



the Vision

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2018

WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS IN THE STORM?

Pastor Michael

"I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want." Galatians 5:16-17

In this passage, the Apostle Paul is instructing the churches of Galatia on the importance of walking by the Spirit as opposed to walking by the flesh. In my personal life, I can tell when I am being led by the flesh versus the Spirit, as I start allowing fears, worries and insecurities of life to direct my steps and to take my mind to places that lead to wrong destinations. So how do I avoid this trap, how do we avoid this trap of walking by the flesh versus the Spirit?

For myself personally, I know that when I wake up, grab my Bible and maybe a cup of coffee and a journal, and I start reading through my devotional for the day, reflect on the Scripture passage being studied and start meditating and praying, I find that the Holy Spirit begins to direct my mind and steps towards Jesus as opposed to the world. In this process, I find that I begin doing what Jesus wants as opposed to what my flesh wants. For me, this is a daily battle but an extremely crucial step to start my day out right if I want to win the war against the flesh.

When I have an anxious thought,

fear or worry I have learned that I need to follow Paul's advice he gives the church at Philippi in Philippians 4:6-8, "Don't worry about anything, but in EVERYTHING, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—DWELL on THESE THINGS." For me this means, taking that fear, worry or insecurity and looking at it in the eyes of Jesus and allowing God's word on the subject to be cultivated in my heart as opposed to allowing the fear, worry or insecurity to take over my mind.

When I apply these two steps daily to my life I can see a major difference in how I think, act and respond to situations as they arise. Many of us were fearful, worried and afraid of what kind of damage Hurricane Florence would cause to our families and

Church Events

- Oct 7th – Homecoming
- Oct 7th – OCC Shoebox Launch
- Oct 14th—Quarterly Ministry Meeting
- Oct 26th – Fall Festival

community. When storms in life come fast and furious how do you respond? Do you turn your eyes and attention to Jesus or to the winds and the waves crashing all around? Which voices do you allow to enter your mind, the voice of the flesh or the voice of the Holy Spirit? When we look to Jesus in the midst of the storm we can see a light that shines bright for all to see to provide and offer hope to those who are hopeless. This recent hurricane has wreaked damage and devastation to many, but through it all we have also seen a community of brothers and sisters band together to provide that hope and light to a lost and dying world. The next time a fear, worry or insecurity pops up in your mind or thought life how will you respond? As we continue to seek ways to help those in need from the damage the storm caused will you commit to seeking the Lord and asking Him how He wants to use you to help those who are hurting?

When Your Wedding Happens in a Hurricane

Pastor Bob

I know this will sound a bit selfish, but there's no way around it. I just could not believe it. A hurricane-- the same week my daughter planned to get married. Really?

For a week, our emotions ran laps, as if we cycled through stages. Denial—It won't really happen. Desperation—What if we have to (gasp!) cancel the ceremony! Hope—Just keep an eye on the forecast. These things change. Guilt—people are going to get hit by a hurricane, and here we are worrying about a wedding!

But we refused to concede. We prayed. And we packed and prepared and watched the Weather Channel. And Kaitlyn, ever the planner, ever hopeful, was in Charlotte working out details and alternatives. One phone call up. The next phone call down. But no matter what, yeah, she's getting married.

Then the cake guy canceled. And the airline started messing with the honeymoon flights. And the flowers were not delivered to the florist. And by Tuesday it was clear that the wind would push Friday's rooftop wedding in Charlotte to a room inside.

No worries. We'll adjust.

While Kim and I packed two vehicles with wedding supplies, we also prepped the house for what was predicted to be the worst hurricane since, well, ever. We decided to leave early Wednesday morning because we were not sure if the evacuation traffic would cause delays. We exited our house at 5AMish, in the blue hue just before daylight, and that's when we began to see the grace of God, like small smiles to remind us of His ever-present love.

We arrived early in Charlotte because, after all, there was nearly no traffic to contend with. We stopped for gas in Wadesboro at what, it turns out, was the only place around with gas. I called the hotel from the truck to let them know we were coming early. No problem. One room just opened up. It will be ready.

And so it went. Detail after detail. Little things fell into place for the biggest event of my daughter's life. While the hurricane crawled onto the coast, we checked on people and people checked on us, and we forged ahead with everything right on schedule. We focused on what was in front of us and gave to God what we could not control.

And through it all, we were reminded what matters most.

First, we were reminded that trusting God means moving forward with hope and trust that, no matter the outcome, He is not surprised, wet, or weary. We were not "making the best of a bad situation." We were believing that He knows more than we do and sees what we do not see, and when entrusted with our lives He gladly takes the challenge. He is there, working and guiding, and He can do "more than we can ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20-21). And when we "cast our cares on Him," we learn again that "He cares for us" (1 Peter 5:7).

Maybe to the very end I needed reminding, so the rain stopped and the wind stilled when Kaitlyn and Antonio made their grand exit into the streets of Charlotte, finishing the evening with celebration and satisfaction. And then Saturday morning the honeymooners' flight from Charlotte to Orlando, with a hurricane encroaching, loaded and left on time. (Really? I've had flights cancelled in NC because it was windy in Chicago.)

And, second, we were reminded that people love us, and when we rely on them, they come through. From the Wednesday we departed to the next Monday, four people kindly checked our home



and sent us reports. When the cake guy cancelled, family stepped in and brought a cake at their own expense. Kim's sister and aunt stepped up and helped decorate. The florist lady made silk flowers when the real ones did not arrive. My nephew refashioned the cross that, once meant for a rooftop backdrop, needed to fit into a small indoor room. The list goes on.

And if the wedding guests were not stopped by the storm, if flights were not cancelled or roads not blocked, they came. From Georgia, from Massachusetts, from Michigan, from Wilmington, and from neighboring counties. They came. People we had not seen in years. People who had shaped the lives of the bride and groom. People who showed by their presence their care and love for them.

So, last, we were reminded to keep life in perspective. Sometimes our worst times and our best times converge in a single place and a pivotal moment. We do not control time or events. But we can control our attitudes and perspectives. We always choose whether the hurricanes will forge our faith stronger or weaken our resolve. Whether our trust in God will grow or we will doubt His goodness and fail to see His grace. Whether we will come together or fall apart. And the choices we make demonstrate what we believe about God and about other people.

When the wind dies down, one fact remains. What matters most is not the hurricane. It's how we respond to the hurricane.

Few things lend perspective like having a wedding in a hurricane. I wish I could tell you that I handled everything perfectly, that I was some spiritual giant in the face of the storm. Not so much. But I can tell you that when I stepped into a hushed room and for the first time saw my baby girl standing there in her wedding dress, all grown up, smiling at her dad just minutes before he would walk her down the aisle, frankly, I forgot about the hurricane.

Because when you focus on what matters most, the storms don't seem to matter so much after all.

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Bob

Visit Pastor Bob's Blog: BOBWEATHERS.NET



Monthly Ministry Info

ON WEDNESDAYS

DINNER AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE 5:30-6:15PM

children

QUEST FIRSTKIDS MINISTRY
WEDNESDAYS | 6-8PM
FBCSHALLOTTE.ORG/QUEST

fusion

BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS | 6-8PM

youth

BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS | 6-8PM

disciplelife

CLASSES START
OCT 3 | 6PM
FBCSHALLOTTE.ORG/WED

message series

SERIES: "BORN FOR A PURPOSE:
THE LIFE OF MOSES"

LISTEN TO SERMONS ONLINE AT
FBCSHALLOTTE.ORG/SERMONS

men

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS | 6:30AM

women

LADIES' MINISTRY MEETING
OCT 8 | 6:30PM

DANCE FOR JOY (FREE)
CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

finance

BUILDING FUND BALANCE \$52,601

disaster relief

TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP
OR TO LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN
HELP YOU, PLEASE VISIT
FBCSHALLOTTE.ORG/FLORENCE OR
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

business

CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE TO
VOTE ON DISASTER RELIEF FUND
OCT 7 | 12PM (AFTER WORSHIP)

QUARTERLY MINISTRY MEETING
OCT 14 | 6PM

fall festival

OCT 26 | 6:30PM
PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
ITEMS TO HELP HURRICANE FLORENCE
VICTIMS
TO SIGN UP TO DO A TRUNK OR
HELP, CONTACT HEATHER BATH AT
(910) 470-8972

missions

NC MISSIONS OFFERING
GOAL: \$3,000
RECEIVED: \$5,234

CAPTAIN'S CHOICE GOLF TOURNAMENT

BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIA-
TION'S 2018 TOY STORE BENEFIT
NOV 3 | 8 AM REGISTRATION
9AM START
LOCKWOOD FOLLY COUNTY CLUB
REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE IN
THE OFFICE

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
SHOEBOX MINISTRY
LAUNCHES OCT 7

homecoming

OCT 7 | 11AM
COVERED DISH LUNCH AFTER MORN-
ING WORSHIP. CHURCH WILL PRO-
VIDE FRIED CHICKEN, PLEASE BRING A
SIDE OR DESSERT.

NO EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES.

movie night

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
NOV 4 | 5:30PM
FELLOWSHIP WHILE WATCHING THE
MOVIE "GOD'S NOT DEAD 2" AND
ENJOYING CONCESSIONS
SPONSORED BY SUNDAY SCHOOL



Love God.
Love One Another.
Love the World.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 318
Shallotte, NC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048 fbcshallotte.org

Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm; F 9am—1pm

Sunday School	9:45am
Morning Worship	11:00am
Evening Worship	6:00pm
Wednesday	6:00pm

Daily Prayer Focus for Hurricane Florence Victims

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-Oct | Those Whose Homes
Were Destroyed | <input type="checkbox"/> 17-Oct | Work Crews & Repairmen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Oct | Single | <input type="checkbox"/> 18-Oct | Teachers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Oct | Widowed | <input type="checkbox"/> 19-Oct | Students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Oct | Families | <input type="checkbox"/> 20-Oct | FEMA Workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5-Oct | Children & Teens | <input type="checkbox"/> 21-Oct | Law Enforcement Officers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-Oct | Business Owners | <input type="checkbox"/> 22-Oct | Utility Workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7-Oct | Boiling Spring Lakes Residents | <input type="checkbox"/> 23-Oct | Insurance Companies' Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8-Oct | Southport Residents | <input type="checkbox"/> 24-Oct | Insurance Adjusters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9-Oct | Ash Residents | <input type="checkbox"/> 25-Oct | Medical Personnel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10-Oct | NC/SC Churches | <input type="checkbox"/> 26-Oct | Foster Parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11-Oct | Wilmington Residents | <input type="checkbox"/> 27-Oct | Federal Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12-Oct | Bolivia Residents | <input type="checkbox"/> 28-Oct | Rescue Workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13-Oct | Those Housing Displaced Families | <input type="checkbox"/> 29-Oct | Hospital Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14-Oct | Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-Oct | Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15-Oct | Public Officials in NC/SC | <input type="checkbox"/> 31-Oct | Pastors & Leaders
of Local Churches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-Oct | Counselors | | |