

**Receive
His Light
and...
SHINE!**



The LIGHTKEEPER

Cobham Park Baptist Church News

August 2022

Dear Cobham Park Church Family,

Picture yourself playing chess with a cat. After a few minutes, there might be more chess pieces on the floor than on the board. The attention span of a lively feline is not very long—milliseconds if there is anything shiny, dangly, or mousy in the room. I once watched a man try to line up seven kittens for a photograph. He picked up two kittens and set them in their proper places before reaching for a third. But by that time, the first kitten had already wandered off after some distraction or another. After five minutes of futile effort, he gave up on his line-up plan. I guess that's why the phrase "herding cats" is used to describe the impossibility of coordinating some groups.

Our thoughts are as easily distracted as cats. For instance, let's say that you begin to pray. After a few seconds, little tasks (which you may not have even considered before) can suddenly enter the mind and demand immediate attention. For instance, I was once praying in my study when I suddenly remembered that I needed to clear a spiderweb from my window sill and answer a text. I even have trouble concentrating while preparing a sermon (as you sometimes do in hearing them). Or, let's imagine that you're listening to a friend talk about a problem that is overwhelming her. Even as you outwardly appear to be listening attentively, your inner thoughts may turn to a movie you recently watched, an upcoming hair appointment, or a big buck you saw last hunting season. Like a cat in a Christmas tree, our minds leap from one fascinating distraction to another.

Hyperactive scheduling and multi-tasking make concentration even more difficult. And our attention spans have been shortened through constant conditioning by television, internet, and social media. Like finicky felines, we've grown accustomed to chasing fleeting fancies. The consequences of this trend are very real. The average Christian is increasingly missing out on peace of mind, contentment, biblical knowledge, rest, reverent worship, patience, and prayer. Scatterbrained saints quickly become "a mile wide and an inch deep."

So, what should we do? Give up? Throw our phones into the river? Take up transcendental meditation? God offers us the better option of following Jesus' example. Mark 1:21-39 shows the Lord's success in regaining spiritual concentration. In the course of twenty-four hours, he'd preached, battled demons, and healed crowds of desperate people. His schedule was hyper-busy, and He was no stranger to multi-tasking. Jesus' mind must have been simultaneously pulled in a thousand different directions. What did He do?

- Jesus was very deliberate about His concentration on God. He made time to practice the unhurried discipline of prayer—even if He had to get up before everyone else. As a result, He was able to slow down enough to listen to His Heavenly Father, and live in His peace. The only way to develop spiritual concentration is to regularly exercise it like a muscle. Use it or lose it! What specific steps can you take to follow Jesus' example in this way? When will you do it?
- While sacrificially caring for others, Jesus refused to allow their needs and demands to take His Father's place. The Lord habitually pulled back from the crowds to clear His mind of distraction. In following God's lead, Jesus was ready to say "no" to other's demands—even if this sometimes disappointed friends or family. Because of this, Jesus was guided by a profound sense of purpose and direction. He could now serve others God's way. What would this look like for you? You can do it! After all, **"...We have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16b)."**

In His Love,

Keith

Pastor Keith





AUGUST

at Cobham Park Baptist Church

Sundays:

Breakfast
8:30am

Sunday School
9am

Worship
10am

Mondays:

Church Office
Closed

Wednesdays:

On-site Online Devotion
10am

"Revelation for Real Life"
Study

6:45pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Deacons' Meeting 7pm				
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	Nominating Committee Meeting 7pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	Inasmuch Planning Meeting 7pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1. No WMU Monthly Meeting will be held in August (WMU meetings resume in September).
2. No choir practice will be held in August. (Choir practice resumes September 7th.)
3. Inasmuch Planning Meeting August 18th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers Needed!

Events Reminder: Please contact the church office to approve and schedule any meetings/events using church facilities. Non-church groups also require a church member sponsor to be responsible and available for assisting/managing the event. (Facility Use Agreement forms have recently been updated.)



The Taylors

After a two-year hiatus, we were excited to be able to gather again for REVIVAL SERVICES on Sunday-Tuesday, July 24th-26th, where the Taylors preached and led us in music. The Taylors are one of the nation's leading Gospel groups, with strong ties to our church family. We were blessed to have brought several hearts to Jesus during this year's Revival Week and many others were refreshed in their faith and recommitted themselves to their own Christian walk.

The Taylors' CONCERT on Wednesday Night was also well-attended. We praise the Lord for these faithful and talented musicians!



Behind the Scenes

Lower Left and Above Left: Long after most folks have left the Wednesday concert, we're still packing the Taylor's equipment and saying farewell to their family.

Above Right: The Taylor's children were watched each night by willing volunteers, and some church members took them on day trips too! Donald and Linda Bowen (above center on bench) graciously opened their home to the Taylors during Revival Week. Thank you!

Lower Right: Maybe one of the Taylor kids had too much of a good time; he fought the playground and the playground won! But arm bones are set in a cast and he is now healing well.



Praise Page



Recently, I came across a blog entry written by Deborah Haddix entitled, “The Power of Song.” Deborah credited her article to a John Piper sermon she had heard about defeating Satan. In his sermon, John Piper stated that God gave us two weapons to fight Satan: His Word and song. Piper referenced two examples in the Bible when song was used as a weapon.

The first example is found in 2 Chronicles 20. In this account, King Jehoshaphat is facing battle and sends a choir to sing in front of the marching army.

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever (vs. 21).”

What happens? Jehoshaphat’s enemy is completely defeated and destroyed.

The second example is in Acts 16 when Paul and Silas were stripped, beaten, and thrown into prison. What do they do? They sing!

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there

was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose (vs. 25-26).

The outcome? God protects Paul and Silas from death.

Think about that: the power of song, a weapon of worship. Ironically, singing as worship can be most powerful at times when we don’t feel we have a song in our heart. When fear and frustration, anger and anxiety have a grip on us, we don’t naturally default to singing. But, as we see through the examples of Jehoshaphat and Paul and Silas, the weapon of song is powerful enough to let Satan know he is powerless over us. A song of worship can send the enemy running in the opposite direction.

Oh, the precious gift of song! Let us use it often.

Singing His Praise,

Cindy

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