

Bay City Wesleyan Church
September 2, 2018

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Sunday Morning 09-02-2018

Jesus promised, "You will bear fruit, lots of fruit, lasting fruit." John 15:5

Let's pray at 1:55 PM daily to see Jesus producing fruit in and through us.

<http://bible.com/events/471936>

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[Image]

Claiming the promise in 2018

<https://imageproxy-cdn.youversionapi.com/152x152/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/5722009-1514675144006.jpg>

The Promise:

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

[Image]

PREACHING WITHOUT A NET!

<https://imageproxy-cdn.youversionapi.com/152x152/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/5722009-1535840036100.jpg>

Some people say, "YOU CAN'T ASK QUESTIONS IN CHURCH."

But we say, "OH YES, YOU CAN!"

You can start the new school year asking those questions on Fresh Start Sunday, September 16th at 10:45 am. No sermon to sit through. Just a Live Q & A session.

What questions would you like to ask? You'll be able to text them anonymously. Our pastor, Mark Haines will not see them until they go live on the screen. He'll be preaching without a net.

Left to ourselves, many of us aren't remotely aware of God's existence.

Left to ourselves, we don't know we are separated from God and his love.

Left to ourselves, even when we know we should love God and others more, we cannot.

Left to ourselves, we are so lost that we don't know it and we don't care.

Left to ourselves, we are asleep at the wheel. The relationship with God that he created us to enjoy is essentially dead.

But thanks to the Holy Spirit's love, WE ARE NOT LEFT TO OURSELVES.

(The Holy Spirit) loves us extravagantly and indiscriminately. Grace is provided for all people. No one is excluded from the offer of (the

relationship with God we were created to enjoy), though we can resist (the Spirit's invitation).

Citation: Reclaiming the Wesleyan Tradition: John Wesley's Sermons for Today, Douglas M. Strong, [ET AL] © 2007 Discipleship Resources, GBOD, Nashville, TN

Acts of the Apostles 2:36 NLT

36</small> "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

<https://bible.com/bible/116/act.2.36.nlt>

Acts 2:37-47 NIV

37</small> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38</small> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39</small> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off" for all whom the Lord our God will call. 40</small> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41</small> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42</small> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43</small> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44</small> All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45</small> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46</small> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47</small> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/act.2.37-47.NIV>

The Spirit's love reaches each person first. He always takes the initiative. He empowers everyone to say yes to his call to come closer to Jesus.

It's a never-ending dynamic dance of grace. He leads. We wander and then follow. He leads. We question and follow. He leads and we follow more willingly. He always leads and gives us the responsibility of following.

How can we accept the Holy Spirit's invitation to open our lives to his work?

Sermon in a Sentence:

Regardless of where you are in your relationship with Jesus, you arrived there by grace and you will travel on by grace.

Jesus established three ways for us to cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

1. Prayer
2. Studying the Bible
3. Partaking of Communion

Jesus-followers use a few others as well.

4. Fasting
5. Sharing our lives with other Christians
6. Giving to those in need
7. Worshiping with others
8. Telling others about Jesus and God's love

Will you devote yourselves to participating in the means of grace as a way of welcoming the Spirit's love to flow into and through you?

May I suggest three practical ways to do it?

- Start talking to Jesus once a day
- Participate in a Bible study during the week or on Sunday mornings

[Plan]

The Miracles Of Jesus From The Gospel Of Mark
7 Days
<http://bible.com/r/16C>

[Plan]

The Way Of The Cross From The Gospel Of Mark
7 Days
<http://bible.com/r/16P>