



Face your giants and move forward

We all go through hard times in this life and have issues we need to deal with. While it's not easy to face challenges or things that have caused pain, it can actually help us if we let God use them to do a good work in us.

James 1:12 (AMPC) says, "Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who is patient under trial and stands up under temptation, for when he has stood the test and been approved, he will receive [the victor's] crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him."

This verse is talking about how going through difficult times and resisting temptation to sin tests and tries us, revealing our true character. It prepares us to pass our tests so we can be promoted and move forward in God's plans for us.

It's time to stop running from things that are hard, that we're avoiding or putting off because we just don't want to confront them. I'm talking about issues like debt, an addiction, poor health due to bad habits, unhealthy relationships, messes caused by bad choices that have led you to live in self-pity...or anything else that is making you feel guilty, frustrated and weary.

Maybe you've been living with a broken heart-an emo-

tional wound-that's been bleeding for way too long. Perhaps you have an anger issue, bitterness, or insecurity that causes you to be easily offended and hard to get along with.

Whatever your "issues" are, they are not just hang-ups, weaknesses or things you have to live with. They are giants coming against you in your walk with Christ. And as a believer in Jesus, you don't have to live with any giant-you are a giant killer.

Confront Your Giants

In 1 Samuel 17, we read about David, the shepherd boy who conquered Goliath, the Philistine giant who was oppressing the Israelite army. David's brothers were soldiers, and his father sent him to the battlefield to take provisions to them. When he heard about Goliath, David asked, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (v. 26).

It bothered David that these Israelite men of God were standing around, letting Goliath intimidate them, so he said, "I'll fight him." But King Saul didn't think he could defeat the giant.

So David told Saul how he had killed the lion and the bear when they came after his sheep. Then he said, "And this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." (v. 36).

You've probably heard the story: he took his slingshot and five smooth stones, "ran quickly toward the battle line" (v. 48), and killed Goliath. David used what he had and ran toward the battle-not away from it. God blessed him and made him a giant killer, and He wants to do the same thing for you.

Learn the the best strategy for battle

The first step in confronting your giants is making the decision that you won't live with them any longer but you will trust God to help you do what you need to do to be free of them. Your attitude should be: I am a giant killer, and I'm not running from my problems anymore. I'm going to take responsibility for the messes I've made and stop making excuses to avoid them. I'm trusting God to show me what I need to do, and by His grace, I'll do it.

Remember that we are partners with God: We have a part to do and He has a part to do. He won't do our part, and we can't do His part. When we do what we can do, He will always do what we cannot do.

But we have to be willing to obey His direction, doing what He shows us to do.

The next step is to study the Word; look up every scripture in the Bible that addresses the issue and meditate on each one. Write them down and put them

places where you'll see them often.

Pray and ask God to help you apply His truth to your life

It can also help to read books about the subject, and if you need it, get professional help, like counseling.

As you spend time with God, praying and studying Scripture, He will work in your heart, healing your wounds, strengthening your faith, and showing you how to move forward to overcome your giants.

The truth is, you don't have to live defeated, with a broken heart and emotional pain. Make your mind up today: "I'm not going to get stuck in the past and give up my future because of something that hurt me.

I can't go back and undo it, but I can go forward in Christ. I will have a whole heart and be healed because Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. I am a giant killer."

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Brauer Preschool hosting Easter candy fundraiser

Alice Brauer Christian Preschool will be taking orders for See's Easter candy as an Easter fundraiser.

The preschool will be selling the candy from March 13-24.

There are several flavors of candy from peanutbutter eggs

to boxes of nuts and chews wrapped in festive wrapping paper, ready for Easter baskets.

To order candy, contact Meggan at Alice Brauer Christian Preschool at 541-999-6026.

www.TheSiuslawNews.com

St. Paddy's Day SPECIALS

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY (WEEK) WITH US!!
Mon. March 13th Thru Sunday March 19th
DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS

HOT REUBEN WITH A SIDE
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 Highway 101 & 35 St. 541-997-4623

Baha'i to discuss qualities of love

On Monday, March 13, beginning at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from varied spiritual paths to discuss "Qualities to Love."

The Baha'i writings say, "There are four qualities which I love to see manifested in people: first, enthusiasm and

courage; second, a face wreathed in smiles and a radiant countenance; third, that they see all things with their own eyes and not through the eyes of others; fourth, the ability to carry a task, once begun, through to the end."

Bring information you may

have about this subject.

The gathering will end at 8 p.m. with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

For more information call Suzanne at 541-590-0779.

Ruth Miller to speak at FUUF Sunday

Tomorrow's worship service, March 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, will be led by Rev. Dr. Ruth Miller.

The title of her message will be "Seeds of Potential."

"Don't forget to move your clocks up for DST on Saturday night. It's almost spring," said Miller. "As the sun shows its

face, more and more hours of the day, the soil is warmed and the seeds and blossoms start to open up with life."

Miller said that, in the same way, new seeds of possibility open in hearts and minds.

Miller will put on her "futurist" hat and share some of the ideas and technologies that are emerging to shape the world to

come.

The UU Fellowship, 87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road, is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each service.

Call 541-997-2840 for more information.

Community Suppers to continue next week

Free Florence Community Suppers, which began in February as a way to bring families and community members together, continues through March.

Community Suppers are held each Wednesday at one of four local churches and is sponsored by St. Andrews Episcopal, New Life Lutheran,

Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw and Florence United Methodist Church.

The next supper will be March 15 at United Methodist Church, at Second and Kingwood streets

Future supper for March will be:

• March 22: The Episcopal Church, 2136 19th St.

• March 29: New Life Lutheran, 21st and Spruce streets.

Anyone who would like to join in a friendly meal once a week is welcome. Donations towards the cost of the meals will be accepted but not required.

Come for a meal, no strings attached.

*Congratulations
 Girl Scouts of America
 on Your Anniversary*

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FLORENCE-AREA GIRL SCOUTS,
 CALL 541-991-2594 OR VISIT WWW.GIRLSCOUTSOSW.ORG.

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Identity Theft, Protect your Loved One

THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2017 @ 2PM
Navigating Difficult Conversations with Your Loved One

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017 @ 2PM
Brain Fitness for Seniors is an Important Part of Well-being

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017 @ 2PM
Helping Seniors Manage Chronic Diseases

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017 @ 2PM
Senior Finances, What to Do When It's Time To Help

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 To register for these free events please call (541) 997-6111 or email us at ldouda@prestigecare.com
 Events are held at Florence Senior Center 1570 Kingwood St. Florence
 Prestige Senior Living

Lane Community College

Board of Education Seeks Applicants to Fill Vacant Seat

The LCC Board is seeking applicants for temporary appointment to fill a vacancy. The board will appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the Zone 1 (Western Lane County) term, which expires on June 30, 2017.

Apply today!
 Visit lanecc.edu/board to learn more.

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