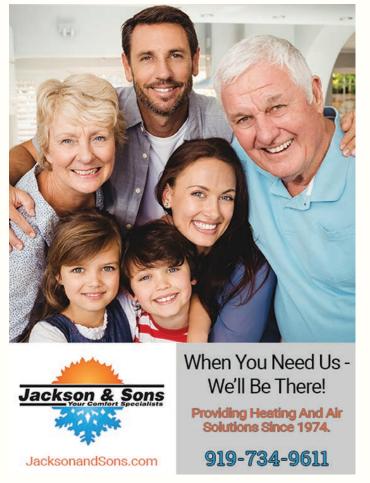
Prayer and praise make us aware that God is ever with us. Worship brings His presence to touch and encourage us. God's Word strengthens, challenges, empowers, motivates, directs, heals, delivers, and comforts us. Church and Christian fellowship give us the feeling of family and unity. Christian media inspires us in many ways. All these things are here to help us focus on God and His love for us. The more we commune and focus on God, the less sin will have our attention.

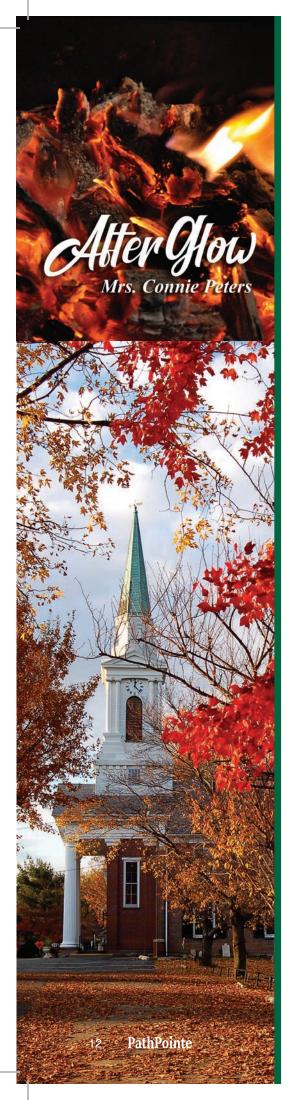
So my friend, if sin is a big issue, allow the Holy Spirit to help you change your focus from sin to your loving Heavenly Father. If we truly love God with all our heart, mind, body, and strength; we will not have time for sin.



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







Reunion Invitation

A Gallup poll found that church membership among American adults is down from 70% in 2000 to 47% in 2020. In November, 2022, only 28% of American adults attended church services in person at least once monthly, down from 33% just prior to the pandemic in a Pew Research poll. Although many factors affect these polls, we can't deny that society is changing. Among true Christians, our obligation is "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

Psalm 84 describes the joy that church attendance brings. In verse 2, David proclaims that his "soul...fainteth for the courts of the LORD." We would say that he was dying to visit God's house. In verse 3, he envied the sparrow and the swallow which nested in the courts of the tabernacle continuously.

Do you eagerly anticipate attending church and hearing God's Word preached? How long has it been since your last family reunion with your Christian siblings? Attending church is not just for our own benefit. Our attendance is an encouragement to others. What joy it brings to fellowship around God's Word with other similar believers! We gain strength from each other as we fight against the wiles of Satan, share in the work that God has given to us, and experience the joy of being a blessing to others.

Psalm 84:10 says, "...I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Would you rather be a servant at church or slip your toes in the tents of wickedness? Is your life being affected by spiritual brothers and sisters, or are you infected by the influence of the world? Perhaps we are seeing the falling away that will occur in the last days now. We need to guard against losing the habit of church attendance lest we become comfortable with disobeying Scripture "as the manner of some is." Chuck Swindoll said that the first step to turning away from God is willfully ignoring His commands. He said that it doesn't happen suddenly, we don't need to stay there, and we should be accountable to God and others.

There are numerous spiritual family reunions being held throughout our area this Sunday morning. Will you be attending? Ponder that.



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













and we need your help to finish strong! We have a goal of \$275,000 to meet the daily operational expenses of the GoMix Christian Radio Network so we may continue to spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As our fund-drive continues throughout this month, please consider a generous tax-deductible gift to our ministry. As always, thank you for your prayers and faithful support.

To give, call 1-877-747-8887 or give on-line at www.givegomix.org.