

WISE WORDS are like DEEP WATERS; wisdom flows from the wise like a...

# Bubbling Brook

Ministries

Proverbs 18:4

## ripples

BIBLES GIFTED	513
BOOKS GIFTED	528
DISCIPLING VISITS	817

Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].  
2 Corinthians 5:17

## BUBBLES

"Thank you for the Bible and the [devotional]. I sincerely appreciate you and the gifts you have given me. I am very excited to learn more about my faith and Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. When the property officer called my name, I instantly knew it was my Bible and I jumped for joy! I had been waiting for so long and started to think I was forgotten. But I had faith that you (BBM) and God did not dismiss me and my prayers. I cannot express how happy and grateful I am for these wonderful gifts you have given me. The word of God. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

"I was pulling your letters out of the trash can. Now I am walking on sunshine."



## What do you do when you come to the end of yourself?

You break.

You shatter into thousands of tiny shards of sharp, jagged...you. Mistakes and miscalculations, selfish dreams and misunderstandings of who you thought you were and what you thought your life should be, would be. Strewed about out in the open in front of you, where you and everyone else can see it all. It's ugly and messy, and every single piece is a reflection of failure and loss and weakness. You can't stand to see your reflection in every particle.

The evil one chuckles. He passes in and out of view, slipping a glimpse in here and there, whispering lies and urging your heart to shrink into the darkness that he's so masterfully closed in around you. His laughter can be deafening.

But it's what comes after the shatter that matters most. It's the decisions you make after the break.

Either you repeatedly scramble about, panicked, attempting to fit the slivers of who you thought you were back into their "proper" place, and in so doing, cause exponentially more damage. More failures, more wounds that you try to soothe and suture on your own. Futilely, desperately trying to prove to yourself and everyone else that you've got this. You can handle it. You're fine.

Or, you come to the sudden, painful realization that you're the reason this happened in the first place. Your choices, your actions, your words, your disobedience led to this. That you're so broken, there's no possible way you could ever put yourself together again, not back to how you were before, not at all.

It's there in the silence of a broken

self, in the depths of the fall, that you can hear. You've finally stopped to listen. The noise of your broken pieces falling apart over and over again, of your manic attempts to fix it, has ceased, and you can finally hear Him. There in the isolation of the destruction of self, He is. He silences the murmurs of the evil one. Peace is the gift He brings to the mess you've made.

He's always been. Your recognition of His close and abiding presence there is the absence that you've sensed but not acknowledged.

You've been on the throne of your life for so long that you became desensitized. You were elated with the power you thought you had as you exerted your will over your own heart, soul, strength, mind. And you turned that power on others, as well.

But you've never had any right to sit on that throne. You're a usurper. You took that place of authority without qualifications or experience. You stole it. And the power you thought you had was momentary. Miniscule. You don't have the capacity to judge righteously or comprehend all the pieces of the puzzle and the ripples that ensue when they're wrongly placed.

In the aftermath of the fragmentation, when you understand that you can't repair the brokenness, that there is no going "back" together, the Truth comes into view. When you look at Him, you realize that you can be vulnerable in His sight. You're already completely undone, and He can see it all, splattered about in embarrassing and abhorrent chaos. You can be honest with Him, with yourself. The tangible

realization that you never really wanted to be in control rushes to the forefront of your thoughts like a tidal wave. It's too much responsibility. It's too much weight. Your repeated mistakes are evidence of your incompetence, and because of His overwhelmingly unjudging, accepting, forgiving presence, you finally can admit that to yourself. You're accountable when you're on that throne. Look at where your "control" has gotten you: fractured beyond your own ability to repair. And yet, there you've sat, judging, unable to relinquish what you stole because you've already gone so far down that road you don't really believe you can turn back. That even if you did, no one would be waiting for your return.

It's in that moment that He stretches out His hand yet again, like he has so many times before. He offers refuge and healing and a promise to reshape your brokenness. This time, though, He will be the artist. He will fashion a new creation, entirely of His design. The pieces of who you were—all those blemishes, evidence of your failure and dysfunction—He will use them, together with His blood, to reshape your heart. All the facets of before will bejewel His work of art, becoming adornments of beauty instead of pain and suffering. He will drape you in His righteousness, cloak you in His love, and your garments will be without a single imperfection. If you but surrender and accept His hand. If you trust and obey. His work will reflect the finished work of His cross, and through His perfection, He'll take you before the Father, where you've been expected, and where you're accepted and treasured forevermore.

## Envision

What will see in this new year that is coming? How will your faith and hope align with the will of God? What will you leave behind that will set you free for the new that is arriving?

Then the righteous [those who seek the will of God] will shine forth [radiating the new life] like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears [to hear], let him hear and heed My words. Matthew 13:43

This early morning when peering into the dark sky anticipating the sunrise, gazing at the puffs of smoke from house tops they appear as dancing angels blowing their trumpets. They move quickly and effortlessly up and their form changes continuously. We too are changing at all times.

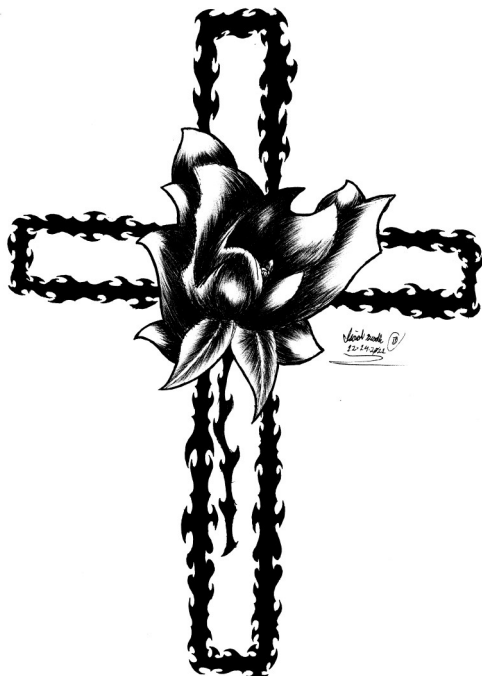
In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents [that is, changes his inner self—his old way of thinking, regrets past sins, lives his life in a way that proves repentance; and seeks God's purpose for his life]." Luke 15:10

Changes and growth are headed our way in 2022. You may have desires and needs but the unexpected will occur. The way we deal with change has a direct effect on the life we live. In Christ

we live and have our being. When each person receives Jesus Christ as their savior, they are in an instant, transformed. Praise God!

But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical impulse], nor of the will of man [that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified]. John 1:12-13

We should be in awe and full of joy knowing this transformation is never complete but is ongoing. As humans we need to grow and learn and love moment by moment. Think back to a year and time where you had a breakthrough. Do you remember the exhilarating emotion that was bursting in your heart, mind, and soul and how alive you felt? Oh, how glorious it is to face a new day and a new year with the energy and fervor of standing on the solid Rock. Desiring that energy and joy will produce in you a contentment and will become a motivating force. This is Holy Spirit at work in us!



Now to Him who is able [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], 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 forever and ever. Amen.  
Ephesians 3:20-21

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OUR PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED: (888) 580-7701

We are now blessing Beloveds in 4 states and eighteen locations, with three new additions in the last thirty days:

- Custer County Detention Center
- Casper Re-entry Center
- Pine Hills Correctional Facility

It is always an honor to receive your artwork—send in your pieces with permission to use, and it may be published in an upcoming newsletter!

**Anniversary Drawing:** To celebrate our fourth year in ministry, on 3/14/22 we will be drawing two names from those currently on our monthly mailing list. One lady and one gentleman will be blessed with a new Bible to keep or share!

## GIVING


Glorify God with all your wealth, honoring him with your firstfruits, with every increase that comes to you. Proverbs 3:9


*All giving is wrapped in love!*

## CONNECT WITH US

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 Bubbling Brook Ministries

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