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CEDARCREEKCHURCH

Looking Ahead - Sounds of Summer

June 1, 2025

This week, we're looking at a beautiful and powerful truth: *God keeps his promises.*

We've all heard promises that sounded good but didn't hold up. They leave us skeptical and unsure of who or what we should trust. But Scripture reminds us that God is not like people who fail or forget. He's faithful, and every promise he makes us finds its "Yes!" in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

As you look ahead into this week, spend time with this verse. Let it remind you that comfort, peace, strength, and hope aren't wishful thinking - they're promises God *will* keep.

Let your "Amen" be your "Yes!" to trust him today.

Discussion Questions:

Ice Breaker: What's one promise (big or small) someone made to you that really meant something, either because they kept it or didn't?

How have you seen someone in your community, church, or family reflect God's comfort to someone else?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-7 and Reflect: What stands out about the comfort God promises? What connection do you see between receiving comfort and becoming someone who gives comfort?

Where do you usually turn when you're overwhelmed or in pain?

Are there any false comforts, like busyness, distraction, or blame, that you tend to rely on more than God?

Reflect and Respond: What might it look like to intentionally receive God's comfort this week? How can you reflect God's comfort to someone else, perhaps someone going through something similar to what you've already faced?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the overwhelming comfort you offer me. I know I have not done anything to deserve it, but you continue to provide it without hesitation. Your promises are wonderful, and when I reflect on them, they make my heart sing. Today and every day, Lord, I say "Yes!" to you, trusting in the beauty of the promises of better days ahead. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.

Series Theme Verse:

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content for the Daily LivingItOut.

Comfort Through Suffering

June 2, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: 1 Thessalonians 3

Suffering is common to the human experience. It can be physical, emotional, or spiritual. Sometimes it is short-lived, but other times it feels like it will never end.

Our response to suffering often says more about our faith than our words. Sometimes we cope with suffering by filling our lives with noise, blaming others, or self-medicating with food, media, or other substances. Yet none of these coping mechanisms brings us the comfort our spirits crave.

I have been reading the Book of Acts, and it struck me how much the author wrote about Paul's suffering for Jesus. He knew that proclaiming the name

and love of Jesus would lead to his death, but he never stopped. He was beaten, imprisoned, and even stoned and left for dead. And yet, in spite of his constant suffering - often because of it - he was always praising God.

How could Paul praise Jesus in the midst of such suffering? Where did his hope and comfort come from when he was cold, hungry, and alone in prison, abandoned by all of his “friends”? How could he write that God was merciful?

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

Paul knew that true comfort only comes from one source. Jesus told his followers that when he left them, he would send another: the Comforter (John 14:26 KJV). Paul knew he was never alone - the Holy Spirit (the Comforter) was with him in and through his suffering.

What lessons can we learn from Paul?

What hope can we find when we, too, are suffering?

We can remember that no matter what, those of us who belong to Christ's family have the Holy Spirit living in us. No matter who hates us, Christ is for us. He will never leave us or forsake us. When we stumble again over sin, he is willing to forgive. He is gracious and kind and loving.

Nothing that we experience on this earth will ever separate us from the love he has for us. That promise is something that should make our hearts sing.

Questions:

How do you respond to times of suffering? What is your default coping mechanism?

How often do you cry out to God for comfort in the midst of difficult circumstances?

Next Steps:

When you are in the midst of a time of suffering, read and pray Psalm 42. [Shane and Shane](#) and the [Corner Room](#) have wonderful renditions of this Psalm that you can sing in the midst of trial.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Spirit to comfort me in my suffering. Thank you for promising to never leave me nor forsake me. I pray that I, like Paul, sing your praises in the midst of my struggles. Remind me that my today is not my forever and that, no matter what happens, you are always with me. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

2 Corinthians 1:20

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This post was written by Julie Mabus, a Whitehouse attendee, and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

He Knows!

June 3, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: 1 Thessalonians 4

Many years ago, my middle son was dating a young lady who became pregnant. She had the most beautiful baby girl, and we were excited to welcome our first grandchild.

Not long after she was born, we got a call that our sweet little girl had been rushed to the hospital. We all quickly followed, only to find out she had not survived.

Not only was I grieving, but my heart was filled with anger. I wanted to lash out. I thought there was no way for me to move past my grief and anger without some kind of justice. Every thought I had and every action I wanted to take was contradictory to the example Jesus set while on this earth, but

through prayer, he showed me the way. He brought me peace and comfort in the middle of one of the most trying times of my life.

It has been 18 years since that terrible day. Every time I think of our little angel, I still feel a stirring inside, and thankfully, Jesus still shows up and guides me through. Like this verse says, he knows and understands how much I am hurting because, while he was on this earth, he faced the same testings and emotions we do.

Hebrews 4:15

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

Jesus stepped into our world and experienced the weight of human pain and sorrow. This truth shows us he doesn't just see our struggles, he deeply understands them. He knows what it's like to be burdened and overwhelmed (Matthew 26:37-38). When we are too weak to carry it alone, he comes alongside us so we don't have to. He is present and ready to meet us with comfort, grace, and the strength we need to keep going.

If you find yourself in a place of weakness today, keep your eyes on Jesus, because he sees you. He knows. Lay your burdens at the foot of the cross, and find comfort and rest in God's promises and presence.

Hebrews 12:2

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Questions:

Can you think of a time when you were hurting so bad, you lost control?

When you are struggling, do you react, or do you take time to pray and allow Jesus to see you through it?

Next Steps:

When you are struggling, take a breath and pray. Jesus knows and understands what you are going through.

Find a Group this summer to engage with fellow Christ followers who can share their own journeys and come alongside you in times of pain and suffering.

Prayer:

Lord, you truly are my Savior. Thank you for showing up when I am hurting. Thank you for being just a prayer away. I am so thankful you spent time on this earth so that you are able to understand all my pain and sorrow. Father, help me to show up for others when they are hurting, just as you show up for me. I am eternally grateful for your love and guidance that brings comfort and peace into my life. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

This post was written by Ned Miller, a Findlay attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Unexpected Places; Unexpected Spaces

June 4, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: 1 Thessalonians 5

Looking head-on into the final years of life, I can honestly say the God I was taught about as a child and a teenager is the same God who often shows up in my life in unexpected places and unexpected spaces. And I'm so grateful for his presence.

Years ago, circumstances and events often left me spinning in my thoughts, mixed with questions, and self-made misery. I believed in God but lacked a genuine relationship with him. This kept me in the spin cycle – much like a washing machine that needs a reset.

But ... God.

When I reached one point of misery, I began to *really* consider the God I had heard about as a child. Having reached the end of my strength (and a difficult marriage), I desperately cried out to God. In that moment, he gave me an undeniable sense of his presence and peace. The spinning didn't completely stop, but it slowed down as I chose to lean into him.

My spiritual growth process didn't take off like a rocket, but at least it had begun. Forty-plus years later, I can wholeheartedly say God has been faithful beyond words. Beyond understanding. Beyond measure.

It's more than belief in him. God invites us to fully trust his promises and remember the times we've experienced him personally in our lives.

John 14:26-27

"But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative - that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us. He is our guide, teaching and reminding us of everything God has said. This doesn't mean that the uncertainty of life or the pain of severed relationships will disappear. However, the certainty of God and how he keeps his promises empowers us, through the Holy Spirit, to face life squarely head-on.

We can trust that God will carry us through whatever life throws our way. His promises of comfort and peace don't expire. They have a lifetime warranty, even in the midst of life's storms!

Questions:

Do you simply believe in God, or do you have a relationship with him? Are you able to define the difference?

Next Steps:

Read about the [difference](#) between believing in God and having a relationship with him. If you have been spinning around, consider the [lyrics](#) of the 1989 DC Talk [song](#), "Spinnin' Round."

Listen to the powerful words of "You are God Alone" by Philips, Craig, and Dean, and be reminded of who God is.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for wanting to have a relationship with me. I know I don't deserve it. Thank you for being God, in the good times and the bad times. You always keep your promises. I'm grateful I can trust you with my life and with every trouble that life presents. Thank you for going with me when I face difficulties – both mine and others. You have never left me. Your majesty and your power are beyond human comprehension. When I get too big in my own eyes, please remind me that you are God and I am not. I do not deserve the comfort and peace you offer daily. Your generosity and great love remains a mystery to me. May those lost in their sin come to accept you as Savior and Lord. May they also experience the comfort and peace you give freely. In Jesus' name, amen.

Series Theme Verse:**2 Corinthians 1:20**

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

This post was written by Karen Peck, a Perrysburg attendee, and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Focus on our Glorious and Loving God

June 5, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: 2 Thessalonians 1

A couple of weeks ago, I had a really bad day.

I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to do something that I didn't want to do. I already had a lot on my plate, but I knew I had to obey God. I got up early to accomplish all the stuff I had to do. I am ashamed to admit that once I finished this difficult task, I felt pretty prideful about it. Things were going well, except I felt tired and overwhelmed.

Then I got a phone call at the worst possible time. My dad was ill and needed to go to the ER. I was very worried about him, but I was right in the middle of cooking a meal. I looked around my kitchen and couldn't figure out how I was

going to do everything. Thankfully, my wonderful husband stepped in and offered to take him to the hospital while I finished up.

I wish I could say that this changed my attitude, but I was still overwhelmed, wondering, “Why, God? I obeyed you and yet this happened.” I got angry, started blaming other people in my head, and then I lost what was left of my peace and joy. I was so focused on my problems, I couldn’t even pray.

Romans 8:26

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

Praise God! He has given us the Holy Spirit, who prays for us when we are overwhelmed and hopeless. It can be difficult to see God working when we are focused on the issue instead of who he is - strong, powerful, and loving. We don’t need to stress about our problems. God is capable of providing what we need and walking with us through the struggle.

When you begin to feel defeated and hopeless, remember to stop and take a few deep breaths. Then, close your eyes and focus on how amazing our God is. He is always faithful and trustworthy. Surrender your struggles to him. He can handle it.

Questions:

How do you handle difficult situations?

How does it make you feel to know the Holy Spirit prays for us, even when we can’t pray for ourselves?

Next Steps:

When you are overwhelmed, take a deep breath and surrender your concerns to God in prayer. Focus on our God who is bigger than all our problems.

Prayer:

Glorious Father, I am amazed at how much you love us. You have given us your Holy Spirit to pray for us when we are unable to pray for ourselves. Help me to take my focus off myself and focus on you. I can trust you because you are so faithful. I revere you! I am so grateful and thankful that you are such an awesome God. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

This post was written by Marsha Raymond, an Oregon attendee, and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Lifted Not Crushed

June 6, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: 2 Thessalonians 2

If I had to guess, a crushed spirit is something most of us have felt before. Just reading those words - *crushed spirit* - probably stirs up a memory or a feeling from a season when life felt especially heavy. You may be reading this with a crushed spirit right now.

When life breaks our hearts or weighs us down, it's easy to feel like the pain may never lift. But God promises something more than momentary relief. He promises that one day, our crushed spirits will be gone forever!

Revelation 21:4-5

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

What a beautiful image. Every grief, every ache, every sorrow will be gone. And it's not just wishful thinking. God tells us to write it down because his words are trustworthy and true.

But this promise isn't only for the future; if you accept it, it will comfort you now.

Psalm 34:18

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

I remember a time when I was in a season of suffering, and all I could do was hold on to the hope that, one day, God would make all things new. That belief didn't erase my crushed spirit or instantly heal the broken parts of my body, but it gave me the strength to keep going.

If your heart feels heavy today, hold on. The sorrow won't last forever. God is close and making everything new, even when you can't see it yet.

Questions:

Can you think of a time when holding onto the hope of heaven gave you strength or peace during a difficult season?

Next Steps:

Read the ***Holy Spirit Devotional*** found in the App under Your Journey | Spiritual Domain | Learn.

Prayer:

Jesus, where would I be without your promises? Thank you for reminding me that you are my true hope amid life's storms. Even when I create a mess or life throws something I didn't ask for, you promise to come and make everything new. I love you, I trust you, and I worship you. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

2 Corinthians 1:20

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Reflections - Sounds of Summer

June 7, 2025

Psalm 119:49–50

Remember your promise to me; it is my only hope.

Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles.

As we close out this week, let this verse anchor your heart as a reminder that God's promises aren't just words; they carry us through. The psalmist sang these words in a season of suffering, not certainty. He called on the God who had shown up for generations before him, just like we do today.

When we sing songs like "Same God," we remind our souls that the one who opened seas, calmed storms, and comforted hearts is still near. He still responds when we call. And he *promises* to always be nearby.

So, if you're carrying grief, anxiety, or exhaustion into the weekend, don't carry it alone. Call on his name. He is closer than you know. And his promises still stand.

Reread Psalm 119:49-50, and reflect on all you've learned this week as you leaned into the promises from God that make our hearts sing.

Need more encouragement? Check out the ***Promises of God*** resource found on the homepage of the CedarCreek app. It's filled with Scripture to remind you of what's true.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, your promise preserves my life. I call on your name today and acknowledge I need your comfort over _____. I no longer want to carry it alone, so I'm giving it over to you because I trust you and know you only want what's good for my heart. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.

Series Theme Verse:

2 Corinthians 1:20

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