

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

April, 2023

Let God Be Your Shield

VULNERABILITY

In preparation to write this article on "Vulnerability", I started with looking up its definition. It is defined by the Cambridge Dictionary as **"able to be easily physically or mentally hurt, influenced, or attacked"**. I find it interesting that when I was in my teenage years until about my late twenties, I had what I call the Superman syndrome. I was invincible. I didn't fear anything, or shall we say I didn't know better. I wasn't a Christian yet, though I think this invincible mentality may be somewhat common for a lot of young men.

During my twenties I worked in the construction trades as a Tuck pointer. As a Tuck pointer, I work on hundreds of tall buildings throughout the Chicagoland area. Back then, I had no fear of heights and thought I was invincible. This work involved working on swing stage scaffolding. In case you are wondering what a swing stage scaffold is, it is exactly what it sounds like. A platform that is suspended from the roof of a building by either a cable or rope on each end of the scaffold. Sometimes on a windy day, the wind would get a hold of the scaffold and take you for a ride and blow the scaffold away from the building wall, like a swing. On these windy days, there was no need to go to an amusement park for the thrill of riding the roller coasters. I had such great confidence in my abilities that I would volunteer to work on some of the more dangerous jobs with no thought of the physical dangers which were involved (a la Superman syndrome). I was fortunate to have never been hurt while working in the trades as a Tuck pointer. Unfortunately, I did witness and heard of other Tuck pointers that weren't as fortunate as I, and some did get seriously hurt while working on the job.

I left the Tuckpointing trade in my late twenties for a variety of reasons, but mainly because God was beginning to work within my heart as I was searching for the meaning of life. I needed a change and God opened the doors for me to make a change in my work life and eventually also in my

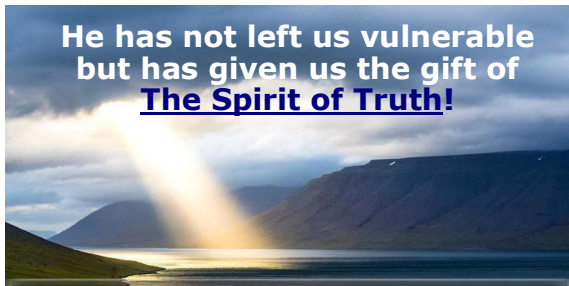
spiritual life. There is no way today I could work as a Tuck pointer again. It's a young man's endeavor. I have a great respect of heights today. I now know that a fall from as little as six feet is enough to kill you. I've heard it said, it's not the fall that kills you, it's the sudden stop when you land. Life has taught me that I am not invincible, especially with heights. Since I left the trades and decided to follow Him, God has been my shield through all of life's vulnerabilities.

In this life, there are many vulnerabilities we face due to our human imperfections. Just to name a few, these could include physical illness, mental and emotional afflictions, our relationships with others, human fears, spiritual immaturity, and ignoring God's will. We are weak and vulnerable without Christ in our lives. With Christ we can overcome anything in this life. Such was the case of Paul the Apostle. During much of the first half of his life, Paul was a Pharisee. He was very good at persecuting Christians. Until God interceded in Paul's life. [Paul was on his way to Damascus when he had a vision that changed his life.](#) In **Galatians 1:16**, God revealed his Son to him. Paul was converted and became a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. Throughout Paul's ministry he faced many vulnerable situations because he openly and publicly taught that Jesus was the Son of God. Paul encountered beatings, being jailed, and was eventually martyred for Christ. Paul the Apostle wrote in **2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV): But he said to me. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** **Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weakness, [in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.](#) For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

In the bible there are numerous stories of God helping people overcoming their vulnerabilities to carry out God's perfect plan of salvation for the world. During our Christian walk, we too will face

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many vulnerabilities that can affect us is in many ways. We need to stay the course and not lose sight of our role in God's plan of salvation for the world. God has the perfect plan for each of us that will help us see our way through whatever vulnerabilities or trials we face. Just like with Paul, God's power shows up greatest when we overcome our vulnerable situations. We may not be able to see the future or know exactly when or how we'll come out on the other side. Christ will see us through no matter what hardships or difficulties we may face in this world. We have His assurance that we will not be alone in this life. In **John 14:18-19 (NIV): I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.**



In my life, I like things that are straightforward and simple to understand. Jesus said it perfectly In **Matthew 22:37-40 NIV. Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments."** None of us know what tomorrow holds for us. But whatever we face, we need to Love God and our fellow neighbors as we rely on Jesus to guide us each and every day.

Our flesh and human wisdom may be fearful when we face vulnerable situations in our life, and we may perceive whatever we are facing is beyond our abilities. Not so when we love and obey Christ. Paul showed great courage and love for our Lord when he faced hardships and persecutions throughout his ministry. In **John 14:23-24 (NIV): Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teachings. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home**

with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

When I was young, I thought life would get easier when I got older. I thought I could take it easy in my later years. I was naïve in thinking like this and have since found out that this is not the case at all. If fact, God has continued to ask more of me as I have spiritually grown. As many of you know, in my early sixties, God led my wife and I to become legal guardians of my 85-year-old uncle. My uncle had Alzheimer's disease which starts slowly and progressively worsens. At times, dealing with the legal system and caring for my uncle's medical and financial needs were overwhelming. This was not what I had envisioned for my earlier sixties, but I knew caring for my uncle was God's will for this time of my life. I felt weak and vulnerable countless times during this period. Still, I knew God was there for us. Through it all, God took what seemed to be an impossible situation and walked with my wife and I every step of the way. God worked everything out to His all-mighty glory. I'm so glad I listen to God.

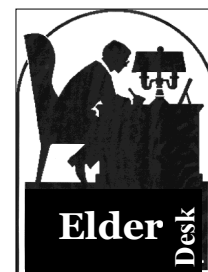
Proverbs 2:7-9 (NIV) says: He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair – every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

We should expect to face vulnerable situations during our Christian walk. Just like it was for Paul, we should embrace our vulnerable situations for the glory of God. Vulnerability takes courage and makes us stronger to carryout God's plan and will for our life's. All the glory belongs to God. **Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV): Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**

May you grow in your faith knowing that Jesus will help you every step of the way. Blessings to You All!

In Christ Service,

Tim Kasza



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Sunny Place Church - April Events

2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon



Saturday, April 8th, 11:30am
Sunny Place Church

Come be our guest for food,
great speakers and activities.
Free event for Seniors 55 & up.
Register at 630/398-2314



Church Work Day
Saturday,
April 22nd
9-1:00pm

Mission Fest Weekend

Saturday, April 29th & Sunday, April 30th

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast,
Questions & Answers
with Steven & Peggy Beverly,
our missionaries from Sri Lanka

International Dinner
following Worship Service.

Please bring your favorite Ethnic or
American side dishes, Main entries will be
provided. Please see Phyllis for any
information needed.



Around the Community,
Around the World!



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

“Faith in Action”

A study of the Book of James
Led by Pastor Pete

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



**“Evangelism:
Becoming Fishers of Men”**

Led by Pastor Pete
In Person and on Zoom

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times.
If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information
to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you.
You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on:
sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.

TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group Thursday's at 7:00 p.m.

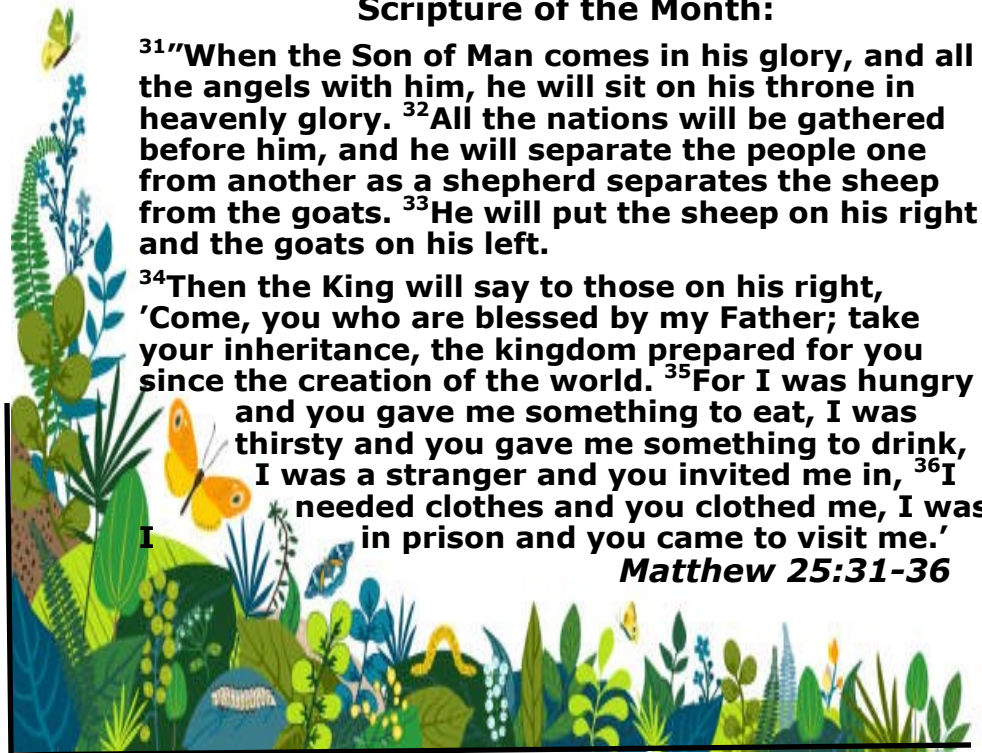
Grow in the Word!

Scripture of the Month:

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Matthew 25:31-36



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held March 1, 2023

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Glenda Kasza and Nona Koivula

Prayer and Devotion: Hebrews 12:12-15 "Therefore strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. Make level paths for your feet. So that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

New Business: Ministry focus to be on Evangelism, Shepherding, Prayer and Encouragement

Ministry Reports

Worship Ministry: There was a ministry meeting on Zoom held March 7th. It was attended by 10 team members. There was discussion about structure, organization, music selection and use of the planning center. All openly talked about what is worship; what worshiping meant to each person and suggestions to create a more inspiring Worship Service. Worship Wednesday times together were discussed and planned for March at the parsonage.

Prayer Ministry: The Pray Together Time with Jesus will be Sunday March 19 with a Pot Luck luncheon immediately following.

Care & Encouragement Ministry: The team met on Feb. 22 via Zoom. There were four team members discussing the greeters at church and the cards being sent to the Body of Christ. The "Care" aspect of this Ministry was discussed to consider the needs of our church and to pray about how to administer to these needs.

Stewardship & Support Services: There was a work day at church Feb. 25 where six people dedicated their time to clean, repair, organize and review needed maintenance items around our church to insure a safe, attractive place of Worship.

Future Events to put on your calendar

Planning for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ, our Savior; Easter in April:

The Elders discussed the events in April. The Body of Christ will join together for Communion and Foot washing on Thursday evening April 6th at church. On Easter morning April 9th all are invited to a breakfast celebration at 9:00am. There will be no Bible study.

Missions Ministry: The Missions Festival will be April 29th and 30th with our missionaries, Steve and Peggy Beverly. They are in the United States on leave from their missionary field in Sri Lanka.

Next Elders Retreat on March 31