

# Welcome!

Responding to God's  
"Wakeup Calls"

▶

# Hitting the Snooze Button



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**How many  
times do we  
hit the  
snooze  
button on our  
spiritual  
growth?**



**What God has been  
teaching me since our  
arrival at FBC**



**God laid this lesson on  
my heart because none of  
us know how much time  
we have...**

**What does it  
take for God  
to get our  
attention?**

**Are we willing to submit  
to His promptings?**

**How quick are we to  
listen to the promptings  
of the Holy Spirit?**

**“A last-minute change  
of plan...”**

# Matthew 3:12

“His winnowing fork is  
In His hand, and He will

thoroughly clear His threshing  
floor; and He will gather His wheat  
into the barn, but *He will burn up  
the chaff with unquenchable fire.*”



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# Matthew 3:12



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**What is the chaff?**

**Who is the chaff?**

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**What is unquenchable fire?**

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**Are any of you Formula 1 racing fans... or have you watched the Indy 500?**

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**Have you ever seen a fuel spill burning in a pit stall?**







# Lesson Learned

- God sent me “a wakeup call.”
- I hit the “snooze button” several times.
- Praise God He kept prompting me until I submitted and let Him accomplish His work through me as He desired.

# Lessons to be Learned

- I want to have a greater sense of urgency about the things of God.
- I want to be more attuned to what God is doing and the role He wants me to play in it.
- I want to respond more quickly and obediently when He gives me direction.



**What  
about  
you?**

**What lessons have you learned  
this year?**

**What bible passage are you  
seeing with a new or fresh  
understanding?**

**Why does God teach us stuff?**

# Does it not say it is so that we can share it with others?

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our affliction ***so that we will be able to comfort*** those who are in any ***affliction*** with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5For just as the ***sufferings*** of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. 6But if we are ***afflicted***, it is for your comfort and ***salvation***; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the ***patient enduring*** of the same ***sufferings*** which we also ***suffer***; 7and our ***hope*** for you is firmly grounded, ***knowing*** that as you are ***sharers*** of our ***sufferings***, so also you are ***sharers*** of our comfort.

# A Biblical Illustration:

## 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! **8**Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. **9**And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. **10**Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

# Paul and Pride

There has been much speculation on the nature of Paul's thorn in the flesh.

Whatever it was, the thorn seems to have been a preventive, keeping pride from derailing Paul's ministry.

The thorn was a constant reminder to Paul of his utter dependence upon God.

Remember Don's comments about saying grace before meals?



# My Pride

Are we  
boasting  
about our  
weaknesses  
as Paul did?

Are we  
content as  
Paul was?

“Thanks for  
pointing me  
in the right  
direction so I  
can get it  
done for You”

I wanted to be  
the next Billy  
Graham.

# Pride Addressed

Do you think Paul ever said, “I’ve got this, Lord!”

Saul said it constantly, but my impression is that if Paul ever did, it didn’t last long. Why would that be?

I believe it would be because of the way Saul got knocked off his horse!

And Paul went through so many trials and experienced so much suffering – 2 Cor. 11:23-27, Phil. 4:12

God gave Paul a thorn in the flesh to ensure he wouldn’t say, “I’ve got this!”

**Thorns can  
be a test,  
trial,  
temptation,  
or cause of  
suffering**

- **Isaiah 14:13+14 - Who is this?**
- **Genesis 3:4 - What pride is seen here? Compare to...**
- **1 John 2:16 - The pride of life?**
- **What results can thorns produce?**
- **John 19:5, James 1:12, Revelation 2:10**
- **Converts the pride of life to a crown of life?**

## **Converting Pride into the Crown of Life**

- **The conversion process requires trials and endurance.**
- **Recall 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. What did it say is the purpose of our trials?**
- **What trials are we or those around us enduring?**
- **Are we ready and willing to comfort others?**



# What are God's Purposes for Trials?

So we can comfort others

To deal with our pride

To declare our utter dependence  
on God

To produce spiritual maturity

To enable us to display  
Christlikeness

To strengthen us by exercising our  
spiritual muscles

# Anyone care to take a trip to “the gym?”

- Knowing God’s purposes helps us maintain our joy
- James 1:2-4
- “when” is not “If” – John 16:33, Luke 9:23
- “trials” is plural - Philippians 1:29, 2 Timothy 2:3, 1 Peter 4:16+19
- “knowing” is an intimate familiarity

**Anyone care  
to take  
a trip to “the  
gym?”**

**endurance = perseverance  
Romans 5:3, 12:12**

**“Steadfast patience, ability to wait upon  
God for the resolution or completion of His  
work in our lives, bearing up under a load”**



**“perfect result” is completion in  
its fullness, fully mature**

# So, what does it look like in my life?

- Rejection  
↓  
James 1:2-4  
↓  
Joy
- Pain  
↓  
2 Timothy 1:7  
↓  
Endurance
- Sin  
↓  
Gal. 5:1+13  
↓  
Freedom
- Frustration  
↓  
Phil 4:13  
↓  
Blessings
- Strengthened by the promises of the glory to come  
Romans 8:18+25
- Not a “hope so” hope, rather a “know so” hope!





# **So, what does it look like in our lives?**

- **Entirely dependent upon God and His promises  
Philippians 1:6 - at the cross**
- **Knowing the end is coming – 1 Peter 4:7-9**
- **Empowers the freedom to do right, and not be constantly looking over our shoulder - Romans 8:1, John 8:36, Romans 6:22, 1 John 1:9**

# In Conclusion:

- My most recent wakeup call has been that I must not only become willing to endure pain; I need to embrace it joyfully as an opportunity to be blessed by God and to become a blessing to others.
- “Trust and Obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus”
- What is your wakeup call? How many times are you going to hit the snooze button?



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**Have an inspired and godly week!**