



Watch God work in your life continually

God wants us to continually make good choices for our lives. So He’s given us the Bible—His Word—as an instruction book to live by. The thing is, once we know what it says, we’re responsible to do what it says. Because there’s never a time when it’s all right to do the wrong thing.

Wouldn’t you love it if your children always did what you tell them to do just based on your word? I bet it would really make your day. But there are times when we need to tangibly touch their circumstances to help them get back on track.

And there are times when God has to do the same with us—not because He’s mad at us, but because He loves us. We need to understand that if we follow His instructions, then we’re going to have a life that’s full of peace, joy, and emotional stability.

God cares about every area of our lives and He wants to be involved in everything we do. He wants to help us make good choices in how we dress, what we eat, who we hang out with, how we spend our money... about everything in our life.

Even if you have a lot of areas where you need to change and grow, you don’t have to feel discouraged. As you become more deeply rooted in God’s love, it gets easier to do what He asks because you know He has your best interests at heart.

The question is: Do you value His opinion? Will you allow Him to continually work in your life?

When you really love Jesus, you’re committed to righteousness. You want to do the right thing because it’s right, not just to try and earn a reward from God.

This means we get beyond the mindset that if we do all the right things, then God owes us a reward. The Bible teaches that we’re only doing what we should be doing when we do the right thing.

Luke 17:10 (NIV) says, “So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

The good news is we never have to worry about earning God’s love. He’ll always love us. And we don’t have to wonder, Am I doing enough?

Here’s the thing you need to understand: You are not responsible for the results. God is responsible for that. Your responsibility is to keep doing the right thing all the time, no matter what.

It isn’t always easy, but it’s always worth it. There are going to be times when we’d rather do the wrong thing. But we’ll just regret it later. We need to decide that no matter what our circumstances look like or how hard doing the right thing might be, we’re going to hold on to our joy because our joy is in Jesus.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (AMP) says, “Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, [though] the product of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold

and there are no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord....”

Let’s make this more practical: Though I lose my job and the car breaks down and my child comes home with a bad report from school and I’ve gained five pounds and nothing seems to be working out in my life...even then, I will rejoice in the Lord. Even then, I will do what is right before the Lord.

We don’t have to settle for letting our circumstances determine the level of our joy and peace. We can decide today: I’m going to continue doing right whether it’s easy or not, and I’m going to trust God to give me the grace to do it.

When you’re in the middle of hard times and you really don’t like your circumstances, the first place to run is God’s Word because it has the power to calm you down.

When you feel like giving up and doing wrong, find scriptures about the strength we have in Christ, and then just rest in God’s presence and receive His strength. Whatever you need, just go to God’s Word.

I’ve seen God do amazing things in me and through me because I’ve let Him continually work in my life—and you can have that kind of relationship, too.

Philippians 1:6 (AMP) says, “He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return].”

I encourage you to pray like this: “God, today I’m giving You permission to keep working in my life until You are finished doing all that You need to do. So when I start begging You to back off, please don’t. The truth is, I want to do whatever You are calling me to do.”

Your relationship with God can be an amazing journey that brings you peace, joy and contentment in every area of life, if you will simply choose to follow Him.

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

BIRTHS

Feb. 1, 2016

To Nathan and Joanna Irby of Cottage Grove, a son.

To Michael and Bethany Wells of Cottage Grove, a son.

Feb. 2, 2016

To Sarah and Kyle Knox of Cottage Grove, a son.

Feb. 3, 2016

To Hannah and Andrew Wigton of Creswell, a daughter.

Simons and Carver announce engagement

Allie M. Simons and Casey L. Carver, both of Cottage Grove, would like to announce their engagement and plans to wed on June 4, 2016 at the Stewarts' home, 34233 Garoutte Road.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Jason and Jodie Simons of Cottage Grove. She is certified as an EKG Tech. The groom-to-be is the son of Kevin and Joyce Carver of Cottage Grove. He is employed with Thompson Landscaping.



IN MEMORIAM

Memorial Notice

Dan Duane McHaffie, 64, of Yoncalla passed away Feb. 1, 2016. A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Yoncalla Church of Christ in Yoncalla. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

Randy Lee Fox 1964-2016

Randy Lee Fox, 51, of Cottage Grove, was called home by the Lord on Monday, Jan. 25, 2016.



He was born Nov. 25, 1964 in Clovis, N.M. He was raised in Modesto, Calif. and attended Downey High. He moved to Oregon in 2005.

Randy enjoyed music, playing the guitar, fishing and camping, and was full of life and love.

Randy was a loving husband, son, father, grandfather, brother and friend.

He is survived by his wife, one daughter, three sons and four grandchildren, all of Ore-

gon, and his father, stepmother, mother and brother, all of California.

A Memorial/Celebration of Life service was held Saturday, Feb. 6 at Living Faith Assembly in Cottage Grove. Arrangements entrusted to Musgrove Family Mortuary. Please access the obituary and you are invited to sign the guestbook at musgroves.com.

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON
For the Sentinel

Today, Wednesday, Feb. 10, is a half-day for schoolchildren and another half day of art at Applegate Elementary. Marianne Walker will lead students in a manga cartooning session with the finest tools for drawing. Those interested can call the office for more information at 541-935-2100.

The Rural Arts Council is bringing some amazing artists, so don’t miss these opportunities.

A plant distribution from Siu-slaw Watershed is this Saturday, Feb. 13 at Lorane Family Store from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Those seeking to pre-order plants or trees can contact Kate Harney at nativeplants@suislaw.org. Plants must be ordered before Saturday.

The RAC movie this Saturday, Feb. 13 features a soup dinner at 6 p.m., then the movie at 7 p.m. It is romantic movie night with the romantic suspense-comedy “Charade” starring Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant, Walter Matthau and James Coburn. Add to that a sound track featuring songs by Henri Mancini and it promises to be a fun evening.

There will be no school on Monday, Feb. 15 for President’s Day.

A mandatory parent/athletic meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 16 for all spring sports will be held at Crow Middle/High School, and those interested are asked to be there at 6 p.m.

Keep Sunday, Feb. 21 on the calendar to join the Lorane Christian Church Friendship Dinner at Sizzler’s in Springfield at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join and visit with friends and neighbors in Lorane.

Lorane Grange’s next spaghetti dinner and bingo is Saturday, Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. Wishing everyone a very Happy Valentine’s Day on Sunday, Feb. 14.

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