

River of Love

CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

Moving Mountains!

1050 South West 15th Street,

Oak Grove, MO 64075

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Pastor Ray Gurney

FLOWERS DON'T CARE by Pastor Ray

Sermon Series

Today's sunrise was more than beautiful displaying its brilliant colors across the eastern sky. I enjoyed the scene all the way to church. The sun is so important to us but it doesn't care a single thing about us. It's strange to think such things but it's true. Many things are important to us, even relationships but they often don't have the same feelings toward us.

Outside the church's front doors are three colorful bushes that have deep burgundy leaves and bright red flowers this time of year. The flowers stay on the bush for a long time and the blend of the two colors demand your attention to stop and appreciate God's beautiful creation. I don't know why I had the thought but it occurred to me that those stunning bushes are there for the enjoyment of all humans who care to

appreciate their splendor but they don't care if you like them or not. Nothing bothers them; no news-casts, no newspaper articles to depress them, no politicians to shout unobtainable promises in their face; they just don't care. We share the same creator yet none of those things bother the gorgeous bushes.

I walked closer to examine their loveliness on my way to the trash bin. I had the power to take them out of the ground and expose their roots. I could cut off their water supply with a big tarp or spray weedkiller on them to make them wither to death; but I don't want that to happen. However, they will need a good trimming in February to make them prosper for this time next year. God can do all that and more to His children but He only does what is necessary to make us blossom. So, think about this little illustration the next time

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Cross, Bites, & Barbecue
Cross Creek Baptist Church

Special points of interest:

- Business Meeting Oct 20th
- Operation Christmas Child Packing Party Oct 30th @11 AM

LADIES NIGHT OUT

October 21, 2021 is the date for our next Ladies' Night Out at **6 PM**. If the weather permits, we will enjoy the evening on the back deck of the church. Kabobs will be on the menu with drink provided. If it's cold or rainy we will meet in the fellowship hall. The topic will be "Fall traditions". Bring your memories, pictures, etc. Come and join us and bring a friend.

Dixie

Men's Breakfast

Men will have their monthly **Breakfast Saturday, Oct 16, 2021@ 8:00 AM at Perkins on 39th in Independence**. Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.

FLOWERS DON'T CARE...continued from page #1

you go through a trial and you're asking God why it's happening to you. If the flowers and plants have value in our eyes think of your worth to God. We are much more valuable than the little sparrow that falls to the ground yet God knows when each one falls because He cares about His every creation.

Now if we could just relax as the flowers on the bush and not let events of the world trouble us, I have a feeling we could be happy and accomplish much for the kingdom of God. I have taken a break from the news media for several months now. Occasionally I'll hear or see some of the news reports and it usually leaves me feeling troubled so I just want to change channels. However, when I read the Bible or listen to a good Bible teacher, I usually feel inspiration. Jesus said "*I am the Bread of Life*", and "*no man comes to the Father except through me.*" Those are two good reasons to feel good when you read them. There are thousands of such "feel good" sayings in the Word of God. Jesus issues to each of us many bless-

ings. Think about that.

When you are asked to count your blessings, your list may not be overwhelming. You struggle to make ends meet; your days are hard. You are grateful for much but weariness clouds your vision. When you have the Lord Jesus Christ, you have the greatest blessing possible; now on earth and one day in heaven. In Christ you have a Friend for every season. He understands your disappointments and rejoices in your victories and stands with you in your trials. You can confess to Him, cry to Him and celebrate with Him too. My goodness! Jesus is EVERYTHING and He is AWESOME! In times of sorrow and despair count your many blessings. Attend church and worship with all your brothers and sisters with all your heart for the King of Kings and shout praises to Jesus Christ because you're a forgiven sinner. Come on folks! Can I get an Amen?

Flowers may not care about us but God does. Step into the wide open loving arms of Jesus.

STAY FOCUSED ON GOD

In a crisis, it's natural to start explaining to God what's going on and asking Him for help. He wants you to talk to Him and pour out your heart to Him. But don't start your prayer by telling God what you need. First, focus on HIM.

When three enemy nations decided to team up against King Jehoshaphat and Israel, the king knew there was no way he could overcome those odds, and so he prayed. His prayer shows you how to start your prayers by focusing on God.

First, remind yourself of God's greatness.

Jehoshaphat prayed, "O LORD God of our ancestors, you rule in heaven over all the nations of the world. You are powerful and mighty, and no one can oppose you" (2 Chronicles 20:6 GNT).

When you're praying for something, you can't control, don't focus on the problem. Focus on God's greatness and where He has shown up for you. The bigger God gets in your mind, the smaller the problem becomes.

Next, remind yourself of God's unlimited power.

"When your people Israel moved into this land, you drove out the people who were living here and gave the land to the descendants of Abraham, your friend, to be theirs forever" (2

Chronicles 20:7 GNT).

When you realize that God has all the power in the world, you can just trust Him. As you pray, think of all the ways God has helped you, other people, and people in the Bible.

Then, remind God of His promises.

Jehoshaphat reminded God He promised Israel that the land would be theirs forever. God has made promises to you too. In fact, there are thousands of promises for you in the Bible. When your kids remind you of the promises you've made to them, it can be frustrating. But God loves to have His Word quoted back to Him.

Finally, ask God for a breakthrough.

Jehoshaphat said of the attacking forces, "Punish them, for we are helpless in the face of this large army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but we look to you for help" (2 Chronicles 20:12 GNT).

Don't just ask God to bless your life. Focus on Him and then tell Him the specific thing you need for your breakthrough. Then you'll see Him show up and provide as you pray like Jehoshaphat.

Operation Christmas Child

It is going to cost more than \$2,250 to ship our boxes.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00 PM. The cost is \$5.00 a person for ages 7 years through adult. 6 years and under are \$2.00. The menu for the month is listed below.

Please sign-up on the list on the information table each week. If you are running late that night, please call the church so we can set aside the proper number of meals for you.

Oct. 6, Grilled Chicken, baked potatoes, veggies, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

Oct. 13, Chili & Hot Dogs, corn bread, chips, cheese & crackers, salad & dessert.

Oct. 20, Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, salad & dessert

Oct. 27, Chicken Enchilada Soup & Chicken Gnocchi Soup, corn bread, chips, salad & dessert

CROSS CREEK

BAPTIST MISSION

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“NOW THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT, AND WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM. 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

TRANSFORM YOUR DAY WITH GOD’S HELP by Vickie Gurney

How can we transform our everyday conversation with others to have Holy Spirit power that comes out of us with ease? We need to pray up before we leave our house and ask God to use us as his instrument. Which means amazing things can happen through everyday conversations. Where you can be honest and transparent allowing others to share their fears and frustration with you. This is where God just might show Up!

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

