

Seeking First:

Finding Strength, Survival, and Spiritual Growth

May 12, 2026

This week's service centered around two powerful scriptures: Matthew 6:33 and Galatians 5:22–23. Together, these verses reminded us that when we seek God first, He not only provides for our needs, but He transforms us from the inside out.

Matthew 6:33 says:

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Galatians 5:22–23 reminds us of the fruit that grows from a Spirit-led life:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

Throughout the service, these scriptures came alive through worship, testimony, and reflection on songs that carried messages of resilience, healing, and empowerment.

One of the songs highlighted was Katy Perry's “Roar.” Though written as a mainstream anthem of confidence and courage, the message connected deeply with the spiritual truth that God never intended for us to live defeated, silenced, or bound by fear. The song's themes of finding your voice, standing strong after hardship, and refusing to stay broken echo scriptures like 2 Timothy 1:7:

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

As believers, our strength does not come from pride or self-reliance. Our “roar” comes from knowing who we are in Christ. When God restores us, we rise with confidence, peace, and purpose.

The service also reflected on the survivor anthem “Ain’t Sorry I Survived,” which spoke to many hearts in the room. For those who have endured loss, betrayal, hardship, depression, grief, or spiritual battles, the message was clear: survival is not shameful — it is testimony.

Romans 8:37 declares:

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

Many people carry scars from seasons they never expected to survive. Yet God continues to sustain, restore, and strengthen His people. Survival becomes victory when we recognize that God carried us through every storm.

What made the night especially powerful was how these themes connected back to the Fruit of the Spirit. True strength is not anger, bitterness, or revenge. Real spiritual maturity produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control even after life’s hardest moments.

Seeking God first changes how we respond to pain. Instead of being consumed by fear, we grow in peace. Instead of bitterness, we choose kindness. Instead of giving up, we walk in faithfulness.

The message of the evening was simple but life-changing:
God is still developing strong people through difficult seasons.

Your struggle is not the end of your story.

Your survival has purpose.

Your voice matters.

And when you seek God first, He produces something beautiful within you that the world cannot take away.

This week, may we continue to walk boldly, love deeply, and trust God fully — knowing that even in the fire, He is shaping us into who we were created to be.

— Pastor Cindy H. Carr

River of Life Ministries

www.rolmin.org

Featured Songs:

- **“Roar” by Katy Perry**

Songwriters: Katy Perry, Max Martin, Lukasz Gottwald, Henry Russell Walter, Bonnie McKee

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CevxZvSJLk8&list=RDCEvxZvSJLk8&start_radio=1

- **“Ain’t Sorry I Survived” by Outlaw Gospel**

Songwriter: Elias Crowe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2QgCF6-cGQ&list=RDq2QgCF6-cGQ&start_radio=1