



*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*

# Challenge with a Purpose

## 2015 Matching Grant

And we are off...

Once again we have the opportunity to raise additional funds for ministry here at NCFA. As in years past, we have been blessed with families who have given us the opportunity to do a matching grant. Please consider ways that you can invest in our church and help us to maximize this giving opportunity. Please know that our matching grant is not about the leadership and members of NCFA not being good stewards. The matching grant is about fiscally equipping NCFA within and beyond our approved budget to carry out our ministry locally, regionally, and nationally. It enables us to scholarship families for Financial Peace curriculum. It enables us to partner with ROOOR and the "Workers to Work" program. It allows us to support missions and ministries in Chiapas and Sudan, etc. It allows us to be missional and make a difference. In Haggai, we learn how people came together to strengthen the house of God for the purposes of God. Will you consider partnering with us?

**GOAL \$30,000.00**

*Current Donor Gift \$15,000.00*

*NCFA Challenge \$15,000.00*

*NCFA Current \$1,000.00*

What are the ways I can give?

- ◆ Mail a donation to the church office
- ◆ Leave a donation during one of the services, or events
- ◆ Online <https://ncfaustin.cloverdonations.com/donation>



*God Bless each and every one of you.  
Pastor James Lee*

September 26, 2015



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**NCF**



**READY TO**

**GET ROLLING**

The rehearsals take place in Room 7 during the first 10 minutes of the time when the youth have been dismissed from the church service to go to their classes.

These Sunday rehearsals culminate in a once a month performance that is always on the last Sunday of the month which is known as Family Sunday.

The NCF Youth Choir is open to participants from age 3 through age 20.

The September song will be a modern version of "We Are the Church!" and contains a verse done in rap. Both young children and the older youth will find this song fun to perform!

If more information is needed, please call Connie Jones at 512-947-2869.



## NCFA CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED YOU ARE NEEDED



PLEASE CONSIDER WAYS YOU CAN HELP SOLIDIFY OUR MINISTRY:

- ASSIST UTOPIA IN THE NURSERY
- ASSIST TEACHERS IN CHURCH SCHOOL
- BRING CREATIVE IDEAS
- SERVE WHEREVER YOU ARE NEEDED

September 26, 2015



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All Welcome

**NEW**

**PSALM 150 PRAISE TEAM REHEARSALS**

**THIS SUNDAY  
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
9:30AM**

**Just one requirement:  
A LOVE OF GLORIFYING GOD  
THROUGH MUSIC!**

## We Care Kits

*"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15*

We are currently accepting the following donations

### Food/Drink Items:

Granola Bars or Trail mix & 8 ounce size water bottles

### Hygiene/Personal Items:

Travel Size Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Travel size hand sanitizer, Adult white ankle crew socks – size large, Quart size freezer bags.

All donated items should be placed in the donations box located on the back table by the AV equipment. If you have any questions please email me: [calyflower2020@yahoo.com](mailto:calyflower2020@yahoo.com) or call me at (512) 228-4712.

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- ⇒ Lift up travel mercies for Laura when she comes to visit her sister Tracey next weekend. Also, their brother Richard will be able to visit from the Dallas area. Lift up a good sibling reunion.
- ⇒ Lift up healing, strength, and comfort for the father of a friend named Laura. He is in the ICU.
- ⇒ Lift up Sam M's 3 year old grand-nephew Adam who fell onto a knife in an open dishwasher. He is in Dell Children's Hospital with a punctured lung.
- ⇒ Thank you to Linda for sharing how much NCF meant to our dear departed Jane. She said NCF changed her life and made her feel like she could make a difference here. Jane repeatedly expressed her appreciation for the hospitality and friendship she found here.
- ⇒ Continue to lift up Deja in Houston who is recovering from multiple surgeries and health problems. She is fighting for her life. Her prognosis is beginning to look better.
- ⇒ Lift up Pastor Wanyonyi in Sudan. His passport is missing (probably stolen!). May God make a way for him to travel home safely. Also, lift up the young men who are traveling to different villages taking the Gospel to the Toposa people for the first time. Lift up protection from the area's rampant witchcraft.
- ⇒ Praise for Carol's son John finding a new job! He had moved to San Francisco for a job which folded after a week. But, God provided a better opportunity for him.
- ⇒ Praise for encouragement and a big goal. Tiffany's 89 year old grandmother wants to come to Tiffany and Justin's wedding next summer and be able to walk down the aisle, so she is exercising and taking better care of herself to meet her new goal. That's what love of family does for you.
- ⇒ Praise for Pastor Lee's sermon which provides insight into some problems faced at work. Lift up encouragement for students studying Criminal Justice. The many unrests and racial tensions facing police now is very discouraging to these students, many are dropping out or changing majors.
- ⇒ Praise for the fabulous music!
- ⇒ Lift global solutions for the Syrian Refugees.
- ⇒ Praise for son Kirk growing up to be a fine man, husband, and father. Mama Trish is very proud.
- ⇒ Lift up preparations for World Communion Sunday on October 4, 2015 at 10:15 a.m. NCF will jointly worship at Grace Presbyterian in Round Rock. We will be able to hear both Pastor Lee and Pastor Reeves that morning. Watch for more information and directions in the newsletter.



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- 3<sup>rd</sup> Greg Buford
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sofia Bohn-Hall
- 5<sup>th</sup> Kathy Smith
- 8<sup>th</sup> Dorrette Ayensu
- 12<sup>th</sup> Joe Parsons
- Miranda Cortez
- 16<sup>th</sup> Charlie Shin
- 17<sup>th</sup> Kim Parsons
- 18<sup>th</sup> Ricky Palacios
- Jace Lopez
- 20<sup>th</sup> Paula Akujor
- Paul Akujor
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Juan Ortiz ("Junior")
- 24<sup>th</sup> Precious Hernandez
- 25<sup>th</sup> Carol Nemir
- 26<sup>th</sup> Clarke Spinks
- Kellcee Justice
- 27<sup>th</sup> Cheyenne Hernandez
- 28<sup>th</sup> Elena Endres
- JoJo Akujor
- 29<sup>th</sup> Erin Grisdale

- 1<sup>st</sup> Comfort Agbahu and Kofi Vida-Torku
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lucy and Ellis Oglesby
- 5<sup>th</sup> Jimmy Bohn and Kimberly Hall
- 14<sup>th</sup> Clarke and Maggie Spinks
- 15<sup>th</sup> Matthew and Erin Grisdale
- 26<sup>th</sup> Doug and Patricia Caroom
- 28<sup>th</sup> Bill and Edna Parish

**Session Members**

- \*Rev. James Lee  
Pastor/Moderator
- \*Elder Kathy Smith  
Clerk of Session
- \*Rev. Bill Harris  
Administration & Personnel
- \*Elder Tim Lenz  
Buildings & Grounds
- \*Elder Mary Jo Mojica  
Congregational Life
- \*Elder Randy Mojica  
Children and Youth
- \*Elder Cathy Angell  
Discipleship & Women's Ministry
- \*Elder Caly Fernandez  
Evangelism
- \*Elder Tracey Lenz  
Finance & Stewardship
- \*Elder Robert Booth  
Lay Ministry
- \*Elder Benton Hooks  
Men's Ministry
- \*Elder Vernon Bailey  
Missions
- \*Elder Charles Robinson  
Worship & Membership

**Deacons**

- Connie Jones, Chair
- Kathryn Aldas
- Ulysses Cox
- Naomi Jones
- Samuel Okyere Mireku
- Lucy Oglesby
- Ashley Phillips
- Carol Saddington
- Cathy Trifiro
- Roxann Vallejo

**SEPTEMBER/  
OCTOBER 2015**

- 27<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
8:15am Waller Creek Chapel  
*Shane Blackshear, preaching*  
9-10am Adult Sunday School  
9:15am Deacons Meeting  
9:30am Psalm 150 Praise  
Team Rehearsal  
10:15am Worship at 1507 Wilshire  
*Pastor James H. Lee, preaching*  
Sunday School during worship;  
Ages 3-5-Rm 1, Grades 1-5 -Rm 7
- 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Men's Ministry  
Dinner, Study at 7pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Dinner.  
7pm Prayer and Praise
- 4<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
8:15am Waller Creek Chapel  
*Rev. George Holland, preaching*  
10:15am  
**World Communion Sunday**  
Worship at Grace Presbyterian  
1705 Gattis School Rd., Round Rock  
*Pastor James H. Lee, preaching*

September 26, 2015



NCFA CONNEXION!

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# SUNDAY MORNINGS

## NCFA Sunday Schedule

**8:15am - Worship Service**

Waller Creek Chapel  
41st St. and Red River

**10:15am - Worship Service**

1507 Wilshire Blvd.

9am Adult Sunday School

10am Fellowship

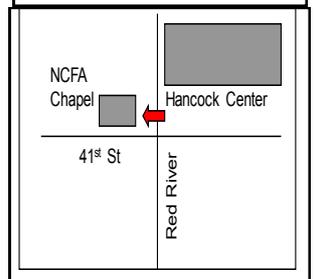
10:45am - Children's Church

## NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8:15am -- Waller Chapel

Come rise and shine with us  
at our **8:15am** chapel service  
where we glorify God  
through the Word, Prayer, Hymns,  
and Communion.

41st and Red River, entrance gate on 41st.

In the words of Phillips, Craig & Dean,  
"Come, just as you are, to worship."  
All are welcome to this traditional,  
intimate style of worshipping our Lord.



## NCFA Waller Creek Chapel — Upcoming Preachers

September 27 — *Shane Blackshear*

October — 4 *Rev. George Holland*

*Prayerfully seeking a musician called to join this worship service.*

## NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:15am

We would love to have you and your family  
come share in the CELEBRATION OF  
THE GOOD NEWS!



We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall of  
Genesis Presbyterian Church on the  
Wilshire Campus starting at 10:15 a.m.

Real Church...  
Real People...  
Real Simple...

New Covenant Fellowship of Austin PC(U.S.A.) is a  
racially diverse community informed by the Bible,  
empowered by the Holy Spirit, and motivated to share  
God's love with all. In response to God's love, we are  
called to equip disciples to faithfully serve, to encour-  
age seekers to joyfully commit, and to implore all to  
worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors,  
grow in grace, and live by faith.

**JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS**

September 26, 2015



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**SALSA...SALSA...SALSA**



**Come on out and join us for some fun, fellowship, and fancy footwork. Each Saturday in September from 6 to 8pm, here in the Fellowship Hall. Lead by Elder Robert “Fancy Footwork” Booth.**

## presbyterian Women

**October 2, Friday Church Women United will meet at 9:30 AM at Olivet Baptist Church, 1177 San Bernard. The meeting emphasis is Human Rights Day Celebration: “Journey Toward Peace.”**

### An offer to our youth:

*I would like anyone under the age of 18 to know that I have \$10 for any child who can recite a Psalm in worship.*

—Ellis Oglesby



Café Justo

IF YOU LIKE COFFEE OR  
KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES



**Consider supporting the NCFA Evangelism Committee and its partnership with Café Justo to bless this coffee grower’s cooperative.**

**Café Justo** is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. They market a pure organic coffee which is grown, harvested, and marketed in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide incentives for people to remain on their family lands.

**Orders** will be arranged through NCFA’s Evangelism Committee. Please see Caly Fernández to place an order. Coffee is available in 1- and 5-lb. bags. The cost of a 1-lb. bag is \$9 and a 5-lb. bag is \$35. Dark roast, medium roast, and decaf are available in ground or whole beans. Coffee are delivered biweekly to NCFA

Contact Caly to make your purchase today! 512-228-4712

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**You can speak up for a child who's been abused or neglected**

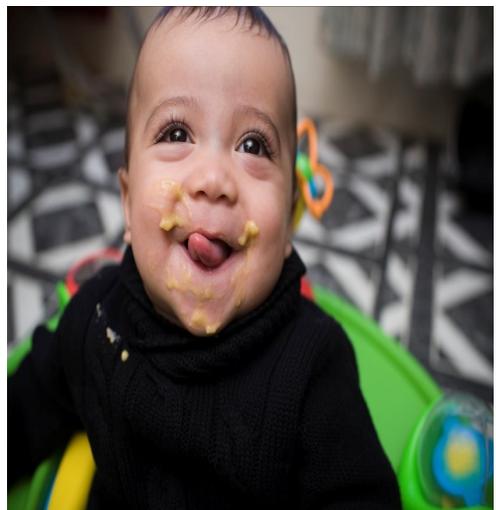
CASA of Travis County speaks up for children who've been abused or neglected by empowering our community to volunteer as advocates for them in the court system. When the state steps in to protect a child's safety, a judge appoints a trained CASA volunteer to make independent and informed recommendations in the child's best interest. CASA volunteers come from every walk of life and share a commitment to improving children's lives, a willingness to learn, and an open mind towards life experiences different from their own.

**Learn more about volunteering at an upcoming Info Session:**

Tuesday, October 6th,  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
CASA Offices, 7701 N Lamar Blvd,  
Austin 78752

Monday, October 19th,  
6:30-7:45 pm  
Manchaca Branch Library, 5500  
Manchaca Rd, Austin 78745

**RSVP for an Info Session or apply to volunteer at [www.casatexas.org/volunteer](http://www.casatexas.org/volunteer)**



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**A SPECIAL INVITATION to:**



*The Preferred Path<sup>®</sup> Ministry*

All Churches in the Austin Cluster, Mission Presbytery (MP) Staff, General Council, and All Committee Members (both incoming and outgoing)!

You are invited to Mission Presbytery's inaugural Preferred Path skills training, to be held October 2-3, 2015, hosted by Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX.

This course will be led by Dr. Karl Slaikeu, psychologist, mediator, formerly Transitional Shepherd of MP (2014), and founder of the Preferred Path Ministry ([www.preferredpathministry.com](http://www.preferredpathministry.com)), a program that has been in place at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin since 2008.

Course summary: This course provides an introduction to collaboration and conflict resolution in light of biblical principles, and provides practical experience with tools for communicating, building consensus and resolving conflict in church, family, work, school, and neighborhood settings.

Key words: Strengthening relationships, positive communication, respectful listening, dialogue, consensus building, reconciliation, unity, conflict resolution, mercy, justice, peacemaking, community life, discipleship, spiritual disciplines, and tools for living.

Format:

Experiential Learning Model (ELM), begins Friday, October 2, 5:30 pm with a light supper, program 6:30-9:30 pm; Saturday, 9 am – 2:30 pm, with lunch at noon.

Topics:

- 1 – What is the Preferred Path (and do I really need this)?
- 2 – The Conflict Grid (a tool for every step of the way).
- 3 – Communicating well (strategies for difficult conversations).
- 4 – Poles apart ('You'll never get these two together!').
- 5 – Resolving conflict (standard solutions in interpersonal peacemaking).
- 6 – Integrating the Preferred Path into Church and Family life (how to keep denial, court, and power plays from ruining your life).

Course Fee: This training is offered at no charge to MP staff, General Council, and committees as a part of MP's enrollment in the Preferred Path Ministry ([www.preferredpathministry.com](http://www.preferredpathministry.com)).

A limited number of slots will be available to members of churches in the Austin community for fee of \$25 per person (reduced from \$95 per person) to cover meals and materials.

Registration: Go to this link to sign up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c45a8a82fa75-preferred>

Course Materials: Each participant receives course manual and access to on line follow up tools.

Questions: Rev. Nancy Reeves (Mission Presbytery Transition Team [rep-grace.nereeves@gmail.com](mailto:rep-grace.nereeves@gmail.com), or 512-517-7181)

Please be sure to share with all leadership in your congregation!.

*Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!*

## MISSION STATEMENT

New Covenant Fellowship is a racially diverse community informed by the Bible and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are called to equip disciples to faithfully serve, to encourage seekers to joyfully commit, and to implore all to worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors, grow in grace and live by faith.

## VISION STATEMENT

NEW COVENANT FELLOWSHIP IMPLEMENTS OUR MISSION BY EQUIPPING INDIVIDUALS TO LIVE FOR CHRIST AND MINISTER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

### FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2015

1. **Retain and minister to visitors and members through personal contacts, strengthening families, ministry-driven events, and identifying and utilizing the numerous gifts of our members.**
2. **Better utilize social media and other modes of communication to celebrate our ministry, share resources, and organize ourselves.**
3. **Enhance our Children and Youth ministries through mentoring, attending their extracurricular activities, utilizing their gifts in worship, and assisting in the Nursery and Church School.**
4. **Continue emphasizing Marketplace Ministry, celebrating the various ministries within our church and community, and reaching out into the community like the Community Garden and our Health Fair in November.**

### The Six Great Ends of the Church

The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. (Book of Order G-1.0200)

September 26, 2015



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## ***“Wisdom for Godly Living”***

***James 3:13-18; Mark 9:30-37***

***Pastor James H. Lee***

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin***

***September 20, 2015***

This morning you are being provided a sheet of paper with many Scriptures (*see below*). I was convicted by the Holy Spirit at about 5:30am to approach today’s message about ***“Wisdom for Godly Living”*** in a different way. I also wanted to make sure you could take this reference with you for later.

The ***Psalm*** reading (***Ps. 1:1-3***) covers what we read in our Call to Worship. The next two Scriptures are our Epistle and Gospel lessons as above.

When we think about wisdom and what it is that Christ was trying to do with his disciples in the James reading, it was not just to expose people to information but to gain understanding for implementation. We often pray for illumination so that we are able to understand God's words and how we are to carry them out. Sometimes Scripture and the Holy Spirit lead us to places where we say “Oh, what do I do?” I don't have any way to respond to this, but the ultimate result should be inspiration and then implementation.

All right, so I want us to think about God's word not emphasizing what we can't do but rather inspiring us to do what it is that we're called to do as instruments of the Almighty God, Amen.

When James talks about having this wisdom, he said, "Who is wise among you?" Naturally, we would all say, “Well yes, I'm wise”—and then the issue is if we are wise, then show by your good life and that your works are done with gentleness and born out of that wisdom. I would give myself a C-minus on good works and wisdom. I thank God, who began a work in us, and God will complete that work in us. The end result will be modeling what we believe and are taught more often. The old school used to say “If you know right, then do right,” and I tried that. I found it easier to go to ***Roman 7*** and hook up with Paul, 'cause Paul says you know the stuff I wanna do, I don't do, the stuff I don't wanna do, I do. I said Oh, thank you, Paul....

But there is wisdom in knowing that if it were left up to us, we would not be able to follow these principles to live by them, and because of that we ought to show each other more mercy and grace and love. Can I get an Amen?!

The other important point addresses our bitterness, envy, boastful pride, lying, and selfish ambitions, which are in our hearts and evident in our behavior. Such wisdom or ways to live do not come from above but are earthly, unspiritual, and devilish; for where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. Was he talking to those outside of the church or those inside the church? Inside, some people would ask, “Why is he saying that to us?” We need to hear it. We need to repent. We need to be reminded that we have been redeemed and released of such behaviors. We are the righteous, clothed in Christ’s righteousness. Membership doesn't exempt us from the sanctifying journey while we are here in this world. Why? Because we war within ourselves, and other people are struggling with the fact that we don't have enough and can't get enough to be right with God, ourselves, and others. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. We have the Holy Spirit within us. We have been redeemed, and we need to hear Holy wisdom and words from the Lord. Now can I get an Amen?

So when we recognize the ugliness within us, instead of trying to put it in the closet, say, "Here, Lord. Help me and then let's move forward." Amen? Now, we are ready pursue, possess, and practice wisdom from above that leads to peace and is pure, authentic. You don't have to question it. It's pure, it's peaceable; I wanna be like what it says in ***Matthew 6***, in the Beatitudes, ***“Blessed are the peacemakers for they are the children of God.”*** I'm not always that person. I'm trying to be. I want people to say, “You know, when I was with James, I felt the presence of God and the peace of God.” I want to be a problem solver; I don't want to be one who just sees a problem. John C. Maxwell said, *“If you're going to be a leader, a leader doesn't just see a problem. A leader sees a problem, finds three solutions, and then presents the best solution.”* I pray as you leave church today and you go home, you will see some problems, because we all see problems. But I want you to see the problems, think about the three solutions, and then find the best solution. Make sure it's not just the best solution for you but God's best for everyone. God's best is without partiality. Yes, we are partial, so we just need to acknowledge it. By doing so, we can maintain our integrity and invite God to help us perfect our good work. The rest of the stuff was good, and it's important, but I'm just going to end it because I want to talk about some other things.

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## ***“Wisdom for Godly Living”***

***James 3:13-18; Mark 9:30-37***

***Pastor James H. Lee***

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin***

***September 20, 2015***

In the 7<sup>th</sup> *verse* we are admonished to submit ourselves to God. We might say, "I'm already doing that," and I want us to keep working at it because we have allowed the world to make "submit" something negative. The wisdom of God would say that the only reason you have to submit, or the only reason there is a request or a beckoning for you to submit, is because you don't have to. Which means you have a choice, which means you have authority to say No or to say Yes. When we choose to submit, we choose to say Yes for the sake of the organization, our family, our church, etc. We take what are our rights and authority and say I give it to you for this purpose because the greater good is what I expect out of it. Can we submit to God? Is God worthy to be submitted to? Is God faithful?

God is faithful. However, there are times we question God's faithfulness because of the pains in and struggles in our lives. God is still faithful. On the other side, we gradually learn that God allowed things for our best good. We also learn that God's perspective is better than our own, and God's purposes expand beyond our understanding. God is the Alpha and Omega, so there is not a time in our lives that will escape God. God is Omniscient, all-knowing and working it out of trillions of people. God is Omnipotent, all-powerful. When we are wise enough to know who God is and what God is doing, we are now in a position to intelligently trust God. Am I always obedient? No; however, over time, I am.

We are also instructed to resist the devil. Why? The enemy knows how to get what he wants and hasn't been coming up with anything new under the sun. We all know that he is the trickster and that he is coming after us, but ironically, we fall for the same thing over and over again. The Scriptures say resist because it means we recognize his tactics and then we recognize our limitations. By resisting, we invite the Lord to intervene. The enemy doesn't flee because of us. He flees because of the Lord's presence, power, and purity. Spiritually, I want us to be reminded that the prince of this world—which is the enemy...which is Lucifer...which is the devil—is not equal to Jesus. Jesus has no equivalent. Lucifer was one of the three archangels: Gabriel the messenger; Michael the warrior; and Lucifer, who was the beautiful one who made beautiful music but then got envious and jealous. Started thinking he was a little bit better than everyone else. Sound familiar? He is not equivalent to Jesus even when we make him equivalent by our attitudes and actions. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen. So let's resist the devil, and then cleansing our hands, draw near to God.

You say "Well, you're supposed to trust, but you said you doubt." Yes, we are supposed to trust, and yet we are human and ever being made into who God would have us to be. As long as I know I'm double-minded in my ways, then it makes it a whole lot harder to stay that way. Can I get an Amen?

Jesus was with his disciples, and he was about to do something special, or so they thought. But again, instead of saying he's coming in like the hero, the Messiah, the Anointed One with power and might, what does he have the audacity to tell his disciples? I'm coming as a suffering savior. *What?* When you're going through, you want out. When you're going through, you want the easiest way to solve the problem, and you don't want to have to go through the process. But he did. He emptied himself of his divinity. He became like a little one. He became a servant, and when he became a servant to those he loved, they received him not. He already knew what was going to happen to him, and he was preparing them, but they didn't understand, did they? Aren't you glad that even though you don't understand it all, you still get to be included and that the mercies of the Lord are new every morning?

But here's the part that was really helpful for me. Jesus heard them arguing and talking...and didn't say anything. Really? He said "By the way, guys, what were y'all arguing about?" Say, wait a minute, Jesus, don't be changing the subject, go back to where you said you were gonna be killed by the folks. "Nah, what were y'all arguing about?" They won't say anything, so then he says, "If you want to be great, serve." You have to be a servant to some people, to y'all, or to *all*? The old school would say that's one of those red letter words. If it was just Paul saying that, folks could say Paul was a chauvinist. But that was Jesus saying that red letter, *all*, not y'all, not some, but *all*. Servant to all!

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***Pastor James H. Lee***

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin***

***September 20, 2015***

Jesus does something even more powerful. He brings a little baby into this setting, takes him into his arms, and as he has him there and he says “whenever” in the red letters. There’s different text that says ***“Suffer the little ones that come unto to me and forbid them not.”*** But then he says, ***“Whenever you receive a little one, not only do you receive them and me but you receive the one who sent me.”*** Oh no, that means there are a whole lotta other folks I have to start receiving if I want to receive the Lord in my presence.

Now I'm tweaking things today at five-thirty in the morning, I didn't want to touch this. Somebody might say I'm isogeting, and you better believe it. Every person on this earth is created by God. The ruah of God was breathed into the very living souls; who are we to cast them away? “But James, they did this....” I know. “But they did that....” I know. “I know you don't expect me to forgive them.” I do. “Well, who are you to ask me to do that?” Nobody, Somebody says. “I'm just a nobody trying to tell everybody about somebody who can and has saved everybody.” He's the one who said forgive. He said it, but it's hard, and the answer is yes, that's why we ask God to help us. And the beginning piece of it is beginning to pray for them and pray for yourself so that our hands start to get clean and our heart starts to get clean. Our thoughts and our minds start to get clean, and then the next thing you know, we're doing what we're supposed to be doing. Amen? Not because they did something special but because we did with God's help. What they'll tell you most of the folks who have offended you, they're going on about their business. The only one of them who is up upset and unhappy is you. And so there is an invitation for us to do that, and I just wanted to touch on these Gospel lessons just a little bit before I go to the last piece and bless you.

In ***Second Chronicles*** as we're talking about wisdom, there's a conversation that God is having with Solomon. The Lord asks him a question, and Solomon does something profound. He says, ***“You have fulfilled your promise to my father David by making me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth.”*** We honor God when we are wise enough to acknowledge that we didn't get where we are because of our good looks, our intellect, prestige, or money. ***Deuteronomy*** indicates that it is God who gives us the capacity to gain wealth; it is God who places us where we are to be an ambassador for the Lord. We need to express to the Lord, “You called me to lead people that I can't lead on my own; the numbers are too great.” Solomon asks for wisdom and knowledge. He requests, ***“Give me wisdom that I may go out and come in before the people for who can rule the great people of yours?”*** Every parent should pray, “Lord give me the wisdom and knowledge.” Every leader, that's what we do, and I love what God does. Because he does this, He just says that “Because you had this in mind and did not ask for riches, did not ask for wealth, did not ask for honor, did not ask for life or longevity, or that I would give you revenge or you could be avenged, nor did you ask for all of this....But because you ask for wisdom and knowledge, you know what I'm gonna give you? Wealth. You know what else I'm gonna give you? Long life. You know what else I'm gonna give you? Honor, and I'm gonna give you also the wisdom and knowledge that you need to lead the people in which I called you to serve.”

See, when I get my head wrapped around that part of the Word of God, I don't have worry about what James said, about not trying to be envious and not trying to backstab to get what I want or need. I don't have to be like the disciples, you know, when he goes, “Who's next? Peter, you think it's you, or is it John, I don't know, the brothers of Zebedee thought it was them....” No, put it in right prospective. God gives us wisdom to lead, and when we do, then the things that we truly need, God will give us the capacity to get. Is this a formula that I'm trying to present? No, what I am trying to do is trust the God who gives us instructions, who gives us guidance and blesses us.

The last piece of what we would have out of ***Timothy*** says all Scripture is inspired by God for the correcting, for the reprovng, helping us to do the right thing. I'm going to end today going with ***Proverbs 31***. I had a conversation with some women at one time who said they didn't like this one, and I was confused. I said as many powerful women as I know in my life or that have been in my life, there are challenges here, and they said “Yeah, who can do this?” God is not calling you to do this, but if you see this, shouldn't it be something that should inspire you instead of intimidate you?

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***James 3:13-18; Mark 9:30-37***

***Pastor James H. Lee***

***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin***

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Now, men, there are going to be some things just directed towards women, and they still apply. There's the imagery of a woman who is virtuous, and then there's another type of woman that's in *Proverbs 5* and not *Proverbs 31*. She is the one who called you out to do some bad things cause you're into doing some things, and the next thing you know, you have nothing. Everything you have is taken from you and you are following after folly and foolishness, instead of the things that are of God. But here's *Proverbs 31* saying “*A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.*” I don't want y'all to look at anybody else when we're called to partner with someone; are we looking out for their best good? Can they trust us with their heart? Can they trust us with what makes them complete and whole? See, this was her desire that she had. She does him good and not harm all the days of her life.

Men and women, are we doing that for those who we are called to serve and to be with, not just until they do right? It says all of their lives. Are there gonna be some times when we're gonna slip up? Yeah, but if we have a motivation to do it right, let that be what drives us. Then it says “*She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. The heart of her husband trusts in her and he will have no lack. She does him good and not harm all the days of her life. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls.*” That's a bad woman! Being able to know all of the fabrics, know the things that are can be blessed in the marketplace....Any marketplace ministers in here? Any CEO's of a family enterprise—those who are at home? Of the home enterprise I don't have a CEO—of mine it's God.

Are we those kind of people? Are we the givers or the takers? Are we the investors or are we those who want to get it and get gone? Those are the things that she did, even helping the servant girls. Are we mentors or the other kinds of folks who say “Please don't go around him/Please don't go around her.” No, she's that kind of a woman and knows how to build, buy a field, and then also from the fruit of her hands plant the vineyard. What does God want to produce in and through you?

Now I'm saying even right now in the United States, in 2015, we have got to be the people who are not just trusting technology for everything. Garden at our homes—why would I want to do a garden at home? So we could eat healthy, so we're not eating everything processed, and we could do it in an affordable way. Just different ways in which wisdom can be tweaked and that this woman of God or this imagery of wisdom makes a difference.

I love these things. “*She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.*” That's *Verse 20*. Is there wisdom in doing that? Yes. “*She is not afraid for her household when it snows,*” Why is she not afraid? Because “*all her household are clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.*” Have mercy! When I was young, my mother would send my brother and me to South Carolina. We were blessed to be with our maternal and paternal grandparents and other relatives. Looking back now, it was probably the family's way to help her recover from stuffing our big mouths with food.

There were times I would see my grandmother cutting out patterns and then attaching the patterns to material, which she would cut. She had a special knack for placing the pins in through both so that she could reuse the patterns for multiple dresses. It would have been “one and done” if left up to me. There she was, sewing dresses, quilts, and suits late at night after taking care of the household needs. I learned how to sew little things by hand but not using a sewing machine. Over time I wondered why she sewed dresses, etc. Well, of course, there was a need—someone needed a dress or she wouldn't have made it. Later I learned that she was a seamstress to help the family when the “month was longer than the money.” It was the best way for her to help my grandfather make ends meet. When you're partners. you do what's best for the whole. Amen.

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In *Proverbs 31*, it states that ***“Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land.”*** She was instrumental in his being honored and respected. It also indicated that she is so wise and prudent that her household is blessed by her efforts. Even as we are speaking of a wonderful wife and mother, we are also talking about the images of wisdom. One image is that of a selfish person pursuing folly and being beckoned to follow. The other image is that of a prudent, productive parent and partner with a blessed portfolio. Remember, information is not wisdom. Wisdom and knowledge are gaining information and knowing how and when to apply it. As you get bombarded with information and people coming at you with advice, I want you to put up the filters and don't just accept everything. Ask questions: “Lord, is this of you or not? If I do it, will it lead to my liberty or will I end up ‘broke, broken, and bound?’ Will it position me so I can help somebody?” [Not in this church, but overall, we are getting to a place where people are fearful, angry, selfish, apathetic, and don't trust each other. We cut each other off, and we find ourselves isolated. Please be careful of long-term isolation; you can gain perspective, but don't introspect too long or navel-gaze too long. Why? In the jungle, whenever a prey leaves the flock or herd, the predator picks them off. I don't want to see you picked off. I want to see you producing and doing wonderful things in name of the Lord. Amen?]

As you leave, let's go out and be leaders—leaders who are blessed to see a problem, find three solutions, and present the best solution. Partner at home. Partner in the community. Partner here at church. Question what's coming at you. “Lord, is this from you or is it something that sounds good but can leave me bound and not free to be who I am called to be?”

*Prayer: Lord, thank you for our time together. Thank you for your Word. I pray that you would help your people take this and make it of value to them and us so that we can be all that you called us to be. It's in the glorious name of Christ we pray, Amen.*

*(Scripture handout)*

### **Psalm 1:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup>How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup>He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers....***

### **James 3:13-4:8**

***<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. **James 4:1-8:** <sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup>Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, “God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? <sup>6</sup>But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.***

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### Mark 9:30-37

*<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”*

- *If you want to be great, be last of all and servant of all*
- *Welcome others (child) in my name and you welcome me and the one who sent me.*

*6She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know it. 7Now then, my sons, listen to me And do not depart from the words of my mouth. 8Keep your way far from her And do not go near the door of her house, 9Or you will give your vigor to others And your years to the cruel one; 10And strangers will be filled with your strength And your hard-earned goods will go to the house of an alien;...*

### Acts 26:18

*16But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'...*

### 2 Chronicles 1:9-12

*9Now, O LORD God, Your promise to my father David is fulfilled, for You have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. 10Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of Yours?" 11God said to Solomon, Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king, 12wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. And I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed nor those who will come after you."*

- *I am king because you have faithfully fulfilled your promise to my father David*
- *Lord, give me wisdom so that I may lead your people who are numerous and great.*
- *Because you were wise enough to not to ask for riches, wealth, honor, revenge, long life, I will give you wisdom, knowledge, riches, wealth, honor like non other.*

### Proverbs 9:8-12

*8 Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you. 9Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, Teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning. 10The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. 11For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. 12If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you alone will bear it.*

- *Don't reprove a scoffer, they will hate you. Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.*
- *Give instruction to wise and righteous man: he will be wiser and learn more*
- *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (I will add to your years)*

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### Proverbs 15:12-14

*12A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, He will not go to the wise. 13A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken. 14The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on folly....*

### Proverbs 31:10-31

*10A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. 11The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. 12She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. 13She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. The heart of her husband trusts in her and he will have no lack.*

*She does him good and not harm all the days of her life.*

*14She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away.*

*15She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls.*

*16She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.*

*17She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.*

*18She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.*

*Her lamp does not go out at night.*

*19She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.*

*20She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.*

*21She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson.*

*22She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.*

*23Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land.*

*24She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. 2*

*5Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.*

*26She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

*27She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

*28Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her:*

*29“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”*

*30Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

*31Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.*

### Psalms 1:1-3

*1How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers....*

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*Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, “God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? 6But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

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### *Acts 26:16-18*

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- *I am king because you have faithfully fulfilled your promise to my father David*
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