

A MOMENT WITH THE PASTOR

(<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/shame-unhealed-illness> - Rob Edenfield)

I know that the God who worked wonders in the past is still working wonders today. If he wills it, he can heal me (Matt. 8:1–3). Which leads to the question for those who don't get a miracle: Why does God not will my healing? This is where shame comes in—if God can heal, then there must be some reason he doesn't choose to heal me. That's true. However, it's the next assumption that gets us in trouble: If there's a reason God doesn't will my healing, it's because of something wrong with me—my faith is insufficient; my obedience isn't consistent enough; my prayers haven't been sincere, fervent, or regular enough. To escape this shame trap, we have to understand what the Bible teaches we can justifiably expect with regard to miracles from God.

Though we hear stories of God doing amazing things and though we're told (by some) to "expect miracles," our experience more often reflects that of the saints commended for their faith in Hebrews 11:13: "These all died in faith, not having received the things promised." Is the answer found in our own lack of faith? That would neatly shift the responsibility for God's wonders away from God, who is still eager to perform miracles, and identify the problem as being in our unbelief. After all, in Matthew 13:58, we read of Jesus that "he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief."

It's a false application of such verses to conclude that, if we want a miracle from God, we need to have sufficient faith. We elsewhere see Jesus' healing those who don't even know they're being healed. For example, the accounts in Luke 7:11–15, 22:49–51, and John 5:5–9 don't indicate that anyone's faith played any part in the healings Jesus performed. So, the Bible doesn't make a one-to-one connection between faith and miracles. Miracles, like the sufferings they address, happen according to God's will for his own purposes. We can't quantify this into a system.

When you consider the thousands of years covered in biblical history and the many millions of lives that existed during those years, you begin to understand how rare miracles were. They're almost exclusively clustered around the times of Moses (as the law was introduced), Elijah and Elisha (the beginning of authoritative prophetic teaching), and Jesus and his disciples (the initiation of the new revelation in Christ).

Jesus himself touches on the mystery of the scarcity of miracles in Luke 4:25–27. In response to those who expected him to perform miracles on command, He replies, "I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

"Ah, but perhaps only Naaman and the widow of Zarephath had enough faith," someone may reply. But the Bible doesn't say that. Neither of those characters is described as having exceptional

faith that God rewarded. Instead, we know from 1 Kings 19:18 that the Lord had preserved a remnant of 7,000 faithful men and women in those days. There was faith in the land, but miracles were scarce. God alone knows why.

Let's not forget Paul, who prays earnestly for God to remove the thorn in his flesh, and yet doesn't receive healing (2 Cor. 12:7–9). No, friends, it isn't faith or boldness or anything on our part that has the power to move God's hand so that he works wonders on our behalf. Rather, as the old hymn confesses, "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform."

I'm not sharing these thoughts to discourage prayer for healing or to say our faith is irrelevant to God's hand at work. I'm sharing this to disrupt the cycle of shame that traps too many of my brothers and sisters as they look to God to heal them or their loved ones.

A sickness that goes unhealed isn't a sign of God's displeasure. He isn't disappointed in you. He isn't holding back his hand of healing until you measure up to some unspecified standard. He loves you. He is with you. He has plans for you through your trial that you cannot right now comprehend.

Pray for healing, yes. But don't make healing the yardstick by which you measure God's activity in your life. And don't let the absence or delay of healing hang over your head as a cruel judge, condemning your lack of faith.

Yet there's more we need to understand about God's miracles than just that they're rare and that they come only from God's will and not our performance. God's healing miracles are incomplete. Lazarus dies again. The lepers Jesus healed would one day die. In a sense, Jesus was just delaying the inevitable. So why bother healing at all?

The answer is that it wasn't primarily about healing bodies.

When Jesus healed the sick and suffering, he was giving a sneak peek at the power of the kingdom that he would soon bring. That kingdom is where our true hope lies, and in showing his power to heal, Jesus was calling people to place their hope of full healing in him. Only when these bodies are exchanged for incorruptible ones and only when death is no more will "healing" have truly taken place (1 Cor. 15:53–55).

My dad was dying of pancreatic cancer in 2007. Whenever anyone asked him if God was going to heal him, he'd answer, "God is going to heal me. Either through the doctors, through a miracle, or by bringing me to be with him in heaven." I pray that each child of God would hold on to that truth.

God will heal. It's not up to us to determine how and when he'll do so. It's up to us to walk in faith and wait on him. "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" (Ps. 27:14).

Stewardship Statistics	8.2.26	8.9.26	8.16.26	8.23.26		Total Money Given and Average Attendance
Attendance for in-person services	56	56	46	56		53.5
General Fund	\$9382.00	\$1530.00	\$1300.00	\$1292.00		\$13504.00
Weekly Budget	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00	\$2855.00		\$11420.00
+ or - Budget	\$6527.00	(\$1325.00)	(\$1555.00)	(\$1563.00)		\$2084.00
Designated Giving						
Birthday Money	\$90.00					\$90.00
Food Pantry		\$32.00	\$200.00	\$1000.00		\$1232.00
Mud Hens Tickets	\$33.00			\$22.00		\$55.00
Total Givings	\$9505.00	\$1562.00	\$1500.00	\$2314.00		\$14881.00

Prayer List

John and Sara Roberts
Sue Snyder (brain cancer)
Gloria Snyder (cancer in vocal cords)
Jamie Thomas (health issues)
Nora (Jacob's niece/scoliosis)
Paul Kuzio (dialysis every 2 days)
Dave Boswell (bladder cancer)
Tim Blohm (stroke recovery)
Myra (health/brain issues)
Paul Cici (home gaining strength)
Dennis Tolles (chemo hit him hard)
Jeff Frost (pray for strength)
Rick Spural (diagnosed with dementia)
Ken Altmeyer (colon cancer surgery)
Laura (Nancy's niece in hospital)
Tyler Hoiles (brain tumor removed)
Ron Fraiser (infection in aorta)
Dee Nuhfer (knee healing)
Family of Joyce Grose (Jan's sister)
June Wilson (started chemo)
Dawn (Cathy & John DuBois's daughter/fluid around her heart)
Jerry Snyder (pray for good health)
Dawson Lehman (home now)
Tad Yarger (shoulder surgery 8.28.26)
Carol Krause (eyesight restoration)

Leadership Nominations

It's not too soon to be thinking about men at the church who are qualified and have the desire to serve. Nominations will be open in October. The church by-laws can be read for the complete instructions.

1. Elders: The general nature and scope of their responsibilities will be such as would be appropriate for those who are the overseers of Christ's Church. (Eph. 4:11,12; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus. 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3)
2. Deacons: The general nature and scope of their responsibilities shall include such areas of special service as benevolence, handling of offerings, baptismal services, ushering and greeting. (1 Tim. 3:8-13)
3. Trustees: The general nature and scope of their responsibilities shall include such areas of special service as legal agents of the church in all business matters under the direction of the board and subject to the approval of the congregation; hold legal title to all church property and handle all business transactions related thereto; have supervision over all endowment and trust funds; and perform such duties as are required by the laws of the state of Ohio.

Remember our Shut-ins

Bud Brown – BG Manor

Those in Service

Darryl & Carol Krause - missionaries
Lt. Col. Elijah Ward – Carlisle, PA
Ron Burkhardt – Stateside
Jon Walker - 179th Air Nat'l Guard
Michelle Metzger - Army Nat'l Guard
Luke Millican - USAF
Walker Polsinelli - Pakistan
McNiel Snyder - USAF/GA
Wynter Anderson - Army Nat'l Guard
Hunter Braun - USAF
MSgt. Deidra Anderson Braun - USAF

Labor Day: Honoring Work and Rest

Labor Day gives us an opportunity to honor the work of our hands and the many ways people serve their families, churches and communities. As we pause from our usual routines, may we give thanks for meaningful work, remember those seeking employment and receive God's gift of renewing rest.

Activities this month:

Fellowship Break

Sunday, September 6, after Worship

Men's Mentoring

Follows Fellowship Break

Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 7:30pm

Small Group Bible Studies

Continuing in the book of John
Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Food Pantry Is Open

Saturday, September 5 & 19, 10:00am – Noon

Movie Night (outside if weather cooperates)
September 18, at dusk

Labor Day, *September 7, 2026*

Patriot Day, *September 11, 2026*

First Day of Autumn, *September 22, 2026*

The following is a partial extraction
from "Lessons that Last":



Most of us can remember a Sunday school teacher who made a lasting difference in our lives. Sometimes the simplest lessons become the ones we carry with us the longest.

God often uses faithful teachers to plant seeds of wisdom, character and integrity in young hearts. Their influence may not always be seen right away, but the lessons they share can guide lives for years to come.

Never underestimate the power of a few thoughtful words spoken with love and conviction.

Thank God for Teachers

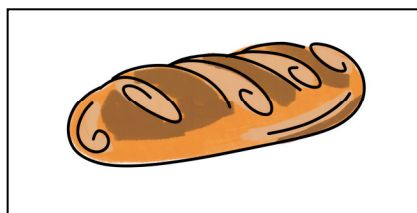
It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect or uncertainty, a caring teacher can become a source of hope, stability and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their calling and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every day.



BREAD — One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or “bread from heaven,” to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament, Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35), pointing to himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord’s Supper, where it represents Christ’s body, given for us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God’s provision, Christ’s presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.





Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.

The Newsletter

When the Road Gets Rough

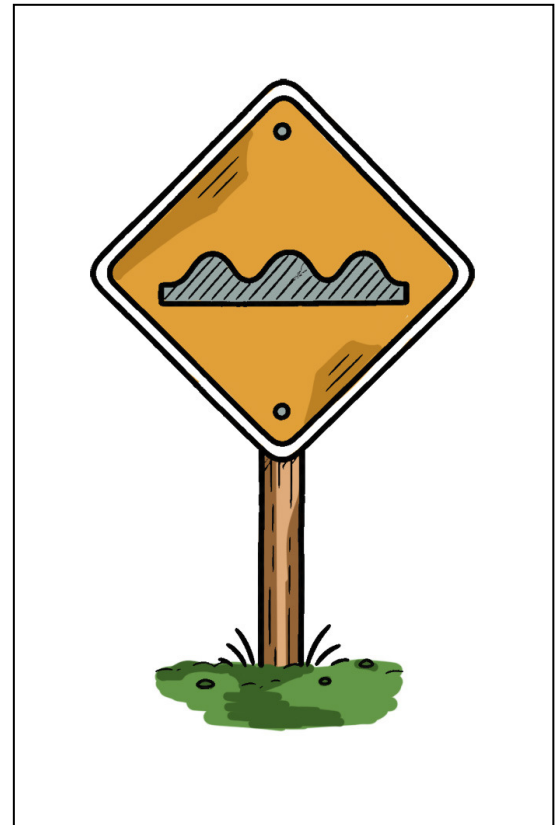
It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So when a sign appeared reading, "Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles," he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Notice He doesn't say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Notice that Jesus didn't say we "might" have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.



The Newsletter

Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Newsletter

Our Mind's Storehouse

Benjamin Weir, a missionary in the Middle East, was taken captive by terrorists and held in solitary confinement. Blindfolded and cut off from the outside world, he endured deep isolation with no one to speak to and no sense of where he was.

What could he do? In many ways, all he had was a beating heart and a mind still free to think. To endure the long days, he began drawing from what was stored within him. After his release, he reflected, "I called up my memory bank, things that were stored in my mind."

He recalled Scripture passages he had learned years before. He remembered lines from William Shakespeare, the words of hymns and songs, and the faces of those he loved. He reflected on his work, his family and the steady grace of God throughout his life.

Looking back, he said, "Whatever is in your mind is what you have to draw on."

That truth lingers. What we place in our minds today shapes what we will lean on tomorrow. It invites a simple but important question: What are we storing away? May we fill our thoughts with what is true, pure and life-giving, with the story of Christ and the hope of His saving grace.

The Newsletter

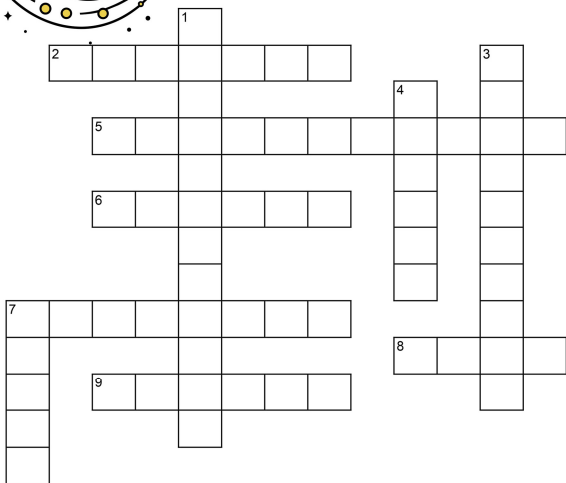


Puzzle!



BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who hunger and _____, for they will be filled.

DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.

Answer key: 2 Across: Rejoice, 5 Across: pure in heart, 6 Across: hunger
3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: reward, 7 Down: mourn
1 Down: poor in spirit, 8 Across: meek, 9 Across: thirst, 1 Down: poor in spirit

Birthdays

- 10 Taylor Anderson
- 10 Dan Murphy
- 11 Garland Joey Brown III
- 14 Jerry Snyder
- 16 Carl Murphy
- 19 Tom Zulch
- 21 Larry Frost
- 23 Mike Murphy



Anniversaries

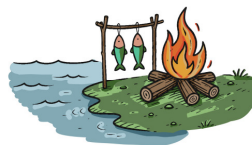
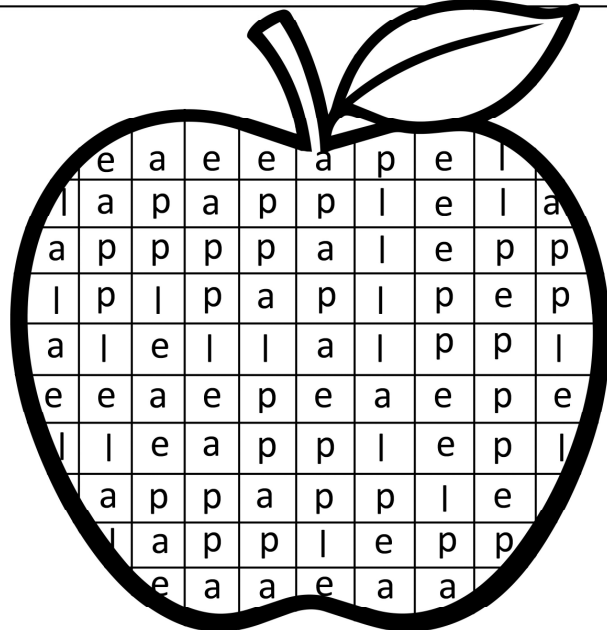
- 18 Derrick & Amber Saylor
- 20 Ron & Brenda Bechstein



Apple of Your Eye

"Apple of your eye" means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye."

Can you find the word "apple" 12 times in the puzzle?
Look up, down, across, and even backward!



After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: "Do you love me?" The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Philip
- D. (Simon) Peter

Answer: D (John 21:17)

A Look at Beauty

Remember kaleidoscopes — those tubes you hold up to your eye and point toward the light to see colorful shapes? When the far end of the optical instrument is turned, fragments of material inside an “object cell” shift and mirrors set at angles reflect light through the pieces, forming ever-changing patterns. A multi-hued flower might become sunlight through a round stained-glass window or fireworks on a clear night.

Various materials can be placed in the cell — tiny figures, twisted bits of metal, lace, viscous liquid — but often broken bits of glass are used, to beautiful effect! In fact, David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope in 1817, named it after the Greek word *kalos*, for “beauty.”

Everyone feels broken, twisted or shattered at times. But when God’s perfect light shines in and through us, reflecting among the fragments of our imperfect lives, we, too, become beautiful. Out of our sinfulness and brokenness shines the beauty of compassion, kindness, perseverance, hope, love — delightful patterns to brighten this hurting world.

The
Newsletter



September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30pm Board Meeting	2 7:00pm Small Group	3 7:00pm Band Practice	4 10am-noon Food Pantry	5
6 9:30am Worship Birthdays & Anniversaries Fellowship Break Men's Mentoring	7 	8	9 7:00pm Small Group	10 7:00pm Band Practice	11 	12 Bowling Green Pregnancy Ctr Walk for Life Carter Park 9:30am
13 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School Love Offering for Lake James	14 Men's Rally at Lake James 5:15-6:45pm dinner 7pm service \$20	15	16 7:00pm Small Group	17 7:00pm Band Practice	18 Movie outside at dusk (about 9pm)	19 10am-noon Food Pantry 9am Golf Outing Lake James
20 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School 4-6pm Chili at St. Marks for donation for BG Food Pantry	21 	22	23 7:00pm Small Group	24 7:00pm Band Practice	25	26 Christian Restoration Association Annual Give Day 7133 Central Park Blvd, Mason Oh 45040 513-229-8000
27 9:30am Worship 11:00am Jr./Sr. High and Adult Sunday School	28 7:00pm Ladies Christian Fellowship	29	30 7:00pm Small Group			

Weston Church of Christ

PO Box 344

13355 Center Street

Weston, Ohio 43569

October news articles are due September 22

Sunday Worship Times

9:30am Worship Service

11:00am Sunday School



2026

Weston Witness

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John McKenzie, 419-806-5775
Bob Walker, 419-262-8006
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September 2026
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The purpose of the Weston Church of Christ is to glorify God by reaching the lost, strengthening the saved and serving as one body for Jesus Christ our Lord.