



# WELCOME



RUSTY HAYES  
LEAD PASTOR

**We're glad you're here!** Whether this is your first time or you've been here for a while, we hope that you feel welcome. It is our desire that you experience the hope Jesus provides through His gospel, and the love that He shares through His people. God is doing a new thing at The Ascent Church. Our vision is to create genuine biblical communities on every street in our region as we love God and love our neighbor. Would you join us? It's time to climb.

JOIN US FOR OUR NEWEST SERMON SERIES WITH PASTOR RUSTY NEXT WEEK.



## THE WORLD'S greatest PRAYERS

Prayer is a gift from God. Prayer changes things. Prayer is a way that we talk to God and listen for His voice. Prayers are used to thank God, request healing, ask for wisdom, pray a blessing over a meal, and so much more. Beginning January 7, we will examine five great prayers in the Bible that are sure to inspire and equip you in your prayer life.

- THE PRAYER OF JABEZ
- THE PRAYER OF HANNAH
- THE PRAYER OF DAVID
- THE PRAYER OF SOLOMON
- THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Be sure to download The Ascent Church APP to follow along with notes and listen to the message again.

### NEW HERE?

If you are new, we want to get to know you and help you get connected at The Ascent Church. Join us for a short introduction class we call **Explore 1**.

### GET CONNECTED ASCENT KIDS

Our children's ministry is designed to build a strong foundation of faith for kids and empowers parents to be the primary spiritual leaders in their homes. This helps kids move from early childhood beliefs to a lifetime faith.

### ASCENT STUDENT MINISTRIES (ASM)

All middle and high school students are invited to join us in the student section of worship on Sunday mornings. ASM also gathers Tuesday evenings at the Woodmoor Campus to explore together, laugh together and grow closer to God.

### ADULT DISCIPLESHIP (BASE CAMPS)

Engage in Bible study, fellowship, prayer, and support as we build relationships with each other. This is where we actively reach out to our neighborhoods, and do life together. Base Camps are the heart and soul of our church.

For more information or to connect in a Base Camp, visit our website [TheAscentChurch.com](http://TheAscentChurch.com).

## UPCOMING AT THE ASCENT

### MANAGING GOD'S MONEY

Interested in learning more about God's financial principles? Join us for an in-depth book study of Randy Alcorn's book "Managing God's Money". Prior to joining the group study session on January 20, please read the book and complete the study guide. Ross Haycock will lead the seminar. The book and study guide can be purchased on Amazon or <http://store.epm.org/>. Please register online at [TheAscentChurch.com](http://TheAscentChurch.com).



### BIBLE CLASSES BEGIN IN JANUARY

Start the year off right with a fresh look at God's word with men and women in our church family. Registration is available for the men's and women's studies online at [TheAscentChurch.com](http://TheAscentChurch.com). Sign up today!

- Mother's of Preschoolers (MOPs)
- Moms and Beyond
- Women on the Ascent: Life in Christ
- Men on the Ascent Bible Study



### MILITARY MINISTRY

January 15 @ 7:00pm

Recognizing the tremendous needs within the military community of our region, The Ascent is starting a Military Ministry to come alongside and support those who have been impacted by their military experience. If you're interested in being involved, join us January 15 @7pm. Fill out the Connection Card and write "military" or contact Dan York at [dan@firstcause.org](mailto:dan@firstcause.org).

### SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Woodmoor Campus  
Sundays @ 10:45 am  
Room 213

Join us for an in-depth Bible study that equips participants to apply God's Word to daily life while building relationships in a group setting. We will be studying the book of Hebrews in January. Everyone is welcome and no registration necessary.

## CONNECTION CARD

December 31 2017

Which campus did you attend:

- Woodmoor
- Northgate

Update my information

Name

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M / F Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

First Time Guest

Spouse

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M / F Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

First Time Guest

Address

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email

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Primary Phone

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Children's Names & Ages

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## (Be)loved

A RETREAT FOR WOMEN

APRIL 20-22  
SPRING CANYON RETREAT CENTER  
with Dr. Heidi Petak and Jill Baird

REGISTER AT [THEASCENTCHURCH.COM](http://THEASCENTCHURCH.COM)

# Unexpected Gifts

*Romans 5:1-5*

Pastor Brian Petak

December 31, 2017

I. We rejoice in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Romans 5:1-2)

“More than that...”

II. We rejoice in our \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 5:3-5)

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_, God-designed \_\_\_\_\_.

Two kinds:

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

- Often the most demanding \_\_\_\_\_ is most necessary to develop \_\_\_\_\_.
- Often the most serious \_\_\_\_\_ is most necessary to deepen \_\_\_\_\_.
- Often the most pressing \_\_\_\_\_ produces the greatest \_\_\_\_\_.

God often uses the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ in life to produce the richest \_\_\_\_\_.

So What?

# BASE CAMP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## *Unexpected Gifts*

1. Think back over your past to a season or specific experience that presented one of your greatest challenges or difficulties. Describe what that season was like for you. What did you feel? What did you experience? What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about God?
2. Re-read Romans 5:1-5. What is true about Paul's perspective in life for him to be able to rejoice in his suffering? How can Paul's perspective inform your perspective?
3. In the message, certain types of suffering were described as "gracious, God-designed trouble." Do you agree or disagree with this? Where have you been able to see God's design in some of the difficulties you've experienced?
4. How have you been able to see endurance, character and hope play out in your own personal story? Which of these gifts is most evident in your life? Which is most difficult to see, experience or appreciate?
5. Also read 1 Peter 1:6-7. How is Peter's perspective similar to Paul's? What is a specific way you've seen the genuineness of your faith tested?
6. How might these passages change your perspective on your own personal suffering and the difficulties that God will allow into your life over the coming year?
7. Who do you know that needs to hear this message and how might you be used as God's instrument of encouragement in their life?