



ISSUE SEVENTY-SEVEN

WONDERFUL!

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God Satisfies
our Soul

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LIFE NOW!



FEBRUARY - APRIL 2019

STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES

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Word on the Street

is released twice per semester and has been published since 1999. WOTS Magazine is written, laid out, and printed by young adult Christians who love Jesus and want to write about God, life, and college. We hope this magazine is helpful, challenging, and thought-provoking while also encouraging you to pursue a strong relationship with Jesus.

WOTS is available in the USA on the UW-Stout, UW-Superior, and UW-River Falls campuses. We also produce and distribute the magazine at various universities in Cebu City, Philippines. Just recently, a version of WOTS has been created in Southeast Asia with three issues released so far! Also, we have published our second issue in Amsterdam with the goal of reaching even more of the EU.

WOTS is Street Level Ministries' magazine. Check out how you can become a part of this global 'zine by visiting streetlevelministries.com.

MEET THE WOTS STAFF

MENOMONIE, WI



RIVER FALLS, WI



SUPERIOR, WI

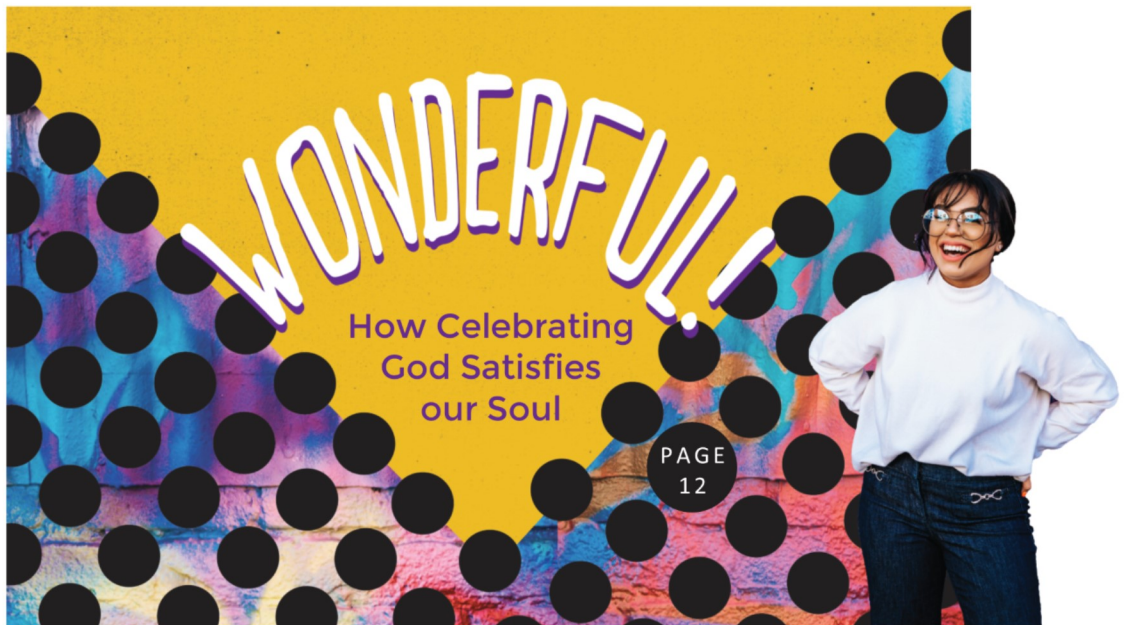


CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES



PLUS...SOUTHEAST ASIA • AMSTERDAM





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**LOCAL
EVENTS
CALENDAR**

FEBRUARY

SAT 2/16 MEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-LA CROSSE
 EVERY SUNDAY 2/16-4/7 OPEN SKATE, DON FANETTI ICE ARENA, 6:30-8:30PM
 TUE 2/26 DUNN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY SPAGHETTI DINNER,
 CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4-7PM

MARCH

SAT 3/2 EMPTY BOWLS, MENOMONIE HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS, 11AM-2PM
 FRI 3/1-SUN 3/3 NORTH AMERICAN ICE FISHING CIRCUIT, LAKE MENOMIN
 SAT 3/9 WOMENS GYMNASTICS WIAC CHAMPIONSHIP, JOHNSON FIELDHOUSE,
 2-5PM
 WED 3/13 BINGO MSC TERRACE, 7PM
 SAT 3/23-3/31 SPRING BREAK WEEK, NO CLASSES

APRIL

TUE 4/9 CUPCAKES AND CANVASES, MSC BALLROOM B-C, 6-8PM
 WED 4/17 BINGO: 2000'S EDITIONS MSC TERRACE, 7PM
 SUN 4/28 KITE FESTIVAL, TANGLEWOOD GREENS, 11AM-3PM

BELIEVERS City Church
 Menomonie, Wisconsin
 BIBLICAL · MISSIONAL · RADICAL

SUN // 10:30AM
 WED // 7:00PM
 JFBELIEVERS.COM

**STUDENT
POLL**

What do you think of when you hear the phrase "free speech"?



Hannah, Sr. Retail Management
 I think about a class discussion. I think of controversy and some censorship.

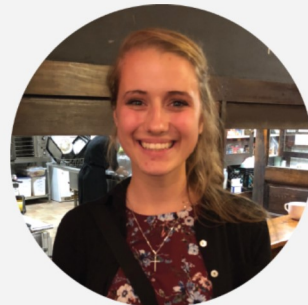


Claire, Sr. Industrial Design
 I think of our amendments. There is a lot of heat about what's appropriate or not.

Sarah, Sr. Graphic Design
 I think of government-related things...



Josh, Fr. Undeclared
 America. That's what I think about.



Rebecca, Fr. Animal Science
 I think about the freedom to express yourself verbally. That's what free speech means to me.



ORG SPOTLIGHT: WRESTLING CLUB

AN INSIDE LOOK INTO ONE OF
STOUT'S NEWEST CLUBS

Wrestling got its official start during the Olympic games of 708 B.C., so it's been around awhile! Read on to learn the ins and outs of the Wrestling Club as we dive into an interview with the president of the club, Matt Buechel.

Word on the Street (WOTS): What made you want to start a club wrestling team at Stout?

Matt (M): After a few weeks into my freshman year I found myself very stressed and getting sick of school. I realized I needed to do something other than go to class and study. I was highly active in high school, so I decided to start some of my old habits again. I started weightlifting five days a week before my 8 a.m. classes and got a job working for housing, but I was still not satisfied with how I was using my time. I ran into a few guys around campus that had wrestled in high school and still had interest, but who had nowhere to go. We decided to get together and wrestle a few times, but I wanted more. After talking with my RA, who is also on the board in SSA (Stout Student Association), I found out that I could start my own group and have a legitimate place for students to go wrestle. That's when I started all the paperwork and went through the new organization process.

WOTS: Were you aware that Olympic silver and gold medalist John Peterson wrestled at Stout State University, and if so, was that one of the motivating factors in starting the club?

M: I had heard that John Peterson wrestled here for Stout, but I'm not really familiar with his career. I believe that his story, along with the numbers of people on the club team, is a good foundation in working towards getting an NCWA (National College Wrestling Association) team here again at UW-Stout.

WOTS: Do you keep in contact with any other club teams around the area for tips and possible dual meets?

M: I am always reaching out to other colleges and teams around the state. I have worked mostly with UW-Madison's club team and have learned a lot in the last few months. This season we have competed at the Dan Gable Open at UW-

Oshkosh and in a dual at UW-Madison vs. Madison and Winona State. We have plans to travel to UW-Eau Claire in February and compete in their Open as well. As for next season, the team has decided to apply to join the NCWA. This would put us in a league with over 50 other teams across the country and in the Great Lakes Conference. The NCWA offers a full season schedule for us to compete, including the opportunity to qualify for a national tournament.

WOTS: What's one of the most valuable lessons wrestling has taught you?

M: The impact that wrestling holds in my life is unbelievable to most, but not to other wrestlers. I truly believe that it is a sport like no other. Wrestling has taught me the importance of being an individual and also the importance of a team, which directly correlates in everyday life. You must first hold yourself responsible and put in the work, but you also must work with others. That is where success is built. One of the other most important lessons wrestling has taught me is that hard work is 99% of what it takes to succeed.

WOTS: What is your favorite food?

M: My favorite food is probably cheesy potatoes.

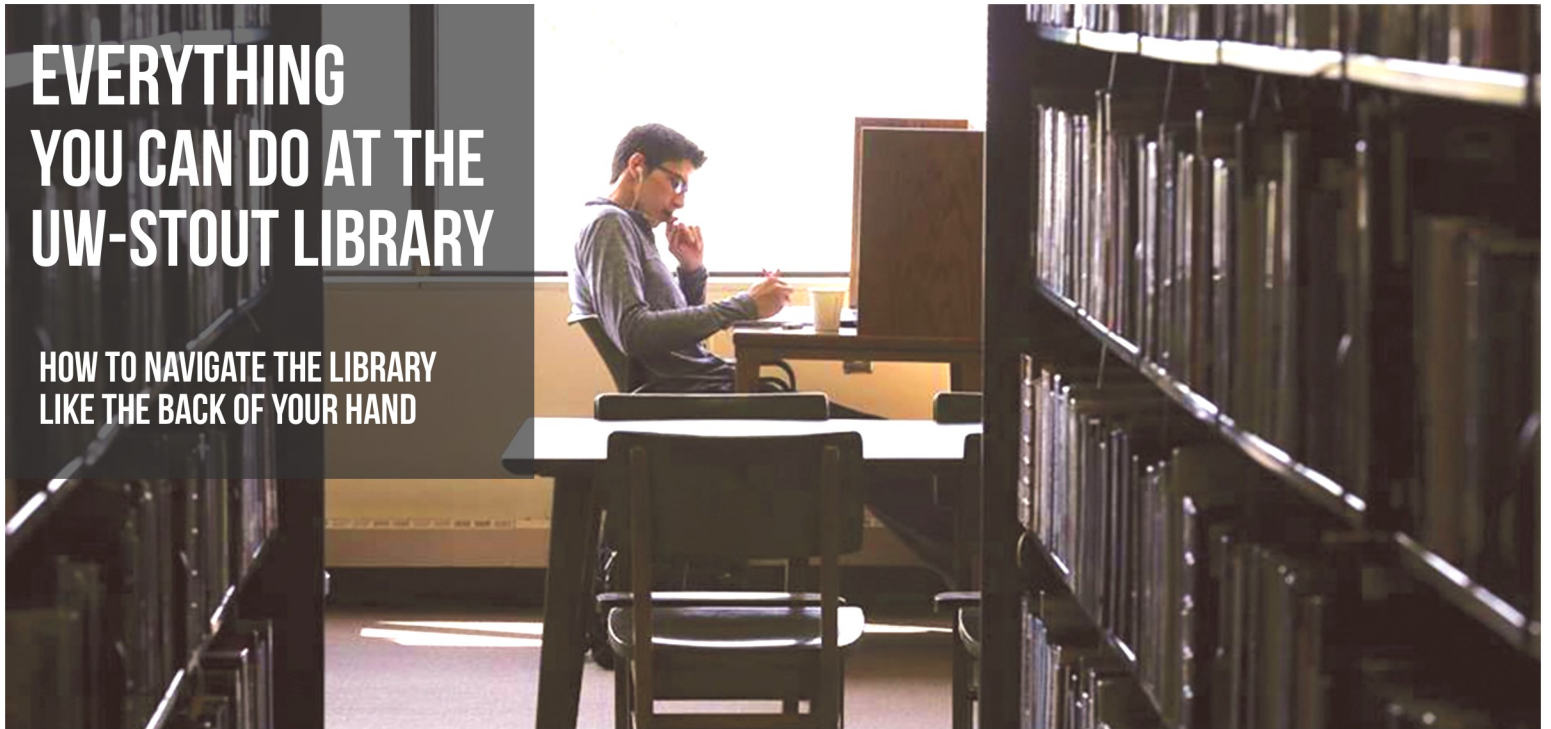
WOTS: If you could rename the coconut, what would you name it?

M: If I renamed the coconut, I would probably call it the hairy pinecone.

If you are interested in finding out more or starting your own org, visit the Wrestling Club page and the Stout Student Association page on Stout CONNECT.

EVERYTHING YOU CAN DO AT THE UW-STOUT LIBRARY

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE LIBRARY LIKE THE BACK OF YOUR HAND



If you have noisy roommates or floormates and you're looking for a quiet place for your studies, the UW-Stout Library is always a perfect solution. You can just grab a bean bag, get some homework done, and study for that exam you've been avoiding. Just remember that it isn't open past midnight, so you'll have to save that 2 a.m. study time for your dorm. The library has a lot of online resources too, such as eBooks, several citing resources, streaming videos, along with traditional paper magazines, newspapers and of course, books, books, and more books.

In case you didn't know...

Who doesn't love cookies? Cookies & Milk day is offered here and there, so make sure you don't miss it or the occasional jeopardy night. If you are in need of free caffeine, the library has your back - every Monday there is free coffee until noon.

Monday there is free coffee until noon.

Searching for your favorite movie?

Find them on the first floor and rent for free as a student for up to a month.

Don't forget to test out a game or two in the library's designated room for that, which is found on the first floor. For that next

art project, if you don't have a camera or projector, you can rent one from the library's supply. Inquire at the resource desk. Are you looking for a job? Many employees who work in the library are also students; ask a librarian how you can apply today.

Study spot suggestions...

Have a group project but can't find a good spot to meet up? You could recommend the library's conference room to ensure better focus for your team. If you're a quiet studier, try heading to an upper level; they get quieter as you go. For the best study spot, make the area your own. On the second floor on

the left, there are two couches (sometimes four) that no one sits on. Don't be afraid to move the lamps around so they are just right. When it gets warmer out, ask the front desk for a key to the screen porch (you heard that right) to enjoy some bug-free fresh air.



One Girl's

True Story

I became a Christian at 21, but I grew up going to church hearing all the Sunday school answers and Christian terms. I actually first “asked God into my heart” when I was six or seven. I was asked if I wanted a free gift from Jesus, and I said yes because who doesn't accept a free gift? When I asked Him into my heart, Jesus then apparently lived there. Isn't that cool... The next time I did it was at summer camp after a heart-to-heart with my counselor. I was like, “Yeah, I want to do this!” Then I went home and life was the same. I do remember praying at this point in my life, without really knowing what I was doing. Someone had told me that God talks to you through prayer, but I did not know what they meant.

A few years passed and I began to understand what sin was more, but I told no one what I was struggling with: escapism, not paying attention to life, and spending my time distracting myself with videos and novels online. It was around this time that I got a letter from the youth pastor at my church, and in it he called me a quiet leader of the group. He added that I loved the Lord, didn't seem to live by society's norms, didn't marginalize others, and that I seemed confident. I know that he meant it as an encouragement when he also wrote that I knew the Word (Bible), but that I should work on living it more out loud, but it gave me a huge amount of fear. Plus, I didn't relate to any of the qualities he had listed about me. I then hid the letter from my parents because I had an irrational fear that if they saw, I would actually have to become a student leader. The church was trying to set up a group of student leaders at the time, but I completely refused.

I was afraid of having to participate, afraid of having to pray in front of others, afraid of words not coming out or doing that nervous tick of mine where I cleared my throat after every word. This was the first time I found myself clearly running away from God, but at the same time, I also was in a Bible study with an older lady named Audrey at church. I got to experience her excitement for Christ and what He was doing in her life.

After my first year of college ended, I decided to go to art school in the Twin Cities (USA). The first day, I was very gung-ho about finding a group to be a part of, not wanting to be the statistic that my pastor back home had talked about. I ended up going to church with a random person I ran into while leaving the school housing apartment building to

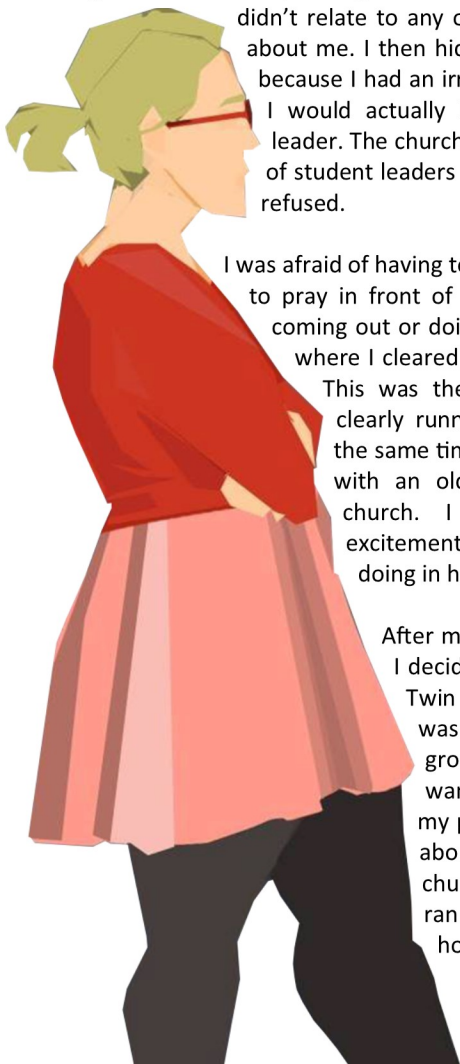
“I CHANGED A LOT AS I GREW IN CHRIST. MY SINS ALSO BECAME CLEARER TO ME, BUT THIS TIME I WAS WAY MORE WILLING TO TALK TO PEOPLE.”

find a church, which was an experience. The gist of it was that I got scared and didn't go to church for like the next three months. Looking back, I remember being very depressed and sad. I wanted friends so bad, but I was too afraid to talk to anyone. I started journaling as part of an English II class and was essentially writing prayers to God seeking Him, but was still not willing to go do it myself.

Then I met a fellow art student named Atlantis randomly on the train. One day after a psych class we had together, she invited me to this play thing. I didn't expect it to be a Jesus thing, but it was, and man, did that play hit me. All of the loneliness I'd been feeling and the God I had always known about was just laid out in front of me. At the end of it they said they had church on Sunday at noon, so the next day I went. A leader had me say my sins out loud and ask for forgiveness. It was the first time I had admitted these things out loud. Through that church I learned more about God's character and was challenged to start praying again. I remember getting stuck on the passage from Luke 14:28, which says, “For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?” To me, this was saying that if I was going to be a Christian, I needed to look at the cost of it and decide whether or not I was going to accept it or continue to deny it, like I had been doing. I also learned what it meant to live life with other Christians, was invited into their homes, and served God. I changed a lot as I grew in Christ that year. My sins also became clearer to me, but this time I was way more willing to talk to people.

When my school unexpectedly closed down, I met with one of my leaders, Sarah, and we prayed about it. Through that conversation, I knew I finally understood what following Jesus meant. Going back home after that was hard because it felt like I was running away again, but I was encouraged when an email from the pastor at my Minneapolis church shared that he had met some people from the church I go to now. Today I'm going to UW-Stout, and I've been involved in serving God and doing my best to learn more. I think I'm being called to be more intentional and a leader just like how the disciples were. Last summer, I was asked to help with the young adult group in my hometown. They are interested in Jesus, but are still in the spot where they are seeking Him. Funny how God uses you in ways you never imagined – especially when it's in a spot you can totally relate to because it's where you used to be!

Anyways bye. Love. Aubs



WHY OUR HEARTS ARE JACK SPARROW COMPASSES

A NOTE FROM JON BLOOM



AH, February. We're in the month of love which means the siren's call of "Follow your heart" is everywhere. When Minneapolis author Jon Bloom came to campus to give a talk on his 2017 book, *Don't Follow Your Heart*, he challenged all that. He gave us an exhortation to live counter-culturally—that is, to *not* follow your heart. He also claimed that the human heart was designed to be led and not followed, and that the heart means more to God than we realize.

Bloom began by pointing out what we all already know: our culture thinks our hearts are guides that will lead us to great personal happiness. Then came something radical. A claim so counter-cultural we might not believe it at first:

"Our hearts have sociopathic tendencies." Bloom asked the room to think of what their hearts had been telling them that day, honestly revealing he'd rather not share what his own had said. He believes that our hearts are narcissistic and lead us to think "the best of me and the worst of you." He pointed to the Bible where Jesus says, "From the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immortality, theft, lying, and slander" (Matthew

15:19, NLT). Bloom thinks our hearts are lousy leaders because "they are Jack Sparrow compasses." They are professionals at looking out for me, myself, and I, just like how in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Jack is relentlessly in pursuit of what he wants. Honestly assessing what my own heart told me in the last 24 hours, I agree with Bloom when he said,

"Our hearts are not going to save us; we need to be saved from our hearts."

Our hearts show us what we love, reveal what we hate, and divulge what we want. Bloom

brought the audience to see how "Follow your heart" can be translated to mean "Pursue what you want." We all know that isn't the best idea all the time. Ever wanted to eat an entire pizza by yourself? Of course you have! But let's face it, eating all the pizza you want is not the best decision for your body and you know it. Maybe you've pushed hard for a relationship you wanted and it fell short of satisfaction faster than you could process what happened. "Pursue what you want" fails because the thing you want so badly never fulfills you the way you hope for in your head.

Knowing that human tendency is to pursue what we want nearly all the

time, Bloom encouraged listeners to go to the Bible for rock solid truth in an unsteady world, allowing their hearts to be led by God as they were designed. God says to treasure what is true, right, and noble (Philippians 4:8) and to cultivate the right affections (Colossians 3:1). Bloom warns us that doing this will require us to *deny* our hearts, to deny the evil things we seem to love so much. We must instead instruct our hearts what to do, but we can't possibly do this on our own. It is God who empowers this in us. Speaking from personal experience, Bloom assured us that denying our hearts is not a denial of happiness, but a pursuit of it.

Satan doesn't want you to see what's truly valuable. That's why the Bible tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). Your heart matters a lot to God because He made it and knows what makes you tick. Bloom promised us that God is everything you've been looking for. God is not indifferent with your joy. He loves it so much that He tells us exactly where to find it: "In your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

Interested in reading more? You can purchase *Don't Follow Your Heart* online or download it for free at desiringgod.org/books/don't-follow-your-heart.



MANY TRAVELERS, ONE JOURNEY

What does a youth hostel in the center of Amsterdam have to do with a Jesus ashram nestled high in the mountains of India? How does a peaceful fruit farm in Australia relate to a guesthouse in colorful Mexico City? What possibly brings unity among such diversity? Perhaps it's a common dream that one day all travelers will have the opportunity to experience Jesus. Get your feet wet and step into theRIVER, where you will discover what this collection of travelers, nomads, hippies, and explorers is all about.

THE SHELTER HOSTEL

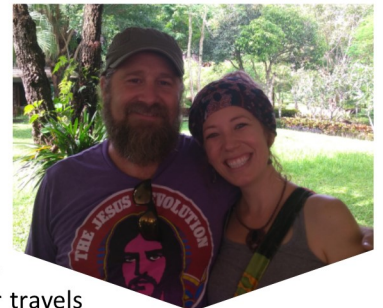
John and Judy Pex, from Holland and the United States, opened The Shelter Hostel in Eilat, Israel in 1984. Both had spent many years traveling in search of answers to their spiritual questions. Eventually, their paths led them to Israel, where they began to read the Bible and came to believe that Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6, NKJV). After discovering this truth, they opened up their home to share Christ-centered hospitality with others. A few years later, their hostel was born. When asked why they have a heart for travelers, Judy said, "Because we were [travelers] ourselves and that's how we got saved." Living in community is very important to them because, "It's biblical – how Jesus lived with His disciples. We need each other, to rub against each other, and to teach each other." Their advice for anyone who wants to travel but doesn't know where to start is to



volunteer somewhere. You can immerse yourself in a culture for a time and experience something much more meaningful than tourism can offer because you're actually giving something.

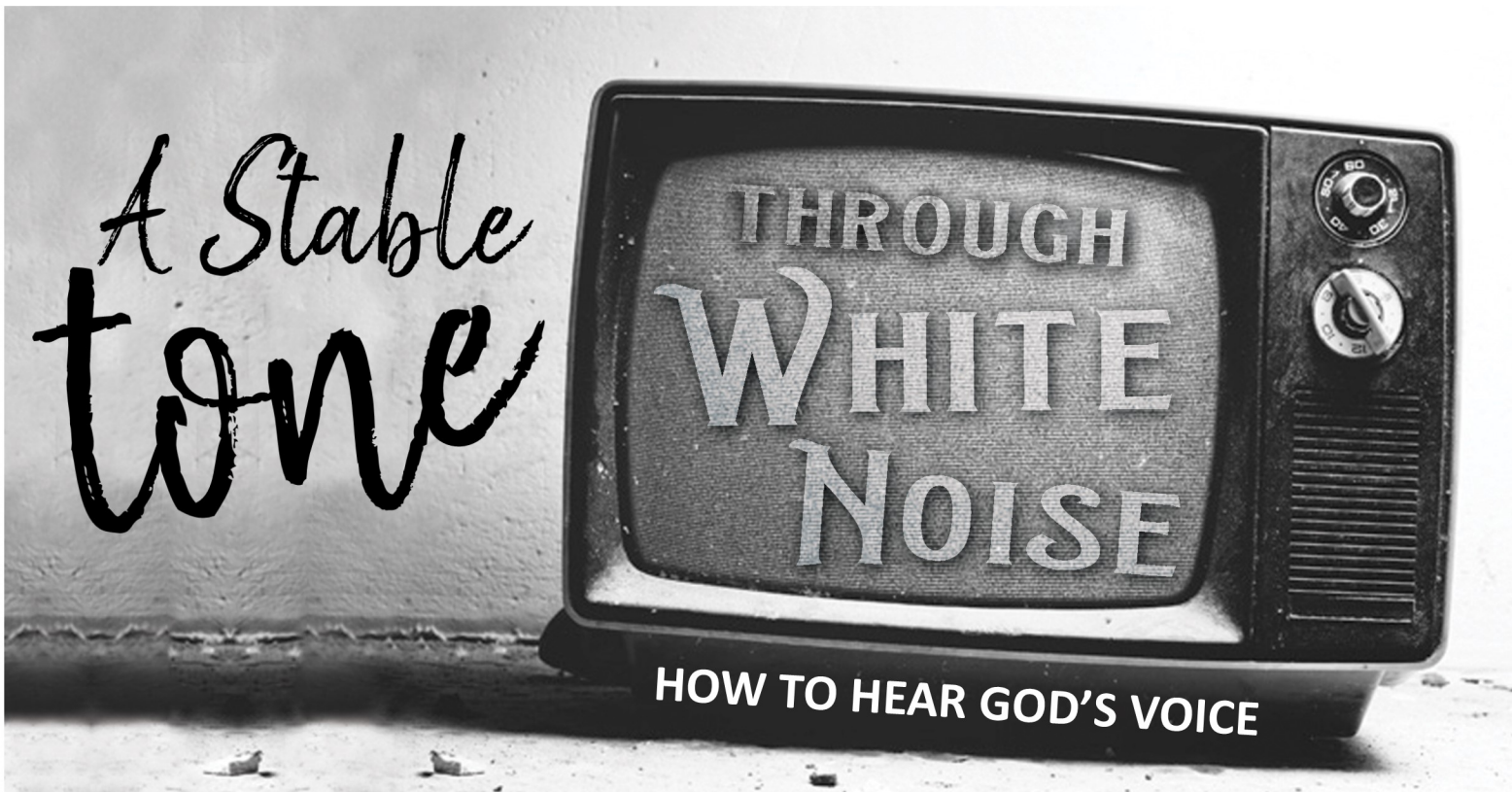
NOMAD'S LAND

Joshua and Shallyn Hanson, along with their four children, spend most of their time in the foothills of the southern Appalachians in the USA. The family maintains Nomad's Land, a creative Christian community that hosts a seasonal traveler's hostel in Attalla, Alabama. Guests can stay in a cozy, rustic hobbit house, a vintage camper, or a funky, double-decker school bus. The Hansons found Jesus during their travels when they were younger. In fact, Joshua came to the Lord through the hippie lifestyle and spiritual experiences that culminated in him literally running a bus into a church! On his way to a Rainbow Gathering in 1995, he said he was, "Knocking on every spiritual door and ding-dong ditching," until he discovered Jesus is the truth. To this day, the family still attends yearly Rainbow Gatherings with the goal of sharing Jesus with travelers.



MANY STREAMS, ONE RIVER

theRiver communities create space to experience God: everything from guesthouses, cafés, hostels, to meditation spaces. theRIVER inspires communities to grow, work together, and start new communities so that many streams will flow into one river. On the surface, the communities look very different from each other. However, they all follow the same current: that travelers can explore Jesus' teachings and find out what it means to follow Him. If you want to learn more about theRIVER or visit a community, visit therivercommunities.com. To find a place to volunteer, visit worldpackers.com or workaway.info.



We are constantly surrounded by voices. The voice of reason. Our conscience. Parents, roommates, professors, co-workers, and bosses. We even listen to our own gut! But what if there was a voice that we should be listening to, could be listening to, or even want to listen to? What if that voice could console you, rebuke you, and even direct you? The truth of the matter is this: God speaks, and we should listen. So how do you even begin to hear from God? How do you hear God's voice?

READ THE BIBLE

God has spoken to us, is actively speaking, and will continue to speak to us through the Bible. The Bible, or Word, is living and active. God really speaks through the inspired scriptures; all you must do is read. Matt Brown, a guest contributor for desiringGod.org wrote, "Complaining about God being silent when your Bible is closed is like complaining about not getting texts when your phone is turned off."¹ If you're not willing to even open the Bible and give it a chance, then you are eliminating the opportunity for one of the major means in which you can hear from God. Let God's Word dwell in us so deeply and richly that it teaches and corrects us to where the outpouring of our hearts sing praise to God, thanking Him (Colossians 3:16, ESV). What we hear and what we listen to every day is the material that will make up our faith. "So, faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17, ESV). Boldly trust that you can hear from God through scripture.

PRAY

The God of the universe, the one true God, wants to have a relationship with you. Have you ever had a conversation where it's all one-sided? It's weird, right? And awkward. Don't you think that God wants to hear from you as well? We are to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17, ESV). But how do you pray? Give God the authority He deserves and talk to Him about your daily happenings. Tell God what's going on in your thought life. Tell Him what you struggle with. Let Him know that you thoroughly enjoyed that piece of chocolate cake or even the hike you went on yesterday. Ask Him for help in understanding. Boldly ask Him to speak in your life daily, so that you may hear from Him in every situation that life brings.

THROUGH WORKINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

You can hear God through the works of the Holy Spirit. At the end of Jesus' life, He mentions that He must go for a Helper to come. That Helper can guide us to hear from God. He does so primarily with the Bible. Have you ever read a passage in scripture that didn't make sense at all and then later come back to it, having your eyes opened to what it could mean? The Holy Spirit helped you. The Holy

"WHAT WE HEAR AND WHAT WE LISTEN TO EVERY DAY IS THE MATERIAL THAT WILL MAKE UP OUR FAITH."

Spirit can also help you hear from God through prayer. When we do not know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26, ESV). The Holy Spirit also uses the church body for us to hear God's voice. Whether it be through the sermon, seeking out counsel, or having the Holy Spirit use someone to speak into your life about matters you are facing, the Holy Spirit is at work aiding in hearing God's voice.


CHURCH COMMUNITY

How will we know that it is really God that we are hearing from? I heard God telling me to go into this major, get married, and/or buy a car. Am I right? Having a strong biblical church community to go to can help answer if you have really heard the voice of God.

THROUGH SUPERNATURAL MEANS

You can hear God's voice through visions (Genesis 15:1, ESV and Acts 11:5-9, ESV), dreams (Genesis 37:5 and Matthew 2:13), nature (Exodus 3), and even a donkey (Numbers 22:28-30, ESV)! If God wants you to hear what He has to say, He will find a way.

However, don't bank on these types of events happening to you all the time. They come from personal circumstances. God primarily uses the Bible for you to hear His voice.

These steps are great to begin with, but we ultimately need to consider the one person who can help us hear God's voice: Jesus. We should think about the person and work of Jesus Christ and embrace Him. Jesus has been there since the beginning. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1, ESV). Consider putting your trust and faith in what Jesus has said in scripture as true and valid: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24, ESV). Consider the fact that Jesus became a man, was tempted in every way we are, but never sinned, and chose to die for us in order that we might be able to come back to God one day. Now, if there is a person who can help you hear from God, wouldn't you want to get to know them too? "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 11:15, ESV). 

Will my excessive coffee consumption add value to my life, or should I listen to my mother and cut back on the two pots of coffee I drink each day? (I don't drink it all at one time ... usually!)

- Caffeinated, Cebu Philippines

Dear
Laura



Laura don't lie like that other science guy.

Dear Caffeinated,
I am sure there have been times (or there will be) when you needed to stay up all night studying for exams or finishing up that project you should have started last week, but rest assured, you are not the first college student wondering how much coffee is too much.

This may surprise you, but coffee isn't really as bad as you think it is! I will not bore you with the details except to say when hot water runs through coffee grounds while brewing, the grounds mix with the water and become part of the drink. "Coffee, believe it or not, happens to be the biggest source of antioxidants, outranking both fruits and vegetables. When you're treating yourself to a cup of coffee, you're not only

getting caffeine but a whole bunch of other beneficial compounds, including powerful antioxidants."¹ So for those reasons alone, it seems you should be drinking more coffee, not less.

Though drinking four or five eight-ounce cups of coffee a day may seem like a lot, it is healthy for you. But, remember to take into consideration what happens when you add things like cream and sugar. On a side note: if you want to curb the sweet tooth while drinking your coffee, try some dark chocolate instead; it is also loaded with lots of antioxidants. —Laura

If you have a scientific or philosophical question for Dear Laura, send them our way at wotsmagazine@gmail.com.

¹healthline.com/nutrition/how-coffee-makes-you-live-longer

WONDERFUL!

How Celebrating
God Satisfies
our Soul



It's over a year away, but athletes around the world have been gearing up for the upcoming 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo since the last games in London. They're in it for the long haul, and it's part of the romance of the drama when it finally unfolds on our screens for 16 blissful days. Consider Peter Kauzer, aka the "paddling extraordinaire" from Slovenia, who will be vying for the gold medal he missed in 2016. For him, it is much more than a gold medal dream: "For me, paddling on the white water is like a ballet. Everything must be smooth and reactive. If I get this feeling even now and I come to the finish line and I haven't won, I am still happy. It puts a smile on my face and it is the reason I am still paddling. I am searching for that perfect run, which will never happen but I try to get as close as possible."¹ What we admire so much in athletes at the top of their game is their love of the game. They've sacrificed everything for their sport, and their devotion is something like worship.

Imagine this kind of pure delight being the main point with God, and not the things we "do" for Him. In fact, we are called to exactly that. And since He made the boat and the water it glides on, the kind of delight and wonder He desires is infinitely greater. The point is not to achieve something "great". The point is to be with God enjoying Him. That is what He desires, and how He made us to live life, but we so often let wrong notions about who God is and what He desires of us get in the way.

THE MESS WE'VE MADE

In our hunt for joy, we commit a fatal mistake when we make false assumptions about God's character. When we assume, we formulate opinions based off of an incomplete picture without all of the facts. We piece together our own scars, borrowed arguments, and cultural ideas of God that paint Him as a strict authoritarian who doesn't want us to have any fun. We can view Him as intimidating, distant, mean, unfair, or boring. When we view God this way, we assume that all He cares about is us following the rules. From the outside, it can seem that obedience to these rules is a dry, robotic fulfillment of God's expectations to ward off His wrath.

Because of this, we are easily satisfied with a shallow happiness that we can buy, scroll through, or binge on. We fool ourselves into thinking we have many years ahead of us to settle our standing with God. We think we can come to God after we graduate, after we get married, after we have kids, or after we retire. Yet, do you know someone who has died before the age of 30? Most of us do. Those people thought they had time too.

Ultimately, we make a mess of our lives when we believe that joy can't be found in God but rather in doing what

"THE POINT IS TO BE WITH GOD ENJOYING HIM."

we want to do, when we want to do it. Pushing God away like this only leaves us unfulfilled and striving for more.

UNLIKE ANY OTHER

Since it is so easy and (unfortunately) common for us to misinterpret God's character and keep Him at a distance, how then are we to rightly understand the true and living God? Why is it that He demands but also deserves our worship? While there is an inexhaustible list of God's characteristics that describe why (read the Bible for it all), the following three are foundational.

He is Creator

To start, God is the creator of the universe and of life itself. The tiniest of atoms to the most unfathomable galaxies are all His design. He should be applauded for the sheer variety, beauty, curiosity and order His creation portrays. Have you ever just *had* to text your friend about the beautiful sunset you were seeing? Have your taste buds ever danced during a delicious meal? Do your ears perk up at the sound of your favorite song on the radio? God is behind it all. In the book of Job, we're asked many rhetorical questions that immediately put us in our place when it comes to what we think we know about the universe. For example, God asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me if you know so much. Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone?" (Job 38:4-6, NLT). Because we weren't there, we ought to worship the One who was.

He is Love

Next, God is worthy of our worship because He is the only one out of all of the world religions to say that you can't do it; you can't earn your way to heaven. Rather, He came to us. From the Garden of Eden until now, our sin has separated us from God, but He has offered His own perfect Son as the sacrifice for our sins. John 3:16 says, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (NLT). Love of this magnitude should make our hearts pound in awe and wonder. Love like that makes the world's version of love pale in comparison. He is not there for you because you're polished and Instagram-perfect. He died for you when you were still a sinner (Romans 5:8), not just after you cleaned things up a bit. He is there for you at your very worst.

¹olympic.org/news/introducing-paddler-extraordinaire-peter-kauzer

“THE NEXT ELECTION OR UNUSUAL STORM IS IN HIS CONTROL. WHAT A RELIEF. WHAT TRUE FREEDOM. HOW WONDERFUL!”

He is in Control

Finally, God deserves our worship not just because of what He has done, but also because of what He will do in the future. In other words, the grand narrative about God isn't over yet. The Bible promises events still to come that we have to look forward to. He'll wipe away every tear (Revelation 21:4), create the new heavens and new earth (2 Peter 3:13), and we'll get to be with Him forever in the place that He has prepared for us (John 14:3). His work means you can stop "working" for Him and appreciate what it means that THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE WHO KNOWS ITS BEGINNING AND END wants a relationship with you. This authentic worship of Him, therefore, is born from a thankfulness of His kindness and the eager expectation of His future. There's no room in there for entitlement (thinking we deserve something more). With God in control of the world's future, He can certainly handle yours, and that's true cause for celebration! The next election or unusual storm is in His control. What a relief. What true freedom. How wonderful!

A SATISFIED SOUL

No matter what our assumptions about God, no matter how we've neglected to worship Him in the past, He extends the invitation to all of us to know Him right this second and to celebrate Him. The psalmist proclaims, "You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever" (Psalm 16:11, NLT). That's where joy is found: in the presence of God. Anything you could ever "do" for God starts with your relationship with Him. I would argue that Peter Kauzer has become among the best paddlers in the world because he loves what he is doing, and that drives the sacrifices he has made to get to the top of his game.

Within this relationship, God can then grow inside of you a passion for Him and His Kingdom, which causes life-giving action, free of the emptiness of religious presumptions. This cyclical, interdependent process: (1) relationship, (2) passion, (3) action is what produces vision and purpose. As a Christian you will experience it, and crave it, your entire life. That's what it means to be deeply satisfied and not constantly searching for

meaning. Giving your life to His control is a lifelong celebration of how amazing He truly is.

I was raised going to church for over a decade and I missed that crucial point: it is possible to enjoy a true, living relationship with God. It wasn't about following rules or being a good person after all. Rather, the goal of my life was to enjoy *Him*.

Grasping this changed everything. For the first time, I *wanted* to be at church. I *wanted* to be around other Christians. I *needed* to be where God was. For the first time, I was free of trying to manufacture a persona in order to get people to like me. I was fully accepted and fully loved. And that was reason to celebrate. All of a sudden, everything I used to be lost its luster, like a tarnished ring from a secondhand store. Paul says as much: "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ my Lord" (Philippians 3:8, NLT). All those years I used to try to give God what I thought He wanted, when all He had wanted was me. My unbelief about God's true intent had kept me from this truth.

When we enjoy God above all else, it's impossible to remain the same. Slowly, and sometimes painfully, we start to take on the character of the One we love so much. We are able to give, love, serve, and endure to a new capacity because the strength comes from Christ, not us. The good news is, Christ is not very far away from any of us (Acts 17:27). He works through other people, the preaching of His Word, and the work of His Holy Spirit to offer Himself to everyone who wants Him.

John Piper, a modern-day theologian, describes our potential for joy like this: "Don't let your first love grow cold. Don't let the childlike awe and wonder die. Don't let the scenery and poetry and music of your relationship with God shrivel up and mean nothing to you anymore. **You have capacities for joy of which you scarcely know. God will call them forth. Open your eyes to His glory. It is all around you.**"

"Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth" (Psalm 73:25, NLT)."

What Does the Bible Say About TATTOOS?

Do you find yourself thinking, "Tattoos look pretty cool. I even know what I want, but what does God think about this?" Let's explore this question.

ARE THERE ANY BIBLE VERSES ABOUT TATTOOS?

The only verse in the Bible that directly addresses tattoos is Leviticus 19:28, which says, "You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the Lord" (ESV). When first reading this we think, "Well, there it is. The Bible says it clearly: do not mark your skin with tattoos." However, this verse alone doesn't give us enough information to show if God is for or against tattoos.

During the time that this law was given, people that followed other gods would cut their bodies as respect for the dead and an offering to the gods of the dead. Therefore, it is likely that tattoos were also used to honor idols. So, it isn't necessarily the act of tattooing your skin that is bad, but what it portrays.

Romans 7:4-6 reads, "Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code" (ESV). According to these verses we are no longer under the Old Testament Law, but instead we live in the Holy Spirit because Christ died for us. This doesn't mean that we have the right to do whatever we want to do. Instead, God wants us to live our lives "bearing fruit" through the Holy Spirit. We need to look to what God says in the rest of the Bible about living our lives for Him.

WHAT SHOULD WE CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING ON GETTING A TATTOO?

While the Bible does not address every subject in a black

and white manner, there are many guiding principles that we can look to. Here are some things we can look at when deciding if we should get a tattoo:

What are your convictions? "... If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning" (Romans 14: 23, NLT)

Will you be glorifying God? "... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God..." (1 Corinthians 10:31, NLT)

Why are you deciding to get it? Adornment? "...You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within..." (1 Peter 3:3-4, NLT)

How will it be perceived by those around you? "We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us..." (2 Corinthians 6:3 NLT)

Ask other believers that you trust. "Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others." (Proverbs 12:15, NLT)

Pray about it!

Even though the Bible may not say directly whether or not you should get a tattoo it doesn't mean that you should. What the Bible is clear about is that our decisions should glorify God. Remember, getting a tattoo is something permanent and will be with you forever.

JUST DON'T: TOP 3 TATTOOS TO AVOID

- 1 Something trendy (aka 90s armbands)
- 2 Your girlfriend's/ boyfriend's name
- 3 Anything you can't spell



CHURCH: WHAT'S THE POINT?

5 REASONS TO COMMIT TO A CHURCH

I GREW UP being dragged along to church by members of my family week after week whether I wanted to go or not. It was boring. It was empty. It was a waste of time. I hated it. I knew that there were so many better things that I could be using my time for. Didn't my parents understand that I could have slept a couple more hours? I could have done homework, played games, or listened to nails scratch the chalkboard. Pretty much anything would have been better than sitting through a church service time and time again.

If you would have asked me then what the purpose of church was, I would have stared back at you blankly, hoping you would lose interest and walk away before an answer was actually expected from me. Church had become some sort of social club, with little relevance, little impact, little joy, and little to no importance. Looking back, I have no doubt that very little of the problem had to do with the songs being sung, the message being spoken, or the people around me. The problem was me. I had completely missed the entire point of church, and I had become so accustomed to it that I could no longer see the forest through the trees.

Church was and is intended to be so much more than a pointless and empty club and more than a building. The church is a group of called out believers in Jesus Christ. It is the body of Christ, the temple of God, with a purpose and calling from the Lord. There are lots of reasons to forgo going to church: you might find it boring, a waste of time, irrelevant, or full of hypocrites. There are even more reasons not to engage in, commit to, and invest in a specific church. It will be costly. If done biblically, it will be one of the hardest things you will ever do, but it will be worth it. If you find yourself hesitant to go to church, unwilling to

commit, or afraid to give what may be expected of you; here are some things to consider before writing off the church.

FIVE REASONS TO INVEST YOUR LIFE IN A CHURCH

1 **Go to Church to Obey God**
Christians desire to obey God. It is literally a command from God to go to church. God says in His Word, "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near" (Hebrews 10:25, NLT). God tells us to go to church. When God commands things, it is not to heap up rules for people to keep and abide by, but it is for our own good and for His glory. If we want to live lives that are obedient to all of the things that God commands of us, we will go to and become part of church. Church attendance does not buy you any favor with God. You won't get any extra points for never missing a Sunday, but your involvement with a church indicates your true commitment and passions.

"YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH A CHURCH INDICATES YOUR TRUE COMMITMENT AND PASSIONS."

“A GOOD AND BIBLICAL CHURCH IS ALL ABOUT JESUS.”

2 Go to Church to Build Up Others and Be Built Up
Life is hard. Living on mission and obedient to Christ is harder. Neither you or I can do it on our own. We need help and the church is the place to find it. There will be times in your life when you are crushed and you need lifting up. And there will be times when others are crushed and they will need you to build them up. The Bible pleads with believers over and over to help one another, to encourage one another, to build one another up, and carry one another's burdens. We cannot do that if we are not invested in a church. The church is more than a building. If you are a believer, you are the church. If you want to care for the church, you will care for God's people.

3 Go to Church to Fulfill Your Purpose
We all want to know why we were born. God has something for you to do. He has somebody that He created you to be. You will miss out on the totality of all that He has for you if you do not find a church to participate in and become a part of. The Bible tells us, “All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27, NLT). Christians desire to be directed and used by God, and He uses the church to accomplish that. This means you need to become part of a church so you can fulfill whatever role it is that He has for you. We all have a role to play in the church and if you fail to figure out what that role is, not only will you suffer by not knowing why you were created, but the whole church will suffer because it will be missing a part of its body.

4 Go to Church to Be a Part of the Winning Team
I don't think that anyone strives for failure. I think that if we had a choice we would choose to be a part of the winning team. Between school, sports, and work, I've been a part of a lot of different teams throughout my life. They all had this one thing in common: they all eventually failed and fell apart. No matter how successful they may have seemed, they never lasted. The church is the only guaranteed winning team to be a part of. God

promised, “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18 NLT). The church is going to prevail. God promised that it will not fail and that it will outlast everything else. We would be wise to join the only team that will come out victorious at the end.

5 Go to Church to Know, Love, and Experience Jesus
The church does not need any more attendees who are there out of heartless obligation. There are plenty of duty-bound, routine-following, and appearance-keeping “Christians” in churches every Sunday. Many people now have a Christ-less Christianity where they go to church week after week, but never truly praise Jesus, never sacrifice for Him, never learn more about Him, and never find a deeper longing for and closeness with Him. What is missing are people attending out of a joy, love, and longing for all of Jesus. A good and biblical church is all about Jesus. Everything that is done is for the purpose of making much of Him. Go to church to worship Him, go there to hear about Him, and go there to give to Him.

We live in a generation that is afraid to fully commit. We don't like to completely engage and invest all we have. We want to allow ourselves the option of an easy way out. That might be all fine and good, but if we take this same approach with church we will be missing out. I know I did. For years, I treated the church flippantly. I saw it as frivolous and unimportant, and my life showed it. Since then I can honestly say everything has changed. God revealed Himself to me and now I want all that He has for me. I want to be where He is working. That will never be found in isolation, but only in a family of believers. Today I love the church and have committed my life to it. It hasn't been easy, but I have no regrets. Being part of the body of Christ and finding my place in it has given me more joy and a sense of fulfillment than I thought possible. God created the church. He loves it, and He has plans for it. Don't miss out on it.



A LOOK AT Friendship

WHEN YOU'RE SINGLE

February is the “love” month, and it often leaves many singles out there wondering what God has for them. I have been single for a while. Instead of stressing over that fact, I have been reminded that I am single for a purpose.

The Friendship That Shapes All Others

Christina Fox, guest contributor at desiringGod.org points out that “the friendships we have with other believers are rooted in our friendship with Christ. In fact, our friendship with Jesus creates and shapes our friendships with others.”¹ When we become part of His family, we are united with others – our brothers and sisters in Christ. “We love because He first loved us.”²

The “Perfect” Friend

You will not find the “perfect” friend (except for Jesus). Friends will let you down. You might even experience “friends” who aren’t your friends after all because they walk away from you and God.

I discovered what true friendship is after becoming a Christian, and to be honest, it was like a slap in the face. This was the first time I had anyone ask me why I was doing something and ask me how it was going later on. I encourage you to take a hard look at who your friends are and the influence (both good and bad) they have on your life. To have friends you need to put forth the effort and share your life with people. Make an effort to really get to know them. It will take time, and yes, in three months don’t be surprised if you only have coffee twice. But trust me, don’t get discouraged; keep seeking true, biblical friends!

SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR NOT-YET-MARRIED LIFE ³

Read the full article online at desiringGod.org

- 1** Avoid trading marital distractions for other distractions. Learn when to put away the phone, tablet, and social media!
- 2** Say yes to the spontaneous. Say yes to an unexpected phone conversation or coffee.
- 3** Practice selflessness while you are still alone – consider helping someone else.
- 4** Do radical, time-consuming things for God. You are free to commit to things that require more time.
- 5** Spend time with married people. Be a student, watch carefully, and ask questions.
- 6** Spend time with not married people that are facing similar challenges as yourself.
- 7** Maybe you’ll meet your fiancé on the front lines? Instead of making it your mission to get married, focus on the mission that God has for you today.
- 8** While you wait, hope in Jesus more than marriage. Instead of thinking you’ll get to serving God once you’re married, make the most of this not-yet-married life.

“PRAYER: EXPERIENCING AWE AND INTIMACY WITH GOD”

WHY THIS BOOK SHOULD BE ON YOUR 2019 READING LIST

When I began this book, I knew deep down inside of me that I needed to read it. In fact, I purchased it a number of months ago, but never had the courage to actually open it. I knew it would be hard. Prayer is something that Christians know we should do and it should come naturally to us, right? But the truth is, for most of us who claim to follow Christ, prayer is a very difficult thing to do and to do well. To admit that I—someone who has grown up in the church and is a leader within it—often views prayer as a duty, is a scary and humbling place to be. Can you relate? Well, so can Tim Keller.

Within the first two chapters, Tim Keller reveals his own struggle and journey with prayer. He says, “I can think of nothing great that is also easy. Prayer must be, then, one of the hardest things in the world. To admit that prayer is very hard, however, can be encouraging. If you struggle greatly in this, you are not alone” (p. 25). Though he is brutally honest about the difficulty, he does not neglect the believer’s responsibility of fighting through that struggle. Concluding the second chapter, he says, “Prayer is awe, intimacy, struggle—yet the way to reality. There is nothing more important, or harder, or richer, or more life-altering. There is absolutely nothing so great as prayer” (p. 32).

After laying the foundation for the necessity and greatness of prayer, he goes on to explore what prayer actually is. In true Keller style, he digs deep into the history and global phenomenon of prayer throughout various cultures and religions. With such a variety of forms of prayer—from western to eastern and prophetic to mystical—he concludes that, “Prayer is a personal, communicative response to the knowledge of God... seeking to respond and connect to that being and reality, even if it is no more than calling out into the air for help. That is, I believe, the common denominator of all human prayer” (p. 45). The essence of prayer is

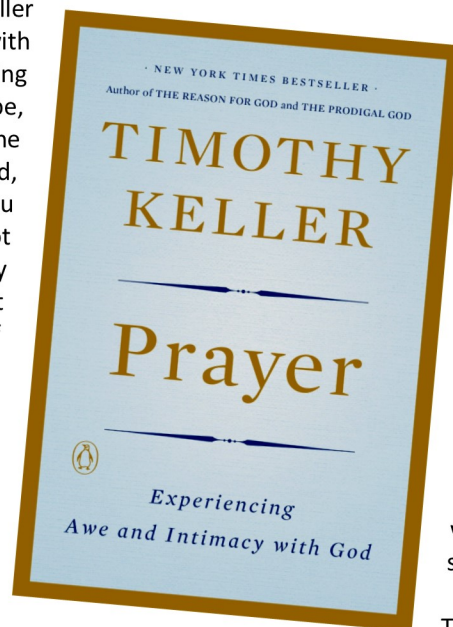
continuing a conversation that God has started with us through His Word—the Bible.

So how do we actually pray? The latter half of the book works to answer this question. Keller includes a thorough exploration of writings from a few of the greatest teachers in the early Christian church—St. Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Calvin. I won’t try to summarize it all. I’ll simply tell you this—we have much to learn from the prayer practices of Protestant theologians of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries! Finally, in the last chapter of the book, he outlines a framework for daily prayer: evocation, meditation, Word prayer, free prayer, and contemplation.

Though it is not the only way to pray, I found this framework to be helpful in adding structure to my prayer life.

Overall, I found this book deeply challenging, incredibly enlightening, and graciously encouraging. There were times that I felt somewhat hopeless and thought, “Who then can pray? I will never be able to do this!” However, there is no secret to prayer. There is no magical key or experience or “aha!” moment. “Prayer is striving. This means sticking with prayer through the ups and downs of feelings. ‘Do not say, “I cannot pray. I am not in the spirit,”’ writes P.T. Forsyth. ‘Pray till you are in the spirit’” (p. 122).

The truth is, prayer is hard. However, even if your prayers are messy, God the Father will not reject your coming to Him. It will be a struggle and it might take time, but the effort will pay off. Towards the end of the book, Keller encourages the reader, “In any case—pray no matter what. Praying is rowing, and sometimes it is like rowing in the dark—you won’t feel that you are making any progress at all. Yet you are, and when the winds rise again, and they surely will, you will sail again before them” (p. 260). Keep rowing, Christian.



What's a Catio?

What the Tabby's Catfe expansion means for you



Walking downtown Menomonie, I saw the word “catio” on one of the awnings and couldn’t help but investigate. To my delight, the *catio* was exactly what I’d hoped for: a cat patio and café, right here in little Menomonie. Tabby’s Catfe opened in June of 2017 and has since been expanding to provide more food and drink options to their customers. If you haven’t been to Tabby’s recently (or worse – ever), we’re here to tell you all about the exciting changes.

For all you skeptics out there, I want to assure you right off the bat that the friendly felines are indeed separated from the dining area. However, you can bring drinks into the cat play area so you can sip while you snuggle your new buddies.

While I was visiting, a girl nearby exclaimed, “This place is the oasis of sanity for college students!” Jaden, a transfer student studying Game Design and Development at UW-Stout, said she comes to Tabby’s once a week or every other week, and especially when she’s having a bad day. Once Jaden left, I grabbed a cream soda and made my way to the back. It wasn’t long before a spunky little black cat named Starla (who has since been adopted, yay!), jumped on my shoulders. The best memory of the day was the bond I made with a napping gray cat, Tiberius (also adopted, double yay!).

I’m happy to report that as of December 2018, 35 cats have been adopted. I connected with the owner of Tabby’s to find out more about that and some other things we were curious about.

Word on the Street Magazine (WOTS): How did the catfe begin?

Tabby’s (T): I had heard of other cat cafes and I thought it would be cool to own one myself. Once I got a business plan going and started

contacting the city and state health departments, things just fell into place. I was lucky to have a contact in the Dunn County Humane Society (DCHS) and they were excited to work with us when I told them our plan. Tabby’s fosters the cats from the DCHS and they live at Tabby’s until they get adopted. It’s great for the DCHS because it’s four less cats they need to care for at their no-kill shelter.

WOTS: We love how active your Facebook page is, and saw the relatively new soup and salad bar advertised there. What regular menu items do you have throughout the week?

T: In addition to our sandwiches, we are now featuring an awesome soup and salad bar with a wide range of options. The soup and salad bar is \$8.50 and comes with a bottle of water. Tuesday through Friday we also feature menu items like tacos, lasagna, pizza, and a Friday night dinner buffet with Waterfront’s baked fish, shrimp, and more.

WOTS: What does the cat care include?

T: We take care of the daily needs of the cats such as feeding, watering, litter care, etc. and the humane society is super helpful if they need any vet work done.

WOTS: We heard you own other businesses in town. Did that make it easier to open another business?

T: Yes. My family and I own the Waterfront, The Market, the Arena, and Tabby’s. We also have Little Dickie’s Pizza Pit located in the Arena. I would say that with owning as much as we do it made it easier to open Tabby’s. We already had a great working relationship with the city and inspectors so it made those things go much smoother.



SMALL TOWN INVASION:

Spring Valley

Insider information on a little town 18 miles west...



ENTERTAINMENT

You can find a fully functional theater taking up residence in an old movie theater. They have been going since 1985 with a few renovations. This theater is home to plays, choir concerts, and many other events. Popcorn is available for purchase to enjoy with the show. Be sure to check out their website for upcoming shows (svstagehands.org).

SHOP LOCAL

Want to shop locally made delights? Check out The Dragonfly and Damsel. This little shop is packed to the brim with artwork ranging from clay houses to paintings to jewelry to other neat knick-knacks. Prices range from just a few dollars to hundreds. Also, the shop owner, Brenda Haack, does metalcraft and glass jewelry right on site.

NATURE

Spring Valley is home to Crystal Cave, the longest cave in Wisconsin at 4,600 feet. Tours are offered so you can gain wisdom about what takes place in caves from formations to the inhabitants. Plus, the cave is a great place to experience absolute darkness, unless you intend on going to the bottom of the ocean sometime soon. Watch out that you don't go batty. Cave in and get some friends together to go and check it out. Sweatshirts are highly recommended since cave tours can last about 30 minutes. Seeking to get married in the future? They do weddings inside the cave (if you don't mind getting dripped on). Up for some exercise? Check out the Eau Galle Recreation Area. There you will be able to feast your eyes on the largest earthen dam in North America. Dam!!



EATERIES

Are you in the mood for great, classic American food? Give Sneakers Pub & Eatery a try. They boast a homey atmosphere where you can mingle with the locals. Be sure to check out their Facebook page for information on when they host random local music talent. Need caffeine and sugar? Pop into the Spring Valley Bakery on Main Street, right down the road from the theater, for a quick bite and your favorite coffee drink. Not feeling the baked goods? Then chill out with their hand-scooped ice cream served in a cone, cup, or float form. Donut pass it up if you want to get the entire Spring Valley experience.

KNOW ANOTHER SMALL TOWN?

Let us know at wotsmagazine@gmail.com if you find a spot WOTS should do our next 'Small Town Invasion' on. Until then, happy exploring!

YOUR BEST LIFE NOW!



Everyone has their own take on how you should live your life. Some people will assume you will inevitably waste it! They'll tell you "don't do things like I did" and "learn from my mistakes"! Well, you can go ahead and disregard what everyone else tells you about life and instead listen to me. This easy-to-follow 11-step guide is a foolproof way to live your best life now and will ensure happiness in your life, today!*

- 1 Focus on Yourself.** You've heard it said that you can't love others unless you love yourself first and foremost. Well, get to loving yourself more and more with each passing minute. Treat yourself first and give yourself what you deserve in every possible situation.
- 2 Eat, Drink, and Be Merry!** You really only live once so you might as well live life to the fullest and indulge every chance you get. Two bottles of intoxicating drink you say? Why not make it two more? Never denying yourself is well worth the freshman fifteen you'll gain.
- 3 Pursue Fun.** Remember, this is your college experience so don't let anyone tell you how to live it! You can stay up until 4 a.m. playing Fortnite with your friends if you want to. You can sleep in and skip just once more, it's fine. Besides, you'll be working until you're old and gray, so why worry now when you've got all that ahead of you?
- 4 Due Tomorrow, Do Tomorrow.** This life motto applies to one-page reflection journals as well as ten-page final papers. You'll probably get the same grade either way so don't sweat it.
- 5 Relationships Give You Satisfaction.** Chase romantic relationships no matter the cost. Hold on to them even when you know it should end. Will they really love you for the four (or five-and-a-half) years you're in college? Likely not. Is it worth the time? Is it worth the pain? Always.

- 6 Trust Everyone.** Believing and trusting everything that is taught in class without critically thinking about it for yourself is always a good idea. This will ensure you're the most well-rounded individual by the time you walk away with that \$40,000+ diploma.
- 7 Work Hard, Play Hard.** Going after a six-figure salary with a corporation that could never possibly see you as expendable is the only way to ensure true happiness in life. One day you'll be able to afford that new house, SUV, sports car, boat, snowmobile, ATV, family, and the luxurious lifestyle you've always wanted. Debt isn't really all that bad anyway.
- 8 Perfect Health is Key.** Make sure to count calories, drink plenty of water, get good sleep, hit your macros, and work out incessantly. "If I look pretty and have abs, then people will love me!" How do you think you'll get more Instagram followers anyway?
- 9 Live on Social Media.** Speaking of Instagram, spend as much time as you possibly can on it. Crafting online perfection is key to a fulfilling life. Gaining followers, likes, views, and having the longest Snapchat streak is vital for others to recognize what a big deal you are. Post boldly and often, my friend.
- 10 Focus on the Here and Now.** The future truly is a vague, mystical place that doesn't really exist. There's no need to try and think too deeply about it. You can just go ahead and chuck those three, five, and ten-year plans out the window.
- 11 Isolate Yourself.** Isolating yourself and bottling your issues up is the best way to convey to others that you don't need help. And why would you need help? You're so independent you don't need anyone's help, with anything, ever!

*Results not typical or probable. Statistics show that life may get worse when following this guide. Side effects include loneliness, stress, depression, anxiety, severe weight gain, severe weight loss, STD's, suicidal thoughts, loss of friends, loss of appetite, loss of money, loss of life resulting in an actual wasted life.



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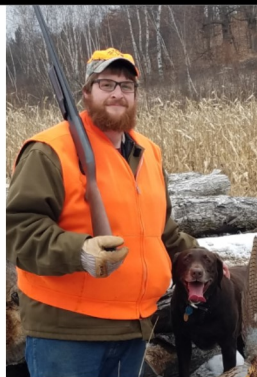
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NICK THE HICK Another rant from your favorite redneck THEM ROCKS

I read somewhere smart that Himalayan salt lamps “beautify and cleanse the home.” I’m probably the last red blooded American to learn about these miracle glowing rocks but I’m intrigued. I took my learning to another level and researched the “guide to buying Himalayan salt lamps”. Boy oh boy did I learn a lot. Once heated, these lamps create negative ions that bond to smog. All this time we’ve been trying to blame cows and cars for burning the ozone but the solution is much simpler than walking more and putting our A-1 sauce on lab grown cells. Start mining this earthly rock and scatter them along the road, put a little fire to them and get all them pollutants taken care of. Since many trials have been done to prove these rocks work I purchased a sampler kit. Color makes a difference when choosing your better quality of life rocks. White represents healing, cleansing, and detoxification. I keep this one in the john, for obvious reasons. Pink stimulates emotion, love, and sense of partnership. This one I keep in my closet to pass on as a white elephant gift. Orange helps the nervous system and activates the kidneys and bladder. This one I keep in my car. It’s no joke either, I’ve been to four gas stations today alone. Red promotes circulation and activates the heart. This one I keep in my living room. Every time I turn it on my blood starts circulating faster and my heart yearns for some taco bell. At any rate if you’re up for a change from boring fluorescents, give the salt lamp a try.

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