

Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

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AUGUST 2026



Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

Last month, we honored our Lord by showing our love for the memory and family of our dear sister Julie DeSmith during the celebration of her life.

You are a remarkable church! I am not sure that I tell you that enough.

This month I have a question for you to ponder.

"Is It Good Because I See It; or Because God Sent It?"

One of the subtle temptations of the Christian life is to judge God's activity by our immediate assessment of circumstances. We see an opportunity, a relationship, a success, or a pleasant turn of events and conclude,

"I see that it is good for me, so God must have sent it."

At first glance, that sounds reasonable. After all, every good and perfect gift comes from above (James 1:17). Yet there is a danger hidden within that way of

thinking. It places our own judgment in the driver's seat. We become the ones who define what is "good," and then we invite God to endorse our conclusion.

Scripture repeatedly reminds us that *our vision is limited*.

What appears beneficial today may become a snare tomorrow. What seems attractive may not be God's best. The Israelites saw the fertile plains of Egypt and longed to return. Lot saw the well-watered plains of Jordan and chose them. Many have mistaken comfort for blessing and ease for divine approval.

The Christian faith calls us to a deeper confidence than confidence in our own perceptions.

A more biblical response is this:

"God has sent it, so it must be good for me."

Notice the difference?

The first statement begins with what I see. The second begins with what God is doing.

This is the language of faith in a sovereign God.

To affirm God's sovereignty is to confess that He reigns over all things. Nothing comes into our lives apart from His knowledge, permission, and purpose. The pleasant and the painful, the expected and the unexpected, all pass through the loving hands of our heavenly Father.

This does not mean that everything God sends is enjoyable. Scripture never teaches that. Joseph's imprisonment was not pleasant. David's years of wandering were not pleasant. Paul's afflictions were not pleasant. Most profoundly, the cross itself was not pleasant. Yet, in each case God was accomplishing something wise, holy, and ultimately good.

That is the wonder of providence.

Providence means that God is not only ruling over His creation but also caring for it. The sovereign God is not distant. He is a Father. He orders events, guides circumstances, opens doors, closes doors, corrects, comforts, and transforms His children through all that He permits.

Therefore, the Christian can say, "I may not yet see why this is good, but I know the One who sent it. And because He is good, wise, and faithful, I can trust that He is working for my good."

This perspective changes the way we face life.

When blessings come, we receive them with gratitude rather than entitlement. When disappointments come, we endure them with hope rather than despair. When doors open, we walk through them prayerfully. When doors close, we rest in the knowledge that our Father has not abandoned us.

The mature believer learns to measure circumstances not by immediate appearance but by the character of God. Our confidence is not in our ability to interpret every event correctly. Our confidence is in the Lord who "works all things according to the counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:11) and who causes "all things to work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

The question, then, is not simply, "Does this look good to me?" The deeper question is, "How is God calling me to trust Him in this?"

May we grow in the faith that says, not "I see that it is good for me, so God must have sent it," but rather, "God has sent it, so it must be good for me." For our sovereign God never ceases to exercise His providential care over His children.

God loves you and so do I!!!

Pastor Rick





**July 2026 Average
Monthly Attendance**

Sunday Worship.....52
Sunday School.....25
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study.....18

New Members:..... 1
Ladies' Bible Study..... 8
Women's Breakfast was Postponed
Men's Breakfast Attendance.....12
Visitors.....08
Home Visitation.....10

Ministries/Other Actual



Genesis Project completed our clothing bank inventory and we are asking for donations of the following:

- Mens summer clothing up to XL.
- Womens summer clothing
- Womens new undies size 7 or smaller.
- Towels, blankets and toiletries.

Donations may be accepted Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 2 PM at 1050 W. Superstition Blvd in the Epiphany of Christ Lutheran Church campus, NorthEast building.

Get Involved!

- **Sunday Fellowship** - coffee & donuts @ 9 am.
- **Sunday School @ 9:30 am.**
- **Worship Service @ 10:45 am.**
- **Ladies' Bible Study and Life Group**
- Tuesdays @ 10 am.
- **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study @ 3:00 pm.**
- **Choir** - Wednesday— No Practice @ 5 pm
- **Women's Breakfast - Monthly:** First Saturday @ 8:30 am at a local restaurant.
- **Men's Breakfast—Monthly:** First Saturday @ 8:00 am at the church.
- **Connections Saturday** - One Saturday each quarter. Check church calendar.
- **Volunteering:** The church needs your gifts and talents. See a need? Want to help somehow? Contact the office or the committee chairperson.

Notices/events

If you have something you no longer need or want, an upcoming event, or have a notice to share with the church, feel free to advertise it here to the members of Crossroads. Give your info to Amos (office) for posting. If the info goes in the newsletter, remember that it will be posted online, so do not put in private information.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

- ⇒ We are searching for **volunteers** who would like to serve **as greeters** for our Sunday services. It is only a 15-minute shift on the front patio to welcome members & visitors to our church. If you are interested
 - ⇒ We are looking for at least 1 or 2 more **Volunteers counters (members)** for the Monday following the Sunday service. If you are interested
- SIGN UP/ASK QUESTIONS, SEE JOANNA OR AMOS ANYTIME.**

Important

MEN'S BREAKFAST !



First SATURDAY of each month at 8:00 AM at the church.

Sept 5th, Oct 3th, nov 7th

Sign up in the info area. If you can help in the kitchen, please come at 7:00 am to help "Chef" Lafe. Food, Fellowship, and God's Word

For more info Contact Lafe @ 719-342-0431

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 1st : Men's Breakfast and Women's Breakfast.

Aug 2nd: Lord's Supper.

Aug 11th: Personal committee meeting.

Aug 14th: the office closed.

Aug 16th: Mission committee meeting.

Aug 28th: the office closed.



First SATURDAY of each month at 8:30 AM at a local eatery.

at Gold Canyon Café

Sept 5th, Oct 3th, nov 7th

Sign up in the info area. Bring a friend or family member!

For more info Contact .Joanna @

480-560-9964

**GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MAKING A DONATION.
GIVING IS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

For your children or future care givers:

A friend posted this writing today and it struck me that someday EVERYONE will go thru this discarding of “things” that are the memories of one’s life. Sometimes it’s our own and more often it’s the life of someone we love.

When my mom was cleaning out her house over 23 years ago to sell it, I wasn’t very sympathetic over her attachments to things. I would go over on weekends to help her and we would go through things, things for a yard sale, things to donate, things to throw away. I would usually get upset over how long it was taking her to decide. For instance, we were going through kitchen cabinets and she spent 20 minutes looking at an iron kettle with a lid. Finally I said, “Mom, at this rate it is going to take us another 2 years.”

She told me that her mother used to make meals in that kettle and leave them at doorsteps of neighbors during the depression, mom would deliver them, and then they would reappear back to her with an apron, or a wood carving, something in return for the meal. I realized that everything that my mom was going through was really a reliving of her life.

If you are reading this and are under the age of 60, you won’t get it. You haven’t lived long enough. Most of you have not had to move your parents into a nursing home, or emptied their home. You haven’t lived long enough to realize that the hours you spend picking out the right cabinets, or the perfect tile will not be what matters in the later years. It will be the handmade toothbrush holder, or a picture that you got on vacation.



So, if your parents are downsizing, and moving to smaller places, or selling a home, give your mom and even your dad a break. Those things that you don't understand why they can't just pitch, and why you think you know what needs to be tossed or saved, give them a little time to make their decisions.

They are saying goodbye to their past, and realizing that they are getting ready for their end of life, while you are beginning your life.

As I have been going through things, it's amazing just how hard it is to get rid of objects. But, life goes on, and you realize they are just things, but sometimes things comfort us. So give your parents or grandparents a break. Listen to their stories, because in 40 years, when you are going through those boxes and the memories come back, it will be hard to get rid of those plastic champagne flutes that you and your late husband used at a New Years party 40 years ago. You will think nothing of the tile or the light fixtures that were so important then.

As happy as they are for you, and as much as they love you, you just don't have a clue until it happens to you and then you will remember how you rushed them, and it will make you sad, especially if they are already gone and you can't say I'm sorry, I didn't get it.

Original Post Melissa Vaughan

From Mary Murray

**Better
Together**



The Wisdom message

Fear Grounds Wisdom in Deep Respect for God

Wisdom begins with fear. Thankfully, wisdom doesn't stay where it has to start. The first step in the journey to become wise only leads to other steps, but the process is very important. Every journey begins with one step, leading to others. But no journey can be completed without the first step. So, it is with wisdom.

This is not my favorite step in the process of becoming wise, but it is a very important step. Once godly fear or deep godly respect is established, a person's life will be forever changed. Christians who aren't well grounded in fearing God will continue to have problems with sin. Fear of God in His holiness literally scares the sin out of us. When we know that any sin can trigger God's wrath, we avoid doing the things we know don't please Him.

The subject of God's wrath is avoided in modern Christianity. It is more of an Old Testament thing. Ananais and Sapphira in Acts 5 illustrate that God still responds to sin in wrath, but it does seem rarer in the New Testament. No one wants to disrespect God. He can do whatever He wants to do in His correcting and encouraging us to live rightly. Wrath is the stick; grace is the carrot—if you remember the old saying in training a horse with the carrot for good behavior and the stick to punish bad behavior. God is love, but He is more complex than just love.

The best way to see the fear of God is in the awareness that each of us is a speck, on a speck, on a speck, on a speck, on a speck. Literally, the Bible calls us dust. The universe is a speck to a holy, infinite God. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is a speck in the universe. Our solar system is a speck in the Milky Way. Earth is a speck in our solar system. And lastly, each of us is a speck on planet earth. So, count it... we are 5 times a speck. God is awesome and infinite in His holiness, power, knowledge, justice, mercy, grace, glory, and love.

Our automatic response to such majesty in God is to deeply respect Him. We know our place in this world can only be found in fearing God and in His love. Together, fear and love complete us so that we can grow in God's grace by sinning less and less and by doing more and more loving things for God and for others.

God bless you as you become a godly, wise person.

Lafe Murray





Seek Him.

In Acts 17, during his second missionary journey, the Apostle Paul enters the Grecian pagan city of Athens. He ascends Mars Hill to the Areopagus, overlooking literally thousands of idols to their phony baloney gods. It is there that he delivers a sermon that is equally powerful to both a non-believer (lost) & a kingdom man! The message is the same!

The GOD Who made the world & all in it is LORD of Heaven & earth (vs. 24).

He is not served by humans, since it is He Himself that gives everyone life & breath & all things (vs. 25).

From one man, He made everyone & has determined their appointed times & the boundaries where they live (vs. 26).

Three verses packed with one absolute truth after another! All culminating in GOD's "Why?" verse 27.

"He (GOD) did this so that they might seek Him & perhaps grope for Him, for He is not far away! Then verse 28 adds, "For in Him we live & move & have our being."

So, in self-examination The Spirit begs the questions we must honestly ask ourselves:

Am I seeking GOD?

Am I groping for Jesus?

And if not, why not?

One of the verses most misunderstood almost universally is Jeremiah 29:11.

For I know the plans I (GOD) have for you, plans to prosper, not harm.

It is two verses later that God's promise is realized in 29:13: You will seek Me & find Me when you search for me with all your heart!

That is GOD's solid gold guarantee that even Midas can't match. We'll pair that promise from the Old Covenant with Jesus' promise recorded in Matt. 7:7b: "Seek & you will find!" This is one of the main kingdom treatises Jesus commands in His landmark Sermon on the Mount.





Way back in the waning days of Israel's 40-year sojourn in the wilderness, GOD speaks through Moses the Emancipator as He instructs His people, preparing to finally enter the Promised Land.

"But from there you will search for the LORD your GOD, & you will find Him when you seek Him with all your heart & soul."

Deuteronomy 4:29

Starting at the moment of man's fall in disobedience in a perfect world & on throughout the Old Testament, GOD's command was "Go," because his holy presence could not commune intimately with sinful man. But GOD demonstrates His great love; solely on the atoning power of Christ's sacrifice & the imputation by GOD's Spirit of Jesus' righteousness to us, we are gloriously saved from ourselves!

Now under the New Covenant, Jesus exhorts us to "come":

Isaiah 55:6, Matt. 11:28, and John 7:37

Time & space preclude me from further exegesis. Suffice it to say, Holy Scripture is populated with a multitude of verses & passages such as Hosea 5:4—"Seek GOD & Live"!

So, if you really commit, really submit, really yield & diligently passionately seek the heart of Abba Father in deepest intimacy, then here are some verses for your own personal

Study:

1 Chronicles 22:19, 28:9

2 Chronicles 15:2

Psalms 9:10, 14:2

Proverbs 8:17

Hosea 3:4-5, 5:13-15, 10:12b

Zephaniah 2:3

Matthew 6:33

Acts 15:16-17

Seek His Face

By Tom Winston



The CLASSIFIED page

If you have a need for repair work around your home, able to perform handyman or cleaning service, or know of job opportunities, this is the place to be. Give your info to Amos (office) for posting. If the info goes in the newsletter, remember that it will be posted online, so do not put in private information.

Handyman needed

Homes need repair at times and when those small, but needed things breakdown, you need help. We have several members of the church who are experience in many areas. The Property Committee can help with many home issues. Please let the church office know of your needs and the Property team will be notified.

If you are experienced with tools, please let the office know of your talents. We are here to serve our church family in many areas and you can be a blessing to others in need.

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT JOANNA**



Have something you want to sell or give away? Take a picture of it , provide a description, and send to the office. We will place it in the newsletter and on the website.

Do you need something for your home? Before you buy it, we can put your need in the Bulletin and who knows, someone may be able to help .

(Landscaping, Home cleaning, etc.).

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT THE OFFICE**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you know of any job openings that would interest our church family or friends of the church, please let the office know.



Our church pantry is available for our church members, their families, and those in our community. We have a variety of canned and packaged goods, cleaning supplies and hygiene items. If you have a need or you know of a neighbor who is struggling, please let the office

What is new ???

- ⇒ We can provide you a link to attend Virtually a meeting with a Microsoft Teams or Zoom meeting link if you let the office know in advance.
- ⇒ We will release the first images or videos of our activities on our website in August 2026. If you would like to share some photos or videos of your committee, please send them via our email address before the 24th of each month @ info@CrossroadsBaptistAz.com
- ⇒ You could now find and pick up free discount coupons from various vendors at the table behind the A/V area to help offset your expenses

If you need prayer, our staff and deacons are always available. Please contact the office if you would like pray-



Red flags hiding in a job post

"Wears many hats"

really means you'll be doing **three jobs**

"No salary listed"

they're hoping you won't ask

"We're like a family"

boundaries are optional, apparently

**SOMETIMES I JUST LOOK
UP TO GOD AND SAY
THANK YOU. LIFE ISN'T
EASY BUT I AM BLESSED**





July Outreach Opportunity

New Hope is partnering with God's Attic to provide clothing and goods at no cost to people in need in Perry. We will have a box truck parked at the church starting Sunday, July 26 through the 30th. Items you can donate include clothing, household goods, toys and tools. Please no large appliances, mattresses, or large furniture.





PROJECT HELP *Donations Needed!*

Providing short-term assistance for
Apache Junction Unified School District
students and families.

Thank you! ♥

-  **ANTI-PERSPIRANT DEODORANT**
-  **SHAMPOO**
-  **CONDITIONER**
-  **TOOTHPASTE**
-  **PEANUT BUTTER**
-  **LAUNDRY DETERGENT**



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
Thank you for supporting our missions!



GENESIS PROJECT

Serving the Hungry and Homeless

Donations Needed!

Your donations help provide comfort, dignity,
and hope to those in need.

Thank you! ♥

-  **MEN'S SUMMER CLOTHING** (up to XL)
-  **WOMEN'S SUMMER CLOTHING**
-  **WOMEN'S NEW UNDIES** (size 7 or smaller)
-  **TOWELS**
-  **TOILETRIES**



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
Thank you for supporting our missions!



MISSION FOCUS Current Needs



APACHE JUNCTION

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Cleaning Supplies
- Paper Towels
- Non-Perishable Food
(protein bars, rice,
beans, noodles, peanut
butter, canned tuna,
canned chicken)



*Check Missions Corner
for prayers & other
literature*

THIS IS THE TURNAROUND POINT

God is saying to you today...

“You have reached the place where the pressure breaks and the shift begins. This is not the end of your strength this is the beginning of your relief. What tried to hold you down has run out of permission.

The season that drained you is losing its grip. I am turning resistance into momentum and fatigue into fuel. What felt like a wall is becoming a doorway, and what exhausted you will now propel you forward.

Stay steady for a moment longer. The turnaround is not coming — it is happening. You are stepping out of survival and into restoration.”



Can I order a
replacement body
please, this one is
constantly
malfunctioning.



Credit Score — A number (typically 300–850) that affects your ability to get loans, credit cards, mortgages, and even some jobs or apartments.

Building a good credit score

- **Pay every bill on time.** Payment history is one of the biggest factors in your credit score. Even one payment that's 30+ days late can have a negative impact.
- **Use only a small portion of your available credit.** Try to keep your credit card balances below **30%** of your credit limit, and under **10%** is even better. For example, if your limit is **\$1,000**, aim to keep the balance below **\$300**, ideally below **\$100**.
- **Pay your credit card balance in full whenever possible.** This helps you avoid interest charges while still building a positive payment history.
- **Keep older accounts open.** The length of your credit history can affect your score, so avoid closing your oldest credit card unless there's a compelling reason.
- **Apply for new credit only when you need it.** Each application may result in a hard inquiry, and opening several new accounts in a short period can temporarily lower your score.
- **Maintain a mix of credit over time.** Responsibly managing different types of credit (such as a credit card and an auto loan) can help, but you don't need to borrow money just to improve your score.
- **Review your credit reports regularly.** Check for errors or fraudulent accounts and dispute any inaccuracies. In the U.S., you can get free credit reports from the major credit bureaus.

Fix your credit score

- **Pay all bills on time.** If you've missed payments, make all future payments on time. Payment history is one of the most important factors in your credit score.
- **Catch up on overdue accounts.** If any accounts are past due, contact the lender. They may be willing to work out a payment plan or bring the account current.
- **Lower your credit card balances.** Aim to keep your credit utilization below **30%** of your credit limit, and below **10%** if possible. For example, if your credit limit is **\$2,000**, try to keep your balance under **\$600**, ideally under **\$200**.
- **Review your credit reports for errors.** Look for incorrect late payments, balances, or accounts that don't belong to you. If you find mistakes, dispute them with the credit bureau reporting the error.
- **Avoid applying for multiple new credit accounts.** Each application can result in a hard inquiry, and several inquiries in a short period may temporarily lower your score.
- **Keep older credit accounts open.** If they don't have high fees, older accounts can help the average age of your credit history.



Bible Games

CENTRAL

Unscramble these Bible words:

1. SUSEJ → _____

2. TIFAH → _____

3. RACGE → _____

4. LHOY → _____

5. SSORC → _____

6. YRPERA → _____

7. PEHO → _____

8. LEVLO → _____

1. Who built the ark?

- A. Moses
- B. Noah
- C. Abraham

2. How many disciples did Jesus have?

- A. 10
- B. 12
- C. 14

3. Which book begins with "In the beginning"?

- A. Psalms
- B. Genesis
- C. Matthew

4. Who defeated Goliath?

- A. David
- B. Samson
- C. Joshua

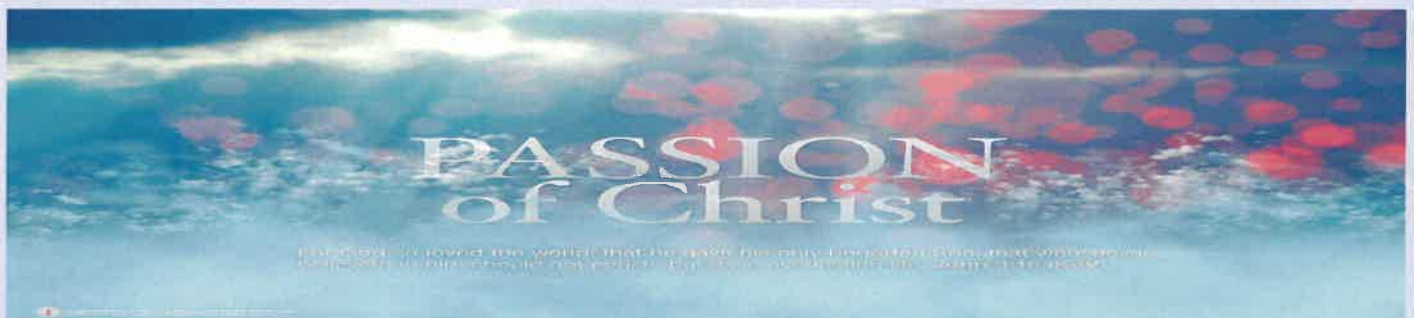
Complete the verses:

1. "The Lord is my _____; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

2. "I can do all things through _____ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

3. "Your word is a lamp to my _____ and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

4. "For God so loved the _____..." (John 3:16)



AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.	1 8 AM Men's & Women's Breakfast 
2 9 00 AM-Fellowship 9:30 AM-Bible Study 10:45 AM Worship. 	3	4 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	5 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9 00 AM-Fellowship 9:30 AM-Bible Study 10:45 AM Worship	10	11 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study <u>Personal; Committee meeting @ 1Pm</u>	12 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	13	14 <u>The office will be closed</u>	15
16 9 00 AM-Fellowship 9:30 AM-Bible Study 10:45 AM Worship <u>Mission Committee meeting after service</u>	17	18 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	19 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9 00 AM-Fellowship 9:30 AM-Bible Study 10:45 AM-Worship	24	25 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	26 3:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	27	28 <u>The office will be closed</u>	29
30 9 00 Am-Fellowship 9:30 Am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship	31	Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.		"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. " Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)		

Crossroads **Baptist Church** **Great Commission Church**

2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Church Office: 480-982-9120

Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Email: info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com

Website: <https://www.crossroadsbaptistaz.com/>

Pastor: Rick Basch

Deacons

Bob Allen, Earl McDonald, Hector Palma, Mike Tacker, Robert Wisner



MATTHEW 28:18-20
WIN SOULS. MAKE DISCIPLES.

Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association

<https://www.valleyrimbsba.org/>

AZ Southern Baptist Convention

<https://azsbc.org/>

Southern Baptist Convention

<http://www.sbc.net/>

