

More and More

for

Happy New Year to all my friends at Emanuel Bible Church! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus and have determined to have another year full of grace & mercy. By the time you received the EDGE, many of us have already made New Year's resolutions for 2019; eat more veggies, exercise more, read more, pray more, travel more, sing more, plant more, serve more - the list goes on and on of things we want more and more of. I am not against resolutions for a new year. It is very wise to review the year we just had, reevaluate, make plans for change, and figure out ways to accomplish new goals. By God's grace we will see new good habits forming and resolutions coming to life in 2019.

As we consider all the things we want more and more of in our lives, I would like to remind us of what we believers are up against and for us to simplify the desires of our heart.

Against Us / Today we live in a fallen world that has a foundation built on the concept of more and more. A world system that has roots going back to the beginning of creation, more specifically the fall of mankind. Adam & Eve, when tempted, both got to a place of heart where all that God had given them up to that point was no longer enough. Genesis 3:6 "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her and he ate." 1 John 2:16 states that the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life are what over powers our contentment with God. We are bombarded every day with temptation to be dissatisfied, to covet and to want more and more. Commercials, billboards, friends and family on the ever-present social media are all shouting at us to not be satisfied but to WANT more and more. We have all experienced a time where on one day we were satisfied with one of our possessions, and after someone or something showed us what we could be enjoying, we immediately found ourselves very discontent, even depressed about it the very next day. We must daily guard our hearts against covetousness and un-thankfulness. The biblical concept of stopping sin always involves replacing it with something good. See Ephesians 4 - put away lies, speak the truth, steal no more, work with your hands, stop talking corrupt things, but speak things that build up. As the Holy Spirit convicts us of the sin of covetousness, the sin of wanting more and more of what the world offers, may we pursue what God has asked us to get more and more of?

Simple Desires of the Heart / God is for us to grow in more and more of Him. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." My prayer for all of us this year, and every year after, will echo the apostle Paul's prayer in Philippians 1:9. As we lay down greed, covetousness, and discontentment, let us pursue a love in us that grows by leaps and bounds. Let us pursue a love that is always accompanied by knowledge and all discernment. In doing so, we will be able to approve what God approves, we will also be pure and blameless the day Christ Jesus returns for us. Growing in more and more love, knowledge, and discernment will increasingly fill our lives with the fruit of righteousness. These thoughts are better written in the Bible.

Phil 1:9 ⁹ And it is my prayer that your <u>love</u> may abound **more and more**, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The biblical concept of more and more is like the snowball effect. In 2 Tim 2:16 Paul writes that we should avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness. You see, we can snowball in love or we can snowball out of control in ungodliness. Would you join me in praying Paul's Philippians 1:9 prayer over the local body at EBC, over ourselves and all of our loved ones? Oh that we could see a paradigm shift toward more and more daily growth in godly traits like love, discernment, and knowledge.

This type of growth will require that we spend more and more time with the Lord Jesus in our prayer "closets", more and more time in the Word of God, and more and more time with godly and wise people. Let us all provoke one another toward these wonderful New Life's Resolutions!

Your brother, Mark Idol / Assistant Pastor

Women are invited to join us in Seeking Our Savior (S.O.S.) 2019.

"Thus says the LORD, 'Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,' declares the LORD." Jeremiah 9:23-24

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." John 17:3

In S.O.S. 2019, we will take a journey into the world of the only One true God of all creation (**Eph 4:4**). Together we will study God's attributes during a once a month gathering that includes corporate worship, teaching time and small group discussions. We will begin to understand more intimately who God is and how His great love for us is freely given in and through the Person and work of Jesus, His only begotten Son (**Hebrews 1:1-4**).

God created humanity for relationships: with one another (S.O.S. small group time includes praying for each other), with His creation, and with Himself (S.O.S. has corporate worship at each gathering). Human sin separated us from God and turned a loving relationship into a relationship of hatred, rebellion and disobedience (Rom 5:10-11). Romans 5:8 tells us that, "But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

God, who is Spirit, freely chose to reach down to humanity and make a way of reconciliation between Himself and humanity in and through the Person and work of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son (John 4:24; Col 1:18-20). God freely chooses to give His free gift of grace to have faith in the finished work of His Son, Jesus Christ, so that those who believe on the work of the redemption for their sin, will be adopted into His eternal family (Eph 1:5-6; 2:8-9).

How do we get to know this holy, righteous, gracious God of all creation? Our relationship with God begins and ends in the Person of Jesus Christ. We get to know God as we grow in the knowledge and understanding of Jesus. Jesus life, death and resurrection have given us direct access into the throne room of God (**Hebrews 4:14-16**).

Knowing who God is, His character and His nature, comes through learning about His **attributes**. Some of His attributes belong only to Him: **incommunicable**. Some of His attributes are **communicable**: Mankind shares these attributes with God. All of these attributes, working in harmony with one another at all times make God Who He is.

We invite you all to join us as we search the Scriptures together, dive into the attributes of God with the fathers of our Christian faith and think through what our faith assures us of: "... a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5).

May we all, "Let faith support us where reason fails, and we shall think because we believe, not in order that we may believe." A. W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy, p.6.

The first 2019 S.O.S. will be on February 12th with doors opening at 6:45 pm, and going from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the South Building. Sign-ups for S.O.S. 'Attributes of God' will be as a bulletin insert on January 27, February 3rd & 10th. Pre-registrations helps us with arranging small groups, however it is not required. Women, high school graduates and up, are welcome to join us anytime through out the year - always the second Tuesday of each month (except during Jan, July, and August when we don't meet). Note: Those 2018 attendees that registered "Yes Returning with their 2018 S.O.S. Small group leaders", do not need to register.

If you have any questions or feel lead to help with this event, please contact Jenny Shetler.

EVENT PAGE

THE HAPPENINGS AT EBC

JANUARY EVENTS -

01 - Office Closed ... Happy New Year!

02 - Prayer Meeting Resumes

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Church Office

03 - Men's Ministry Study Resumes

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: South Building

06 - Worship/Sunday School Hours Resume to Normal Schedule

Time: 8:00/10:45 Worship & 9:30 Sunday School

06 - Youth Group Time: 6:00 PM

Location: South Building

07 - After School Program Resumes

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: South Building

08 - Annual Membership Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: North Building

09 - Awana/Lifeguards Resume

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: North and South Building

11-13 - Family Camp Location: Cannon Beach

On Sunday, January 13th, due to Family Camp, we will just hold one worship service at Emmanuel Bible Church at 10:00 AM.

There will be no Sunday School.

Save the Date -

2019 Men's Retreat

The Men's Retreat is scheduled from February 22-24 at Twin Rocks in Rockaway Beach. The cost will be \$130.00. More information to come.

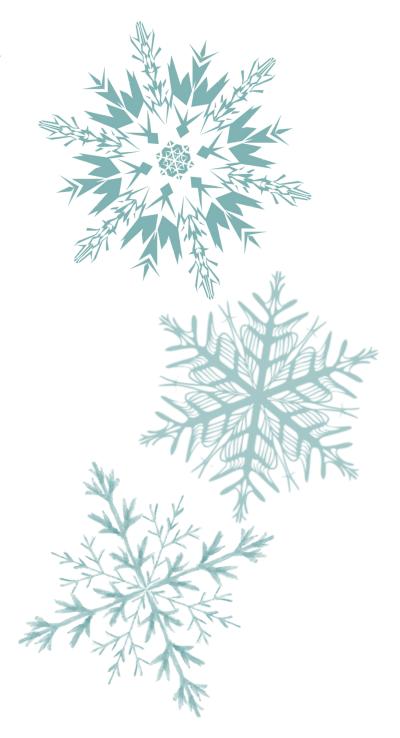
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		01	<u>02</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>
		Office Closed Happy New Year!				
AE/SS = Adult Education and Sunday School YAM = Young Adult Ministry			7:00 Prayer Meeting	7:00 Men's Ministry Study		
06 8:00/10:45 Worship	<u>07</u>	08 5:30 Men's Fellowship	<u>09</u>	10	11 Family	12 Camp
9:30 AE/SS 6:00 Youth Group	2:00 After School Program	7:00 Annual Membership Meeting	6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeguards 7:00 Prayer Meeting	7:00 Men's Ministry Study 7:00 YAM		Living Faith: Under the Bridge Ministry
13	14	15 5:30 Men's Fellowship 11:30 Women's Council Meeting	<u>16</u>	17	18	<u>19</u>
6:00 Youth Group	12:00 After School Program	6:30 Simonka Chapel Service	6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeguards 7:00 Prayer Meeting	7:00 Men's Ministry Study		
20 8:00/10:45 Worship 9:30 AE/SS	21	22 5:30 Men's Fellowship	23	24	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
6:00 Youth Group			6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeguards 7:00 Prayer Meeting	7:00 Men's Ministry Study 7:00 YAM		
27 8:00/10:45 Worship 9:30 AE/SS	28	29 5:30 Men's Fellowship	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		
6:00 Youth Group	12:00 After School Program		6:30 Awana 6:30 Lifeguards 7:00 Prayer Meeting	7:00 Men's Ministry Study		

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 Sam Pratt
- 02 Brighton Kelly, Carol Wilson
- 03
- 04 Heather Mohr, Torian Spalding, Carson Welty
- 05 Tom Aman, Jean Elliott, Walter Perkins
- 06 Warren Haury, Jerry Plumb, Jonathan Rogers,
- 07 Mindi Dunn
- 08 Gregory Dettwyler, Marlan Johnson, Jennipher Koch, Kylee Lanz
- 09 Don Brown, Melanee Tickner
- 11 Kent Kaufman, Bethany Kos, Deron Neukomm
- 12 Thomas Evans, Timothy Johnston, Jim Krieg, David Mohr, Allison Rogers, Ray Scheller, Essie Sprague, Walter Steffen
- 13 Eric Hill, Robert Stadeli, David Tate
- 14 Janella Wallace, Josiah Wallace
- 15 Kristy Goode
- 16 Madeline Ortega, Nathan Rogers
- 18 Ken Fuls, Sheila Goode, Joanne Hargreaves
- 19 Bill Crouse (91), Gill Gillaspie, Katelan Kamstra, Jaxon Roth
- **21** Thomas Avinelis, Don Mantie, Amanda Odom, Liz Vachter
- 22 Asher Batson, Mike Plumb, Adam Wilson
- 24 Ashton Folsom, Marta Ray
- 25 Darren Caughman, Tripp Dunn, David Kuenzi, Michelle Mulkey
- **26** Grace Folsom, Isaac Folsom, Betty Hargreaves (**90**), Jessica Roth, Jon Widmer
- 27 Waverly Clayton, Jonas Mayhugh
- 28 Nicole Aitken, Benjamin Koch, Margaret Wipf
- 29 Carson Brenden, Shirley Duerksen
- 30 Tara Aman, Nyla Rawie
- 31 Jared Kaufman, Emily Rogers,

- 05 Josh and Danielle Purington
- **15** Byron and Cathy Stadeli
- 17 Steve and Sue Brown
- 22 Chris and Janae Propeck
- **26** Chuck and Anita Roth
- 28



If we inadvertently left you out of the Birthday or Anniversary list or if you would like to be added to the EDGE mailing, please notify the office at: 503.364.6179 or office@ebcsalem.com

Emmanuel Bible Church 8512 Sunnyview Rd | Salem, OR | 97305

www.ebcsalem.com Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship Services 8:00 & 10:45 AM Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage PAID Salem OR Permit No. 444