



On the Same Page

“But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.” (Malachi 4:2 NAS95)

A Developing Direction

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

At War Within

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Isaac relates personally with God as he prays for his barren wife, having been married 20 years with no children, and she conceives. We will come again to these prayers for offspring. But we consider today [Rebekah's question of Isaac/God, "What is going on in there?"](#)

I'm not sure at the time if she could have known that she was carrying twins. What she knew is that there was a **war within**. We could read the phrase, “they jostled one another,” though that would be mild. The word is used in other contexts to say that she experienced a “pulverizing,” two bulls in a china shop. Esau was delivered first, but the brothers were still hard at it, with [Jacob emerging holding firmly to Esau's heel](#).

The battle within Rebekah during the days of her pregnancy was a microcosm of other battles soon to follow. Isaac and Rebekah were not of the same mind, with Isaac determined to bless his older son, and Rebekah scheming to younger Jacob take his place, in accordance with God's word, but probably not out of desire to do His will. She wanted what she wanted. Don't we all.

And then of course, there would be the ongoing struggle between the cheated Esau and the opportunistic Jacob - death threats included. And there was the tug-of-war between Jacob and Laban, with one taking his daughters, but the other stealing his years.

But perhaps the most important **war within** was Jacob's, and, by the way, your's. Like Isaac, we are often weak-willed where we should be strong. Like Rebekah, we are strong-willed where we ought to be submissive. Like Laban, we take all that we can get, even if it means bending the truth. Like Esau, we are driven by our appetites, and like Jacob, we find ourselves skilled at deceit and manipulation. We all struggle at some level with **the war within**, helpless to solve it until we are delivered.

When the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek, the Jewish scholars chose to use the word *skirtaō*, used only by Luke in the New Testament, a situation like Rebekah's, except opposite. Elizabeth was carrying John the Baptist in her womb when Mary appeared, pregnant with Jesus. And [Elizabeth felt John leap \(skirtaō\) as a calf in its stall](#), not in striving, but in gladness. And that's what Jesus does, freeing us from our jostling desires, and replacing them with [inexpressible joy](#). **The war within** will be replaced by peace within, and we look forward to that delivery date.

Sermons to the Natural Man by William G. T. (William Greenough Thayer) Shedd

There is need therefore of a Divine operation to renew, to radically change, the heart and will. If they cannot renew themselves, they must be renewed; and there is no power that can reach them but that mysterious energy of the Holy Spirit which like the wind blow(s) where it (wishes), and we hear the sound thereof, but cannot tell whence it come(s) or whither it goe(s). The condition of the human heart is utterly hopeless, were it not for the promised influences of the Holy Ghost to regenerate it.

News and Notes

Prayer Time: Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

American House service, this Sunday, 3 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study meet on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., in the sanctuary, studying Matthew's Gospel.

Circle of Grace ladies fellowship next meets on Tuesday evening, February 6. The ladies will be gathering at the home of Tanya Thompson.

Awana meets on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade. The **Awana Grand Prix** is coming up soon: Wednesday, February 21 (weigh-in, Tues, Feb 20)

Men of Action breakfast meeting will be Saturday, February 10, 7:30 a.m.

Elders and Deacons dinner and meeting will be Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

We would like to invite interested people to join **Milford Baptist's Facebook prayer page** (search 'Milford Prayer') - a user-by-permission forum to post/read church family prayer requests.

Please note the church's phone number: 248-717-3564

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.



Thank you to Brad and Sarah Kidder for their ministry this past Sunday at Milford Baptist. [You can listen to Brad's message here.](#)

This Sunday, February 4, we take another step with **the disciples and their participation in Jesus' mission.** We find in Luke 9 that, though there are many fresh and new experiences, a large part of their education is in un-learning natural, human, sinful tendencies and practices. The same will be true for us.

Sunday School for adults and children each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. **Adults are studying themes related to the upcoming morning message. Children are studying stories from the life of Daniel.**

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