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PathPointe Magazine
PO Box 1895
Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895

PathPointe Magazine

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POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to: Pathway Ministries Group, PO Box 1895, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895.

PathPointe Magazine is written for the Faith Partners, Business Underwriters, and friends of Pathway Ministries Group.

Subscriptions: PathPointe is provided free of charge to interested parties within the USA, as our Lord provides. All other subscriptions are \$30.00 per year.

Address Changes: Please either send us a photocopy of your mailing label with your partner number or use the provided insert to carefully print your name, new address, and partner number and send it to: Pathway Ministries Group, Subscription Services, PO Box 1895, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895. Please allow 6-8 weeks for address change information to be activated.

Back Issues: A limited quantity of back issues are available. If needed by churches, businesses, or other groups, bulk quantity information will be available upon request.

Reprints: Call 252-747-8887 for reprint information and reproduction rights for select articles.

Letters And Press Releases: There are four ways to send us material. 1. Fax to 866-537-8189. 2. By courier to 1302 South George Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530. 3. Through the mail. 4. Through our web site at GoMixRadio.org. These are in order of preference. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned.

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What Can I Help You With Today?

Dr. T. D. Worthington

Over my lifetime, I have asked a lot of things of our Lord. All kinds and categories of blessings have made my list of petitions before the throne. I have also gotten in the habit over the years of asking the Lord each day if there is anything special I can do for Him. I have discovered that many times after doing that, He often reciprocates by asking what He might do for me. Don't think that to be strange; it is actually quite common in the Scriptures.

Let's suppose that Jesus asked you that question today. How would you respond? What would you like Jesus to do for you today? What do you want from Him? It is interesting that most of us have never really given this a lot of thought. I am sure we could quickly develop a list, but chances are it would be a hastily contrived list, and we might even omit what we really need most. Why? Because although we may have a prayer list, we never assess what might be the most critical need that we have. If

you had one wish today, a wish that didn't interfere with someone's free will or disrupt God's master plan, what would it be?

We often rejoice in the abundant life we have in Christ. In **Romans 8:37**, we read, ***"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."***

We are often reminded of our countless blessings, which often come without even asking for them. We may feel that asking for more is wrong, and sometimes, it may be.

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

James 4:3

However, it certainly couldn't be wrong if Jesus is the One doing the asking.

On one occasion, Jesus was heading to Jerusalem, where He would be crucified. As they depart Jericho, they pass by a blind beggar

by the name of Bartimaeus. When Bartimaeus hears that Jesus is nearby, he cries out to Him: ***"Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me."*** (**Mark 10:47**). Those nearby tell him to be quiet, but he keeps calling out to the Master. Upon hearing the cries of the blind man, Jesus stops and calls Bartimaeus to come to Him. When He gets to Jesus, the Lord asks him: ***"What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?"*** **Mark 10:51**.

That question, that simple question, from our Almighty God, never fails to astound me. God asked a mere man, ***"Is there anything I can help you with today?"*** Do you know what is even more amazing? Jesus sometimes asks me the same question, and if you are listening for His voice, I'll bet He has asked you also. How would you answer? ***"What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?"*** Interestingly, Bartimaeus knew precisely what He wanted from Jesus and said, ***"Lord, that I might receive my sight."*** And immediately, he received his sight and followed Jesus.

Of course, we know that Jesus could not have been ignorant about what the blind man wanted. As a matter of fact, it is unlikely that anyone in the crowd doubted what Bartimaeus wanted. If you had interviewed 50 people and asked, ***“What do you think Bartimaeus wants?”*** They would have all thought you were nuts for asking. Yet, Jesus asks, ***“What can I do for you today?”***

If you look at the entire story, this was the second time on this journey that Jesus asked, ***“What do you want Me to do for you?”*** If you look at **Mark 10:35-38**, you will find He asked the same thing, this time to James and John. Their answer reveals that they were just as blind as Bartimaeus, just in a different way.

In like fashion, the Almighty Creator has the concern and takes the time to call upon me; amid all my sins and failures, He asks me if He can be my Servant. What amazing love; to be loved by love



Himself. So, as we enter the throne room of grace, listen, and you may very well hear Him ask, ***“What do you want me to do for you?”*** Then, be very clear about what you want and speak it to Him by faith. And next, just watch what He alone can do!

Let’s look at another occasion where this question would be asked.

“Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?”

John 1:35-38

They didn’t answer His question, did they? Jesus asked them, ***“What seek ye?”*** Their answer? ***“Where do you live?”*** Jesus replied, ***“Come and see.”***

Jesus loves His children so much that I believe He will often ask you, ***“What can I do for you today.”*** I think He asks it over and over again. Why would He do that? I can’t give you a definitive answer, but part of it is that Jesus wants us to dream and expect great things in our lives. Our Lord is a God of hope (**Romans 15:13**), so He wants His children to live a life of expectancy.

I sense this most clearly when we are engaged in a major project. When we were rebuilding the academy after the flood, I sensed my Lord almost daily asking, ***“So, what can I help you with today?”*** He called me out

and made me take responsibility and ownership of my dreams. It was when I burned with passion to accomplish something for God that He most often offered His help. It would be far easier not to dream. It would be safer to lower your expectations. Yet, when Jesus calls us out on a limb, and we are too scared to move, He looks deep into our souls and asks, ***“Is there anything I can do to help?”***

Regardless of your greatest need—whether spiritual, physical, emotional, or financial—God has the power to deal with it and wants to help you take control of it. What is your greatest need right now? What might Jesus do for you?

God is concerned for you. Another time I hear this question from my Lord is after I have prayed hard for others. I go down my list of people, and I ask God to bless them according to their own unique needs. As I pour out my heart for others, it is then He softly asks, ***“But what can I do for you?”***

As God’s child, don’t ever allow the devil to convince you that God is distant, far off, and uninterested in your needs. I assure you, He will always be there for you, whether you sense it or not. As you closely follow Jesus, as you face your biggest problems, as you intercede for those in need, listen, listen closely, and you may very well hear the voice of Jesus softly saying, ***“Yes, but what can I do for you?”***



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry nearly fifty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.



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Teaching from the Heart

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

As parents, we all like to give our children special treats. Perhaps it's a unique birthday gift or a cone of their favorite ice cream. I suppose you could say we desire to give them a childhood worth remembering, and we can prove it. It would take hours to review all the pictures we have taken. These snapshots tell the story of memories we want our children

to retain. These priceless images taken at the beach, or on that unforgettable camping trip, all testify to our desire to give our children a childhood to remember.

However, sometimes we can give them memories that will last far longer than a day at the amusement park. Sometimes the memories we create can significantly influence their future walk with God. Of course, our local church is always a good place to start for spiritual lessons; however, great lessons do not always occur behind stained glass. Quite often, they come directly from the heart of a parent.

We are all mindful of the millions of children who have had their childhood stolen from them by war, disease, poverty, or other evils of this present world. They dare not dream. They dare not risk the disappointment. But your children are not so deprived. You have the opportunity to give them a childhood worth remembering. In so doing, you will provide them with one of the greatest

gifts possible. I know human graces can never match the grace and love of God; however, they can serve as an object lesson for future faith. In this childhood gift lie many of the sustaining foundations we sometimes need to fall back on. But, more importantly, such a childhood can build a pathway that may lead them directly to God.

In nearly fifty years of ministry, after preaching thousands of messages, studying under great teachers, and sitting under great men, I still maintain that some of the greatest lessons I ever learned came from Mom and Dad teaching from their hearts.



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Purposeful Selection

There's a great principle all of us need to realize when we pick up the Bible and study it, and that is, the Bible is built upon a *purposeful selection*. This can be illustrated from last two chapters of John.

“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that not even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.”

John 21:25

“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name.”

John 20:30-31

John says Jesus did so much and His life was so full of meaning that if a man were to write down everything Jesus did, the world itself could not contain the books that could be written. Consequently, what you have in

the Bible is a *purposeful selection* of isolated events as directed by the Holy Spirit for John to write.

The Holy Spirit guided John to write specific things for a specific purpose. He selected this incident, and that story, and this parable, and this miracle, out of a vast volume of things which John witnessed.

Our lives are the same way. Most of us cannot possibly accomplish all the things we would like to accomplish. Neither can we always give to every worthy cause brought before us. Therefore, just like John, we must be guided by the Holy Spirit to make a *purposeful selection*. The choices are not always easy.

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The Lord has blessed me beyond measure. I am privileged to wear many hats, each with its own unique beauty and challenges. All of the hats I wear involve people. Oh, each area has paperwork, lists, and many mundane tasks and deadlines. But amidst all this, the most crucial element of each area of service is the relationship involved, and it brings me immense joy.

My husband needs me to keep the house manageable and ensure we both have clean laundry. He keeps the yards and helps around the house, but we both keep a list of our responsibilities. As you know, running a home involves a lot of paperwork, too. We spend a lot

of time discussing problems and ways to solve them. Our lives are so intertwined with work and home that we always face challenges. In all this, I must not forget to serve him in every way I can imagine, as he serves me. We dedicate some time during the week for the two of us to work on our relationship and remind each other how much we love each other. We want our marriage to be one our Lord is proud of. It comes with work, but what a joy it is.

Teaching is another big part of my life. I would not be a good teacher if I just looked at the test scores and ensured my students learned math and English. The most important

element of teaching is to be sure each child hears about Jesus and sees His love oozing out of every part of my being. I need to make sure they learn about math and all other subjects, but teaching Jesus' love and character is paramount. Putting their needs above mine is a constant challenge in serving my students.

All relationships involve some form of service for them to survive. Friendship takes a lot of work, but it reaps many rewards. Being a grandparent is such a privilege, but it also bears great responsibility. We are teaching our grandchildren how to be adults one day, even at a young age. We want them to have

character and serve Christ as they grow in Him.

Being a co-laborer in Christ is another challenge. I must be sure my staff knows how much I love them before I can lead them. In many ways, I bring many of the philosophies of motherhood to being a "boss." I don't like that word, but it is what it is. I love my staff. I care for them, nurture them, correct them, and serve them. The technique may be different, but the basic tenets are there.

Motherhood has been one of the greatest challenges of my life. We have 5 children, and they are all different. In their childhood, each one had various levels of submission and rebellion. Some we could speak to once, and they usually behaved, while others almost always required more drastic measures. If the truth be told, each child had their own challenges. Their father and I have prayed over them, wept over them, disciplined them, and tried to lead them so that Christ would be pleased. We laughed and cried with them. When our children hurt, we hurt. We are now parents of 10 adult children, which has been an even bigger challenge than when they were young. The example we set is even more critical.

Being a mother to young children or adult children requires so much discipline. A good mother will do what is best for her children, not what her children want. We sometimes have to say what is

painful, not what tickles the ears. We all want to please our children, but we must teach them to be followers of Christ by our examples. What does that mean? We must have the fruits of the Spirit before we can teach them. **Galatians 5:22-23** states, ***"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (balance), against such there is***



no law." Impossible. Well, it is in our own power. We must die to ourselves. We must put others above ourselves in all areas of our lives.

Which brings me to the most important relationship of all. We cannot die to ourselves nor put others before ourselves if we don't have Jesus in the correct position in our lives. Jesus must come first. He must have priority. We must serve Him above all others. I am constantly frustrated

because I never feel that I am doing enough, nor do I feel I have enough time for what I need to do and for the people in my life. I had to stop beating myself up and realize that if I have Jesus first, all of the other relationships will fall into place. Putting Him first is a constant work in progress.

I don't mean I will always have enough time to do what I want.

There will never be enough time because there will never be enough laborers. But I must learn to accept that as long as I serve Him with all my heart, He will take care of the rest. I must remember to let Him lead me and not take the reins. I need to stop worrying and be a conduit for what He wants me to do. Any problem I face, he has the answer to.

I must ask Him each minute of each day, *"How do you want me to serve you today, Lord?"*

No matter what area you serve in today, whether you are a preacher, father, or construction worker, this question is one you need to ask: Are you willing to let the Lord take over your day?

Happy Mother's Day!



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



The Past

Mrs. Kim Mills

Do you ever wish your past would stay in the past? I found myself thinking this the other day. Here's what happened...

My sweet nieces were over at our house for a family gathering, along with our oldest daughter. As the girls were sitting around the table talking about their younger days and how much fun they had growing up, I sat there reminiscing with them and remembering their visits to the farm with great fondness. Then out of the blue, the accuser of my soul attacked!

So let me tell you my side of the story before I tell you theirs. I have already admitted that when I was younger, I could be a little hard sometimes with criticism. My excuse was that I was hard on myself too. How ignorant I was! I really thought if I was hard on myself and truthful with others that it was okay. I take full responsibility. I can only say thank God He got a hold of me! I am truly thankful for the work He has done and is still doing in my life. I have cried many a tear over my harsh, judgmental state of mind back then. But the really sad part is that I thought I was getting by with it because I didn't actually voice my opinions that often... or so I thought, until that fateful day my nieces were visiting.

I honestly couldn't tell you what story they were telling, but one of them made the comment, *"Oh yeah, we knew not to tell Aunt Kim that."* The other began laughing and said, *"Yes, we knew not to mess with Aunt Kim."*

Okay, some might say that's not so bad. But I knew there was a lot more to it than they were politely and jokingly saying. I knew I had represented someone to them I did not want them to see. I thought I had hidden that person away pretty good. I was wrong!

Even though I told myself I was hiding my sin of judgment and a harsh tongue, my face still showed it. I knew I had the "mama look" with my girls, but my nieces even joked that day about how the look on my face always said it all. Although I kept my mouth shut most of the time, the truth is, my heart was speaking just as loudly through my face and my actions.

We are all being watched, especially if we proclaim to be a Christian. From our immediate family to our co-workers and our church family, anywhere and everywhere we go people are watching us and how we act, react, what we say, and even looking at our faces to see what we will do. And as in the case of my nieces, they don't forget.

After this happened, I asked myself two questions. First, is there any truth to what they were joking about? Second, if there is, am I still acting the same way?

The answer to my first question is, “Yes.” What they were saying, even though it stung, was the truth and I knew it. The part that stung so much was the fact they knew it too. I had to take responsibility for my actions, even though they were the actions of the “old me.” I joked back with them and tried to play off my actions as being those of a young, inexperienced, ignorant girl. And I was! But that was still no excuse for not representing Jesus the way I should have as his daughter.

You know as children, how we act and the things we say truly represent our parents. I can remember when my girls were young, something would come out of their mouths and I would think, “*Where in the world did they get that?*” The truth is, they more than likely got it from me. It was not always pretty. Even now, when my girls get together and start talking about me as a Mom, they still judge me based on how I was when I was raising them. I sometimes think this is not fair, but it is still their reality, and I have to accept my failures through their eyes. There are things I wish I could take back and do over. However, I can look at my past actions today and thank God for the education He gave me. I truly thank Him for loving me enough to not let me stay in that state of ignorance.

The answer to my second question, I’m happy to say, is, “No.” I am so thankful that God arrested me in my ignorance and gave me an education through His Word and by His Spirit. As a matter of fact, He is still educating me every day! He loves us so much, He will not let us continue down the road to destruction or be ignorant of His Word, if we will only turn to Him and ask Him.

Isn’t it funny when you are young, you think you know everything. The older you get, you realize just how little you really know. God is such a loving Father. He will discipline, instruct, educate, guide, lead, and continually draw us to Himself and toward His blessings for our future.

I remind myself all the time that people are watching me. As much as I don’t like it and I really think they should watch someone worthy of being watched like Billy Graham, D.L. Moody, or C.S. Lewis, they are watching me and you. Yes, all those men are worthy to be emulated, but they were just men, trying like you and me, to live according to the Word of God. To live a life worthy of Christ.

After the day with my nieces, I got up early and sought the Lord. As I was praying, I asked the Lord to help me talk, act, and even look and be how He wants me to look and be. Then I asked, “*What exactly should this look like to other people, Lord? Do I need to only let scripture come out of my mouth? Should I be taking every person’s hand I meet and praying with them? Should I walk around with a smile always plastered on my face? What does a Christian look like on a daily basis?*”

First, in **1 Samuel 16:7** it says, “***But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.***” In other words, man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. The life we should be showing is not an outward appearance such as how pretty we are or how wealthy we look. It is a heart thing. When our heart is turned toward God, it will make us beautiful on the outside.



Paul tells us in **Ephesians** some ways we should be living if we are Christians. He tells us of some characteristics we should strive for: ***“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”***

Ephesians 4:2-4

Never ceasing to demonstrate gentleness and generous love... that has not always been how I've looked at other people. But God is working in me. I have asked the Holy Spirit (*because it is ONLY by Him any of us can walk in this*) to show me immediately when I fall in this area. I want to love people like Jesus loves them and me.

I'd like to paraphrase what Paul says later in **Chapter 4**: *“If you have really experienced the Anointed One, and heard His truth, it will be seen in your life; for we know that the ultimate reality is embodied in Jesus! And He has taught you to let go of the lifestyle of your old self-life, which was corrupted by sinful and deceitful desires. For God has re-created you all over again in His perfect righteousness, and you now belong to Him in the realm of true holiness. So, discard every form of dishonesty and lying, so that you will be known as one who always speaks the truth, for we all belong to one another. Don't let the passion of your emotions lead you to sin! Don't let anger control you or be fuel for revenge, not for even a day. Don't give the slanderous accuser, the Devil, an opportunity to manipulate you! And never let ugly or hateful words come from your mouth, but instead let your words become beautiful gifts that encourage others. Do this by speaking words of grace to help them. Lay aside bitter words, temper tantrums, revenge, profanity, and insults. Instead, be kind and affectionate toward one another. Has God graciously forgiven you? Then graciously forgive one another in the depths of Christ's love.”*

I know God has been and still is working on me. He even gave me encouragement through my nephew. I relayed the story of his sisters to him the other day and he said the best thing anyone could ever say to me. He is the oldest of my nephews, so he saw me in my younger years, too. He thought for a minute and said,

“I can really see a difference in you, Aunt Kim. You're not the same as you used to be.” Praise God!

We all have a past. There are things we would like to erase. Thankfully, there are also some things we can be proud of and are great memories. However, when the enemy of your soul tries to deceive you into thinking you have messed it up so badly you could never be a witness for Christ, remember this... Your life is a book being read. Some of the chapters may be hard to read. However, God Almighty is writing the chapters from here on out and they will be chapters full of joy, gladness, peace, love, and overcoming all the obstacles of life. All because of, and through our Lord Jesus Christ!



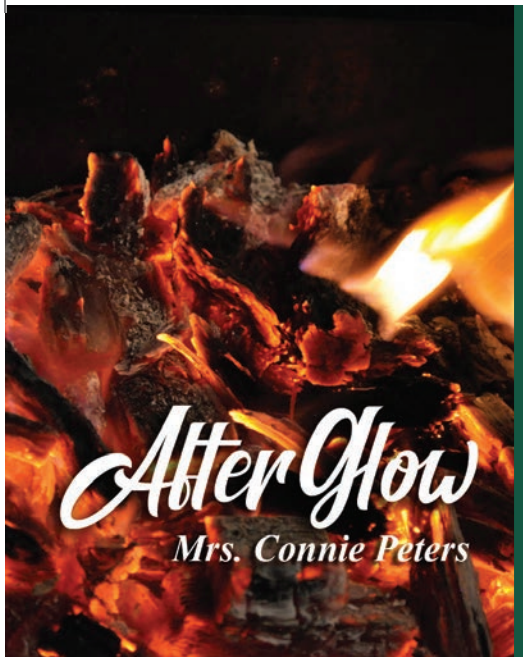
Mrs. Kim Mills has four children and five grandchildren. You can learn more about the ministry of Glenn and Kim Mills at www.glennmillsministries.com



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Pondering

I decided to take the personality test that I found on the Focus on the Family web page. It would tell me whether I was a leader, thinker, talker, or peacemaker. I could immediately eliminate a couple of choices, and the results did not surprise me at all. I am a thinker. I enjoy quiet time to ponder this and that. That is why I enjoy walking a scenic trail, taking a solitary drive, or mowing the yard. All of those activities allow me time to think.

When my meditations are God-centered, whether they lead to a revelation that is new to me, to thoughts of praise, or to a time of prayer, a time of quiet contemplation is always spiritually beneficial. **Psalm 104:34** says, *“My meditation of him shall be sweet...”* Indeed, a time of meditation on the Lord is filled with sweetness beyond compare!

The authors of the Psalms became proficient in the art of meditation. **Psalm 1:1-3** promises the man who meditates on God’s law will be blessed with stability and fruitful prosperity. **Psalm 119:148** suggests meditation as the best response to sleepless nights. Pondering God’s attributes leads to a peacefulness that reinvigorates even when sleep eludes us. David prays in **Psalm 19:14**, *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”* That is a prayer worth repeating.

I recently read a quote from **Charles Spurgeon** which had a convicting effect. He said, *“A meditative man should be a talker, otherwise he is a mental miser, a mill which grinds corn only for the miller.”* Ouch. Although I love to think on the laws and ways of God, I rarely share my thoughts. Often, I bury them deep within my own heart to ponder another day. Writing for **PathPointe Magazine** gives me an outlet for sharing some of my thoughts. But wouldn’t it be wonderful if more of our conversations revolved around sharing our personal spiritual ponderings and experiences with our Christian brothers and sisters? We could help each other grow and share the sweetness that comes with meditating upon God. **Psalm 77:12** says, *“I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.”* Shouldn’t we talk about His doings more often? Ponder that.



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

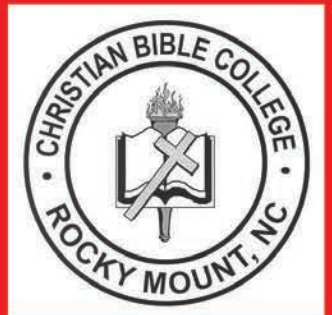
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