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#### PathPointe Magazine

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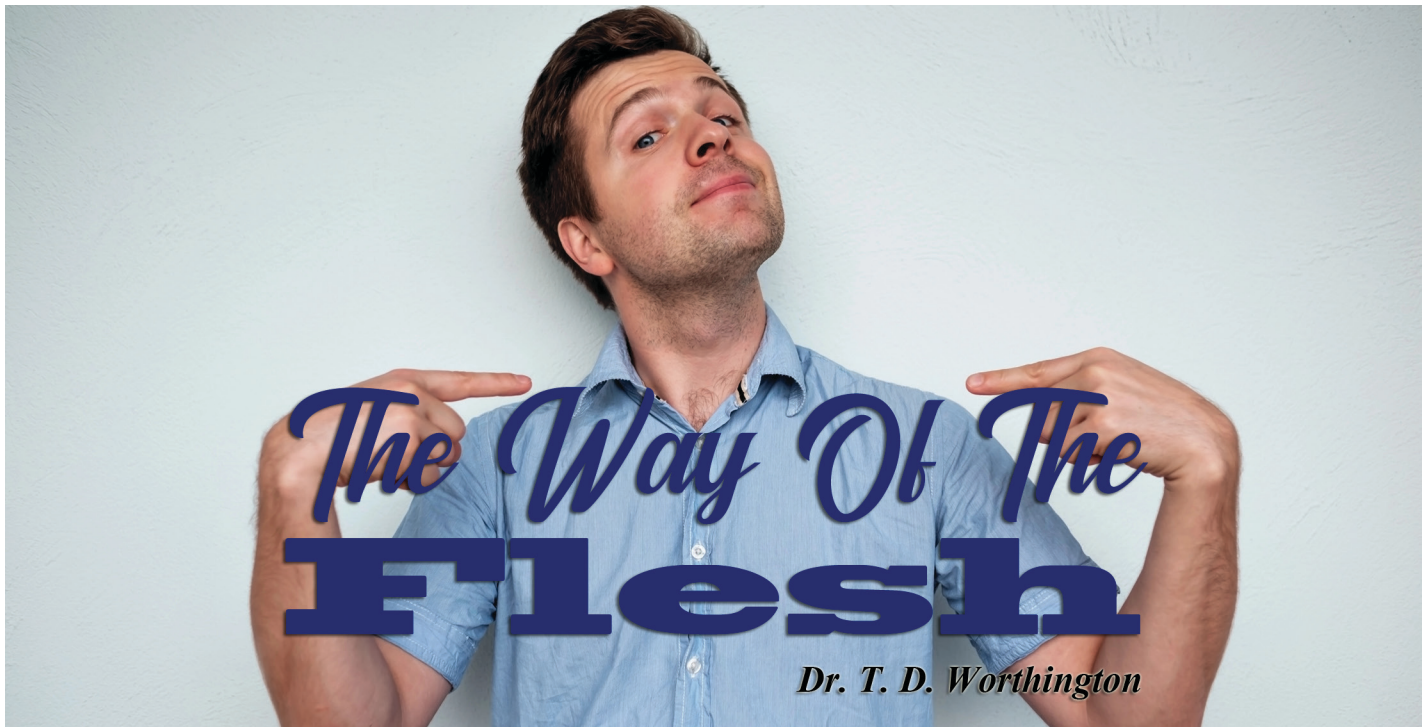
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Whenever God calls you to do something, as soon as you sense God's hand upon you, as soon as you have the briefest understanding of His anointing, the flesh takes immediate notice. The flesh, that old nature within you, will immediately try to wrap itself around your mission. The flesh will attempt to control, possess, manage, and manipulate your calling for its own benefit.

God is always working, attempting to free you of the power of the flesh and move you more and more into the power of the Spirit. In accomplishing this, God will arrange crisis moments in your life where you're brought face-to-face with your flesh and the claim it makes on God's calling. I would like to give you an example of how the flesh attempted to assume control over the mission God had given.

The story of Moses began with a vision in the minds of his parents. I think that deep down, they sensed

that he was no ordinary child. I am sure they were not the first Hebrew parents who attempted to save their child; however, in this case, our Lord laid upon their hearts a seemingly bold and reckless plan to save his life. As his mother made her way to the banks of the Nile, her son was entombed in a little basket. The river was likely already running red with the blood of infant Hebrew boys.

She had to die of a mother's instinct to guard and protect her child. Yet, to save his life, she had to let him go. She had to place him in the very river the enemy had ordained to be his grave. However, this same river would be the place of his resurrection. The river, which should have been his end, became his new beginning. As you know, his mother received him back again into her loving arms. But now, things would be quite different. The child she lovingly placed into the Nile as a slave was now a prince. Do you see it, his death and resurrection? Initiated by God,

but realized only when his parents were willing to let him go.

Moses became one of the most powerful men in Egypt. He was strong, intelligent, and highly educated. Moses had it all. A bright future lay before him in Egypt. Yet, with each passing year, more and more, the bondage of his kinsman would weigh upon his mind. As the dream began to intensify, he slowly received a glimpse of God's calling upon his life. Moses soon realized that he wanted to be the one to deliver his people from their bondage.

However, as it usually does, the flesh started to exercise control over his calling. Later, seeing a Hebrew slave being abused, he murdered the Egyptian task master. At best, even if he had gotten away with it, he would have temporarily rescued one slave. Do you see how short that falls from the plan God had in mind? This was but a cheap imitation of God's plan of deliverance. However, it is about

the best the flesh had the power to generate. The flesh told Moses that this was his big chance. He was sure the Hebrews would rally behind him.

**Acts 7:25-26:** *“For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.”*

Moses seemed to have no doubts regarding his ability to rescue Israel. He was also confident that the people would recognize his leadership. He felt that he was God’s man, and this was God’s time. However, Moses was not trusting in God; he was trusting in himself. The flesh had taken over and was building itself up in godless pride and arrogance. Then Moses experienced something he had not anticipated. He faced failure, rejection, and fear. How can this be? God had placed this mission in his heart. The mission was just. How could he fail? The truth is that Moses needed the flesh to fail. The weakness of the flesh had to be demonstrated. Now, God could identify Moses’ strength as weakness, and, given his recent experience, Moses could not argue the point.

Forty years passed, and God finally spoke to Moses, telling him it was now time to go and rescue Israel. By now, the Moses who was so confident that he could easily rescue his people no longer existed. Out there in the desert, a new Moses had been born. This was not a strong Moses; this was a weak Moses. However, as our Lord instructed Paul: *“...my strength is made perfect in weakness.”* **II Corinthians 12:9.**

In **Exodus 3:11**, Moses, no longer exercising faith in the flesh, said to the Lord: *“... who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”*

God had a plan for Moses even from the foundation of the world, but before it could come to pass, the flesh had to be exposed and circumcised. It had to be cut away from the calling. And, once it was, from that point on, the emphasis was not on what Moses did, but on what God did through Moses. God used Moses’ failure and the desert years to crucify the flesh, so that God’s resurrection power could be manifested.

Just one more quick note. In the desert years as a shepherd, Moses acquired a staff. A staff is important to a shepherd. He counted on it for his work, his protection, and strength. It is what he would often lean upon when weary and hold on to when walking a dangerous pathway. God’s first command at the burning bush in **Exodus 4** was for Moses to take the staff he leaned

upon and throw it down before the Lord. As you know, it turned into a snake. Then God commanded Moses to pick it up again, and it turned back into a staff. From that moment forward, the staff was no longer owned and controlled by Moses. It became the staff of God.

**Exodus 4:20:** *“...and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.”*

It was the rod of God that displayed the Lord’s power through Moses. It was this staff that God used to display His power before Pharaoh, and at the Red Sea, and to secure victory in battle. Just as Moses had changed, the staff, which likely looked the same as before, was also different. The old staff of the flesh had passed away, and the rod of God had taken its place. Now, do you see it? Do you see the foolishness of doing the work of God in the power of the flesh?

May I confess, I am a bit like Moses. I feel that God has ordained me to accomplish certain things in life. I have no doubt but that my callin





is to be a pastor, to help administer the Academy and the college, to publish a magazine, and to build Christian radio stations. I often battle a temptation to accomplish this work in the power of the flesh.

Right now, we have the opportunity to purchase a radio station that would reach thousands of new listeners. This would be a nearly a million-dollar investment. Oh, how I want that station. We have been praying for years to get into that area. Yet, we are agonizing over the question right now: *Is this a yearning of the flesh or a call of the Spirit?*

My dear wife battles this all the time when it comes to admitting new students to the Academy. Is this applicant someone we can help? Will this student be a positive role model for the other students, or would he harm others with his life and testimony? We don't want to turn anyone away; however, our decisions cannot be based on emotions or desires of the flesh.

Now, here is the message. The vision God has for your life is what you were born for. Deep down, you long for it because you are supposed to long for it. The danger comes when you try to bring it to pass by the power of the flesh. The flesh will often give you just enough

success that you will begin to trust in it. But eventually, it will let you down. When the flesh promises to obtain for you what only God can give, it always delivers an inferior product. A cheap imitation that quickly wears thin, and then wears out. The flesh makes big promises. It entices you with a promise that if you place your trust in it, you will succeed. However, once it receives your trust, it will forsake you. The flesh will resist death, that's only natural. However, death, a crucifixion of the flesh, a dying of self, is the only way that God can release His power within you.

Peter demonstrated how easy it is to lose our way. Do you remember when he tried to persuade Jesus to avoid the cross? Our Lord said to him, *“Get thee behind me, Satan”* **Matthew 16:23**. How did Peter get it so wrong? Jesus explained: *“... for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”* Peter was not a man who desired to follow Satan; however, all he had to do was determine to serve the desires of the flesh, and he was at Satan's mercy. In this example, the flesh quite naturally always resists the idea of death.

Peter did not perceive the difference between the desires of the Father and the desires of the flesh. Peter did not consciously decide to

try to lead Jesus astray. All he had to do was proceed with the natural thoughts of man, the fallen inclinations of the flesh. The flesh was telling him that the best way to serve God was to convince Jesus to avoid the cross. Without the leading of the Spirit, such a thing would make perfect sense.

God has called you for a purpose. There is a divine purpose in your ministry, in your marriage, in your finances, in your career, and in your life. However, to attempt that purpose in the flesh will never please God; nor will it lead to lasting success. To do the Lord's work in the Spirit and for the glory of Jesus will not come cheaply. There is a cross we must bear. But it is glorious to serve the Lord in the power of the Spirit. When the flesh is not surrendered to the Spirit, it will constantly labor to produce results of no lasting benefit. This is the occupation of the flesh. It can never be housebroken. Sooner or later, it will make a mess.

You see, a life dominated by the flesh is a hard life. It is filled with frustration, strife, and failure. The flesh can never produce lasting results for the Kingdom. Yet, it will constantly cry out to be in charge. Like a child, it will kick and scream if it does not get its way. It is our job to ignore its tantrums and mortify its power over the calling God has given us.



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

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## *A Fellowship of Believers*

When we read about the early church, it appears to be such a simple organization. Even the word “*organization*” seems a bit too strong; perhaps “*fellowship*” would be better wording. However, today things seem much more complicated.

Instead of a simple fellowship, what we have today seems more like an institution. Is that a good thing? I suppose it can be. After all, when people work together, they can combine their tools and talents to build evangelistic programs that reach around the world. It might seem difficult for a simple

fellowship of just a few people to accomplish such a mission.

However, there is also a danger. When people start to see the ministry as simply an institution, they may forget their individual responsibilities. If they believe that the Christian school is responsible for their child’s education, the church is handling the family’s theological training, and outreach programs like *GoMix Christian Radio* are managing missionary work, then they might think there is nothing for them personally to do. This creates a sense that they can leave everything to the “*professionals.*” Suddenly, the institution is viewed as something greater than the individual believers who make it up.

Institutions aren’t necessarily a bad thing. That’s how we built most of our banks, colleges, and hospitals. However, when we see the ministry

as an institution, we shouldn’t be surprised when it begins to act like one. It becomes an entity unaccountable and disconnected from its roots.

Please, do not consider our ministry as an institution. We are a fellowship. Yes, we are a pretty big fellowship, but we are still just a group of people who are working together to share the message of Christ. To view us differently is to set your eye on something our Lord never conceived nor commanded for His church.

*For Additional Information:*

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# Celebrate

On July 1st of this year, *GoMix Christian Radio* will be celebrating 28 years on the air providing family-friendly, Christian programming to millions of listeners across our coverage area. We are so very thankful for the opportunity our Lord has given us to take part in reaching the lost for Him and encouraging our brothers and sisters in the faith. As we have grown from one single radio frequency to multiple signals

and even online streaming for the entire world, none of the milestones we have crossed would have been possible without our Faith Partners. Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts, and for standing with us through the years. As the Lord tarries, we pray we will continue to be used for His glory alone as together we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.




**SPECIAL NOTICE**

Authorization has been granted, and we expect to go live with our new EARLY LIGHT signal sometime during the first week of June. The new and improved signal will broadcast on 104.7. Listeners in the Goldsboro, Kinston, Snow Hill, and Trenton areas should notice much better reception than they did from our old 88.3 frequency.



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# Weed Killer

*Dr. Sherry Worthington*

Spring is probably my favorite time of year. I love the flowers, perfect weather, and bright colors. Unfortunately, we do have to take the bad with the good. Spring also brings itchy eyes, runny noses, and sore throats. We are at the latter end of the season, and summer is around the corner. Some flowers and plants stay pretty in spring and summer, but there is one type of plant I wish would not flourish. According to Scripture, it has been here since the beginning of time and will remain until the Lord establishes His Kingdom. It came as part of the curse, the notorious weeds.

Weeds are a constant source of frustration and pain. They take over flower and vegetable gardens. Weeds grow everywhere, even in sidewalk cracks. They are relentless. We can spend all day pulling them out, only to see some we've missed and new ones sprouting up the next day. I've seen a briar suddenly grow three feet overnight.

I find myself wondering why the vegetables and flowers don't grow that fast. We never water the weeds. In fact, we try not to encourage them to grow. They far surpass the plants we are trying to nourish. We water the flowers, corn, tomatoes, and peppers. We plant the flowers in areas that receive the right amount of sunlight. No matter what we do, there are always more weeds. Pulling weeds is hard work, and the longer we leave them, the tougher it is to get rid of them. When they take root, they steal nutrients from the soil and hurt our harvest.

In our Christian walk, it seems there are always weeds trying to steal our joy and damage our testimony. **Ephesians 4:25-32** gives us instructions on how to avoid letting the weeds dominate our Christian walk. Many types of weeds grow in our yards. Some, like the dandelion, are even pretty. However, no matter how pretty or helpful it is, if it is out of place, it is a weed. An oak tree can be a thing

of beauty, but not if it takes root in our tomato patch. Likewise, good things can also hinder our Christian walk if they are not God's will for us.

One of the worst weeds we have in our lives is the inappropriate use of our tongues. When I share devotions with my students, I often remind them that our words are the most dangerous weapons that we have. Once a word is spoken, it cannot be taken back. **Verses 25, 26, 29, and 31** warn against the dangers of the tongue, along with James 3. Words can be hateful or flattering, but any word used with malice is a bitter weed.

**Ephesians 4:31** states, *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice."* **Verse 29** warns us to let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouths. These elements are all weeds that are tangled in our hearts. When we allow bitterness

to build its walls around our hearts, it stifles our ability to love unconditionally. How can we love if we are eaten up with hard feelings toward someone and refuse to let go of the bitterness? When we keep talking about what someone did to us, whether it was 6 days ago or 6 years ago, we reveal unforgiveness in our hearts. This creates a wall of bitterness. The weeds mentioned in *verse 31* are very difficult to root out. That's why it's so important to forgive quickly and forget it. Bitterness affects everyone around us. Our loved ones are often hurt by our bitterness toward others. How can we truly love if half of our hearts are closed off?

Holding onto bitterness damages our effectiveness as Christians. Our

fruit will no longer be sweet because our joy is no longer evident. Go ahead and forgive those who have wronged you, and uproot those roots of bitterness from your heart.

Of course, there are many other weeds we can allow into our lives: selfishness, worldliness, covetousness, jealousy, lust, and the list goes on. When we harbor unconfessed sin, it begins to take root. **Ephesians 4:30** tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. How do we grieve Him? We let the roots grow and push Him out of our lives, breaking fellowship with our Lord.

What is the best way to get rid of weeds? We need to use plenty of weed killer. Which brand is the

best? Only one brand works on this type of weed. The only answer is prayer, Bible study, and staying in constant fellowship with our Savior. Death to the weeds ensures our death to self.

**Romans 12:21** states, *“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”* How can we possibly do this? Root the weeds out of our lives, and we will be able to overcome!



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



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*“And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.”*

**Genesis 24:14-15**

Many know the story of how God called Abram to leave his homeland of Haran and travel to a land God would give to him and his descendants forever. God also promised to make a great nation out of Abram, whose name was later changed by God to Abraham, meaning father of many nations. Later we see Abraham and his wife Sarah are much older and still without a son. Sarah gave her handmaid to Abraham to have children for her and Ishmael was born, but he was not the son God had promised.

The Lord visited Abraham and reminded him He always keeps His promises; he and Sarah would have a son within the year. Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born. Some years later when Isaac was still a young man, Sarah died. Abraham knew it was

time for Isaac to marry but did not want him to marry a Canaanite woman from the land in which they were living. So, Abraham called his eldest servant and sent him on a journey to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham informed his servant to return to Haran, to the house of his father, where he would find a wife of his kin.

The servant was hesitant; this was a great responsibility and he feared failing. Abraham told him God would reveal to him a wife for Isaac and if not, he would be released from the vow. His servant took several camels along with other servants and traveled to Haran, trusting God to guide his steps and give him success for Abraham’s sake. When the servant arrived at the well in Haran, he made a petition before God on how he would know who was to be Isaac’s wife. Before he finished his prayer, God’s answer, Rebekah, was coming out of town to the well.

We not only see here that God had already prepared Rebekah to show up when she did, but He also moved the servant to pray what he did. In other words, it was already in the works. Before the servant ever left Abraham, God had already had everything lined up.

That is just mind blowing, my friends. And the exciting thing is, He does the same thing for us. Many times, we don’t even know how to pray for what we need or

think we need. Even then the Bible says the Holy Spirit prays with and for us that God's will can be done in our lives. It is so amazing that God is orchestrating every area of our lives. He has a plan for each of us and is daily leading us in those plans. No matter what we need today, tomorrow, next week, or next year, it's already in the works.

Just think about that for a moment. No matter what we will EVER need in any area of our lives, it's already in the works. The Bible tells us that God knows the plans He has for us. He not only directs those plans, but also anyone and everything needed to bring His plan to pass. But please note, many of God's plans are hindered when we are disobedient or rebellious. Even then, God has a plan to bring us to our senses. Why? Because He loves us just like all those who have gone before us.

**Isaiah 65:24** says, *“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”*

No matter what we face in life, God has a plan. I can't tell you how many times I didn't know what to do, which way to go, or even what to pray. Yet, it was in those moments God guided me the most. Things worked out in ways that were beyond my imagination. May we never forget God knows our needs better than we do. He loves us greatly and desires to fellowship with us and help us. He desires that we call on Him and trust Him. How awesome is it that before we ever speak with Him, what we need or desire is already in the works?

I love the Scripture in **Romans 8:28** that says, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* My only question to Believers here is do we really love God, or just what God can do for us? Each of us must examine our hearts in this matter. Things in life are constantly trying to steal our attention away from God. When we give in to those things, trouble is sure to come. But if we truly love God, then as the Scripture says, all things work together for good.

Wow. What a promise! I pray you get this message down deep in your spirit. No matter what is or is not happening in your life, it's in the works. Every day and in every way, even when we don't know what we need or what

to do, we can rejoice in knowing beyond a doubt, it's in the works and God has a plan.

Maybe today you're facing some type of difficulty. It's possibly a marital situation, a financial crisis, a health issue, or problems at work. It could also be a problem with your children. But, in all these things, God has a plan. He has not turned a deaf ear to your cries. He sees your situation and has a plan to bring you through. He is lining up people, places, and things... It's already in the works!

So, what does God need from us? Faith and trust. Faith is knowing Who God is and what He can do. It's knowing His promises and believing it's in the works. Trust is applying that faith and believing God has you covered.



*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](http://www.glennmillsministries.com)*

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# What a Difference!

This is the anniversary month of my salvation. Each year, I like to remember the changes that occurred since Jesus came into my life. Before I met Him, I was a shy, sad child. As a daughter of a military dad, I had no place to call home. Because we moved frequently, I had no lasting friendships. Our family was dysfunctional. I despised cold weather, but we were stuck in Upper Michigan amidst long winters with heavy snowfall. Then we got orders to, of all places, Alaska. My heart sank.

But God was working behind the scenes. Soon after we arrived, we attended a mission church there. For the first time in my life, I learned that Jesus had not only died for the sins of the world, but He died for MY sin. I learned that unless I accepted His sacrifice for me personally, I could not go to heaven. At that time, I was headed for eternity in the lake of fire. I did not fully understand what I needed to do to accept Christ until Pastor Mac showed me from God's Word how to be saved. That Sunday night, I acknowledged my sin to God and claimed my forgiveness through Jesus' shed blood. I asked Him to come into my life, committing my life to live for Him. In the next few days, my whole family became saved.

That was many years ago. Some memories of my early years have faded, but I still remember what kind of child I was and I can recognize several changes now. I have a permanent home now. I will someday reside in Heaven for eternity. Several brothers and sisters in Christ have become my eternal friends. But more importantly, I have a Friend Who sticks closer than a brother, Who is always with me, waiting for my interaction with Him. I am no longer sad or depressed, but peace and joy accompany me. Those are just a few of the changes.

**Psalm 40:2** says, *“He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.”* When Christ comes into our lives, He makes a difference. What difference has He made in your life?

Ponder that!



*Mrs. Connie Peters has two children and resides in Princeton, NC. Now retired, she formerly served as an instructor at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*

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