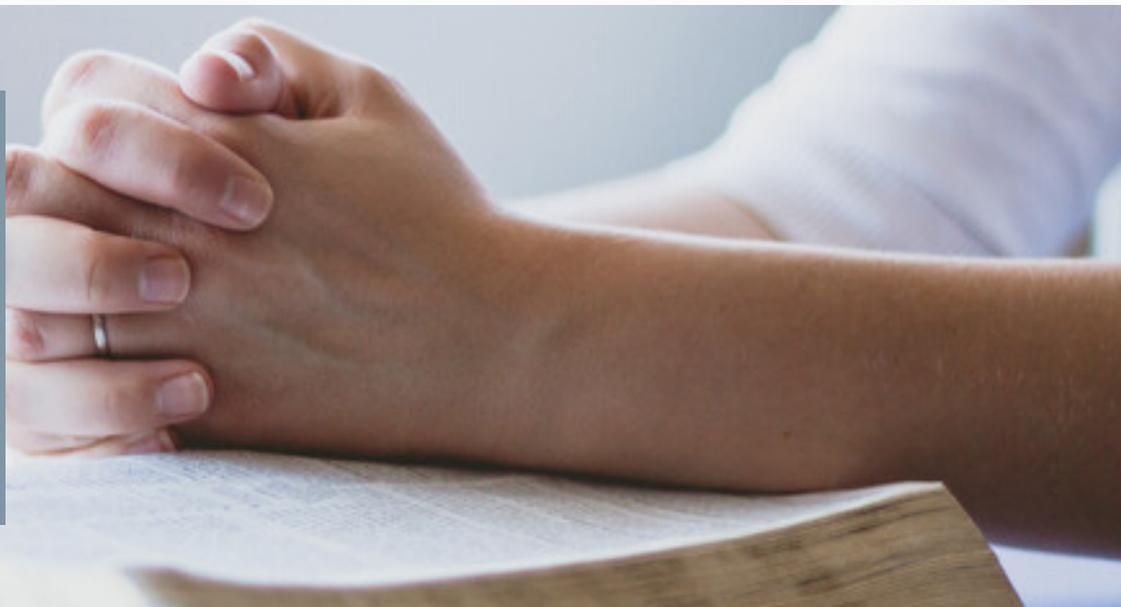


# COME AND SEE

John 1:39

PROVIDED BY THRIVE LADIES MINISTRY  
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, KANNAPOLIS, NC



## In This Issue

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I SEE YOU

NOT THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM  
OUR PASTOR'S WIFE

## I SEE YOU

BY REBECCA SCOTT-FIELDEN

Hey, Sister...I see you.

I see your tears hiding behind your smile,  
or as you quickly blink them away.

I see you struggling to keep it together.

I see you in that hard place;  
disappointment, pain, illness, exhaustion,  
grief.

I see you in that place of brokenness,  
anxiety, loneliness, disillusionment,  
weariness.

I see you in that place of shame, feelings  
of failure, fear in an uncertain future,  
regret.

I see you measuring your life against your  
own expectations or to the expectations  
of others.

I see you shrink away from relationships  
and community because you fear  
someone will see you, judge or criticize  
you...reject you.

I see you pretending.

I see you comparing your mess to the  
picture of perfection you see in others.

I see you because I see my reflection in  
you.

That other sister you are comparing  
yourself to? Well, she may just be in a

different season right now, or is well  
versed with living in that hard place,  
many times over, or perhaps she's  
faking it too. Most of us have "stuff"  
buried in the depths of our soul that we  
are afraid to talk about.

The truth is, we're all a mess and that's  
why we all so desperately need Jesus.  
Living for Christ doesn't mean our lives  
will be free from trials and sorrow. On  
the contrary, He tells us that "in this  
world, all of us will have troubles"...our  
troubles are just wrapped in different  
packages.

We're getting it wrong when we think  
we have to fake it because we are not  
"experiencing joy in our trials".

We, as Christians, often have a hard  
time with this and measure our faith by  
how "joyful" our appearance is, so we  
quickly dismiss or hide our pain; that  
somehow our pained emotions makes  
us less spiritual in the eyes of other  
Christians.

In fact, He calls us into our pain and  
suffering and sits here with us, carrying  
us, growing us, shaping us. He is  
intimately familiar with all of our pain.  
Even Jesus wept. He was "despised &  
rejected--a man of sorrows, acquainted  
with deepest grief." (Isaiah 53:3).

He didn't ignore his grief, or hide from  
it. He leaned into it. And He wants us to  
lean into Him.

He knows everything about you, what  
you are going through, cares about  
every last detail...and loves you still. He  
keeps track of all of your sorrows and  
has collected your tears in a bottle.  
He has recorded each one in his book  
(Psalm 56:8). Surrender every hurt &  
hardship to Him & trust Him to do  
miraculous things. This season isn't  
wasted. He can take your brokenness &  
turn it all for good. The hard place you  
are in right now can strengthen you &  
lead to great purpose. You are being  
stretched in endurance, faith, and trust  
beyond anything you imagined; moving  
you toward your destiny that God has  
called you to.

I see you, sweet Sister. Stop defining  
yourself through the lens with which  
you compare yourself to others or  
through the lens you imagine others see  
you and see yourself how God sees you.  
I see you and more importantly, so does  
He. You are not alone. "for the Lord  
your God goes with you; he will never  
leave you nor forsake you." (Deut 31:6)

## Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

3 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.







## Not the Spirit of Fear

BY JULIA POPE

**God hath not given us the Spirit of fear:** We know God says He is always with us. We cannot escape His love (John 3:16). "If God be for us, who can be against us." (verse). He tells us not to be anxious for anything. We know He is in control and our responsibility is to trust Him. We can trust Him because He holds this world in His hands.

**But of power:** Acts 1:8 says we shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon us. The word, 'power', is the word we get "dynamite" from. We receive the Holy Spirit when we become a Christian. We have this power to be His witness and to do the things He calls us to do...if it is teacher, preacher, or any of His gifts.

**And of love:** When we become Christians, God puts His love in our heart. The first fruit of the Spirit is love. We cannot love people right without God's *agape* love in our heart. We can even love our enemies and those who do us wrong if we have God's love in our heart. God is love!

**And of a sound mind:** Have you ever known a person who loves God and was always a witness for Him and when they got old, developed dementia or Alzheimers? Yet God says they shall have a sound mind. That always bothered me until I heard a message by Dr. Mike Bagwell and he said that word "sound" was the only place in the Bible it was used to mean this...you know what it means? Changed!

When we become Christians, we have a changed mind. We had the mind of the world; selfish and prideful, but now we have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16).

I want to encourage you today, my friends. God has not given us the Spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. He has the coronavirus under His control. We just need to trust Him.

*For God hath not given us the Spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind.  
2 Timothy 1:7*



## From the Pastor's wife...

BY LAURA JANE HUNTER

### **Love thy neighbor**

In light of the recent activity that has gone on and is going on around us, I have found that I've asked myself a lot if I truly do follow God's commandment of loving my neighbor.

Do I love the lady in the grocery store who rolls her eyes at me because I'm not walking the right way down the aisle? Do I love the man who cuts me off in traffic? Do I love the teenage girl who grabs the last pack of toilet paper from the shelf right under my nose? Do I love the delivery guy who lost my Amazon package? I could go on and on and on.

It really has been eye opening when examining the love I show toward my neighbors. The most convicting part is that God just doesn't suggest it in His word, He commands it.

In Luke 10:27 Jesus tells us "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." In this passage, as Jesus was saying this to those around Him, one posed the question, "who is my neighbor?" Jesus then explained this by using the parable of the good Samaritan. We all know this parable. Was the Jewish man a brother or friend of the Samaritan man? Would the Jews and Samaritans have hung out together? Of course not...it was unthinkable for these two groups of people to associate with each other, much less help like the Samaritan man did.

So, when I read this, pray about it, and meditate on it, I have to ask myself if I do show love to those around me that I don't spend time with on a normal basis. Do I show love to my "neighbor" I pass on the street even if I don't know his/her name? Am I loving as Jesus

when I go shopping, when I'm on vacation, and even when I'm at work? He also said in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." How will others see Jesus unless I demonstrate love toward them?

As I have spent time praying and meditating on this commandment, I've caught myself saying, "she was not very nice to me either!" or "well I've never been intentionally mean to anyone." Then a still small voice whispers in my ear, "But have you intentionally shown love toward them?"

I pray that in our communities, towns, states, and nation, we as Christians assess our love for our neighbors. I pray that we show love because He first loved us. I pray we show love so others will see Him. Finally, I pray that we make loving our neighbors intentional...not just today but every day!



# Favorite & Easy SUMMERTIME Recipes

- WATERMELON + FETA SALAD
- KEY LIME DIP
- WATERMELON LEMONADE

## **WATERMELON + FETA SALAD**

Best summer salad ever!

4 cups Arugula or spring mix  
1 English cucumber  
2 cups Watermelon  
Balsamic glaze  
Fresh ground pepper  
1/2 cup Feta cheese

## **WATERMELON LEMONADE**

Refreshing sweet twist on a classic!

5c watermelon juice, (pureed watermelon)  
1 1/4c fresh lemon juice  
3/4c sugar or sugar substitute  
12c lemonade  
6c water

## **KEY LIME PIE DIP**

1-frozen key lime pie-thawed  
1-small box of instant lemon pudding  
1c of cold milk  
8 oz. of thawed whipped topping  
Your choice of dippers: graham crackers, shortbread cookies or pretzels  
Lime (optional for zest and garnish)

Thaw pie about 10 minutes.  
Whisk together milk and pudding mix.  
Allow pudding mixture to set 1-2 minutes.  
Fold in thawed whipped topping.  
Mix just until combined.  
Cut two slices (1/4) of the pie into bite sized pieces.  
Gently fold the pieces of pie into the dip.  
Spoon dip into serving bowl & garnish.  
Enjoy!

## Calendar of Events

FOOD PANTRY -  
BIBLE SCHOOL  
BACK PACK BLESSINGS  
FALL FEST  
FESTIVAL OF TABLES  
TOY SHARE  
BIBLE STUDIES

## thrive! Book Club

LINEAGE OF GRACE  
BY: FRANCINE RIVERS

SATURDAY @ 10:00AM  
THE HOLY GRIND COFFEE  
SHOP  
CHINA GROVE, NC

THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION  
LEADS TO PRETENDING.  
PRETENDING  
ENCOURAGES OTHERS  
TO CHASE PERFECTION.  
AND IT'S ALL SO VERY EXHAUSTING.  
LET'S GIVE EACH OTHER  
THE GIFT OF  
TRANSPARENCY + GRACE  
AS WE PURSUE JESUS.  
BECAUSE PERFECTION  
DOESN'T EXIST ON THIS SIDE OF  
ETERNITY.  
-LYSA TERKEURST

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