



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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PRESSURE *the* PRESSURE

Message preached on Sunday Morning, February 23rd and March 16th, 2025

What began a message given to me at the beginning of the year, has really taken over my heart...my vision.

Galatians 3:13,14

- 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
- 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

BELOVED: What would the church (universal) look like if it walked in the BLESSING of God. The BLESSING that God put on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

If we walked in the BLESSING that JESUS walked in and...

- ~ Not excuse it away.
- ~ Not believe the devils lies.
- ~ Not prioritize denominational doctrine.
- ~ Just believe it and live it.

BELOVED: It would be OVERWHELMING, to say the least.

A Look at Jacob

A couple weeks ago we looked at the life of Joseph and what the blessing looked like in his life. This week I was just meditating on the life of Jacob...who, we can all agree on was NOT perfect in a lot of what he did...yet, he carried the blessing.

REMEMBER: He was sent away to find a wife and fell in love with Rachel...Laban's youngest daughter.

He agreed to work for Laban for seven years to earn his wife...after seven years Laban tricked him and he married Leah.

Two things:

- ~ Yes, Jacob had kinda sowed for this type of deception.
- ~ The way the BLESSING works is that whoever blessed you will be blessed and whoever curses you will be cursed. Guess what Laban did?

We know there was an agreement for Jacob to work another seven years for Rachel...which he did.

Notice this...when Jacob had fulfilled his 14 years and was ready to roll:

Genesis 30:27,30

- 27 And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that **the LORD hath blessed me for thy sake.**
- 30 (Jacob said) For it was little which thou hadst before I came, and it is now increased unto a multitude; and the LORD hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall I provide for mine own house also?

NOTICE: God's blessing on Jacob rubbed off on Laban...FOR JACOBS SAKE! That is why he wanted him to stay around.

THEREFORE: Jacob came about with a BLESSING PLAN...which is how the blessing works.

THE PLAN: All the ring-straked and spotted of Laban's goats and cattle would be Jacob's pay. Understand they were considered less desirable...and I would say that there were much fewer of them. Laban agreed.

Laban pulled all the ring-straked and spotted animals out of the herd (didn't want them reproducing with the others) and send Jacob's herd three days away from his own...and had his own sons tend those sheep (because they apparently did not know what they were doing).

HOWEVER: When a solid animal was birthed in Jacob's herd...they would send them to Laban's heard and visa versa!

UNDERSTAND: Laban didn't really want to bless Jacob...he was desiring to get the blessings for as cheap as possible.

THE REST OF THE PLAN: (Genesis 30:37-39) Jacob took sticks and carved white stripes in them and set them around where the animals ate...and conceived...and that is what they saw continually. Therefore, EVERY animal that was born was ring-straked and spotted. Unless, they were weak...then Jacob let them be solid colored.

END RESULT?

Genesis 30:43 – “And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.

Genesis 31:1 – “And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory (MONEY).”

Jacob got, basically, the full inheritance of Laban's...all because of the blessing.

Jacob had plenty of PRESSURE...but he PRESSURED THE PRESSURE and came out with all the stuff.

That is what the Lord was showing me...(go the chiropractor illustration).

LAST WEEK we took a look at Joseph and what the BLESSING of God looked like when it was active on someone's life...wowza!

WHAT I SEE: God planned for all of that to happen in Israel, but Israel fought it. So God brought it, through the BLESSING on Joseph, to the world's system...people argue that!

WHAT I SEE TODAY: God has planned on all the wealth to run through the church, however, the church has been so determined to live lower than the BLESSING that God brought much of that wealth to the world.

BELOVED: It is time for the BLESSING and all the blessings of the BLESSING to move back to the church and for us to live above and not beneath...to be the head and not the tail.

REMEMBER what the BLESSING looked like in Joseph's life:

- ~ Purpose
- ~ Protection
- ~ Prosperity
- ~ Promotion
- ~ Palace
- ~ With Pressure

1 Peter 4:12 – “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:”

I KNOW that it isn't exciting when your pastor talks about the battles, the trials, or pressure.

BUT it would be unfair for me to NOT preach on it.

YOU MAY SAY: But if I live under the BLESSING how could that pressure come on me?

ANSWER #1: Because we live in the world.

John 16:33 – “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

ANSWER #2: Because the enemy hates the Word and hates the BLESSING and is trying to steal it from you.

Mark 4:16,17

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

Here is the thing...as I was continuing to meditate on the life of Joseph I noticed something...it seems that he did pretty much everything RIGHT...he seemed to be strong in faith, strong in His belief in the purpose God had given to him...

YET: He still had some whopper of trials and pressures.

YOU SAY: The doesn't bode well for me!

UNDERSTAND: When the enemy can't keep you down...he will come at you stronger to steal the BLESSING and to steal the WORD.

NOTE: It is not bad news.

James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the *trying of your faith worketh patience*.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

UNDERSTAND: When the pressures come...it is an opportunity to work your faith...work your patience...to become stronger.

ILLUSTRATION: The Lord showed me an illustration using chiropractics. If anyone has ever gone to get adjusted...the chiropractor has probably said something was out...maybe a rib or another bone. His job is to get it back in.

NOTE: How did a rib get out of place?

ANSWER: The muscles around it got a little weak and didn't hold the bone in place.

Here is the thing...if you have had that happen...the chiropractor will tell you to come back in a week, two weeks or a month...why? Because he will need to adjust you again.

YOU SAY: Did it not work the first time?

ANSWER: Yes it worked, but until that muscles is strengthened...that same bone will pop out time and time again.

THINK OF JOSEPH: The first adjustments? Jealous brothers wanted to kill him...God protected him and he didn't die.

The second adjustment? His brothers sell him for 20 pieces of silver and he is sold into slavery (that's low)...God prospered him (back into place).

The third adjustment? Potiphar's wife framed him and he is thrown into prison (that is lower)...God promoted him.

The fourth adjustment? The butler forgot him for two years (that is painful)...God brought him to the palace.

NOTICE: Things kept popping out of place...but God kept doing the adjustment...no matter where Joseph was.

HERE IS THE KEY: When Joseph gets in the palace it seems like he never had any pressure any more EVER.

ANSWER: It can't be...because pressure comes to everyone.

HOWEVER: He doesn't get OUT OF PLACE anymore...pressure comes and he stays in his place.

The same rib that would pop out every week...is now not popping out anymore...how can that be?

LET'S GO BACK to the chiropractor...to get those bones back into place he has to APPLY PRESSURE! Yes, the only way to confront pressure and get it back in place is to APPLY PRESSURE. Then he will give you exercises to build up that area (applying more pressure) to keep it in.

That is what God spoke to me this week:

To defeat pressure...apply pressure!

ILLUSTRATION: Think about riding a bicycle. If you are on a flat surface or going downhill...no worries, fairly easy. The second you start going up hill, things get tough. What do you do? Apply greater pressure to the peddles. At first it will be agonizing...eventually, when you have built up your endurance and muscles, that same hill won't be as tough.

GO BACK TO JOSEPH: Every step along the way when the pressure came...he applied pressure by NOT BEING MOVED...by FAITH and it adjusted his situation in the middle of some harsh situations. But as he kept working his faith...he was getting stronger, so that when he got to the palace and pressure came, it couldn't move him.

How to Pressure the Pressure!

REMEMBER: To pressure the pressure is something to do consistently. The enemy desires to get you to quit...to stop...to walk away.

ALISA: The enemy will try to get you to rewrite history. Remember when I was unsaved and everything was AWESOME! I never had any troubles. I think I will do that again.

YOU SAY: So, Pastor Thad, how do I apply pressure (adjustments) so that I can get things back in place and get stronger.

Well, the Lord showed me FIVE things that are essential.

NOTE: I probably could have made the list a lot longer, but I really believe the Lord gave us a hand full of things that we work on (ONE HAND FULL).

1.) Keep your focus on God.

REMEMBER: Jacob and his livestock...they produced what they focused on...ring-straked and spotted.

You will do the same thing...you will produce what you are focused on.

BELOVED: When the pressure comes...it is overwhelmingly easy to just set your attention upon the pressure...the pressure is horrible...the pressure is agonizing...oh, the pressure!

The key is don't focus on the pressure.

Isaiah 26:3 – "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Shalom, shalom! Key? Mind stayed on him.

BELOVED: When pressure comes you have a choice:

Worship or Worry!

Worship sets your focus on God. Worry sets your focus on the pressure!

HERE IS THE THING: What you focus on will become stronger.

ILLUSTRATION: Remember going to school. You would start a semester on HISTORY (fun times) and the first section was on one area, the second section was on another area...so on and so forth. Maybe 10 or so areas. At the end of every section they would test you on the information you received. You had just focused on it for a week or two...so it was relatively fresh in your head...so hopefully you aced the test.

Well, at the end of the semester they have the stupid thing called FINALS...were you get tested on all the things you learned from section 1 to section 10...so they give you a study guide to refresh your mind. Not necessarily on what was in section 10, but what was in the first few sections.

Why? Because you already forgot a majority of that information.

Why? Because you are no longer focused on that stuff.

What was in front of you grabbed your attention.

When the pressure hits you...it is easy to let that grab your attention...

HOWEVER: Keep your attention on God to keep your faith high and your expectancy high. (talk about the expectancy level is too low in the church)

Matthew 14:25-30

~ Peter focused on the Word (good)

~ He obeyed the Word (good)

~ The Word worked (good)

~ vs. 30 – When he saw the storm (no longer focused on the Word) things changed.

BELOVED: Things will pop out...but keep your focus on Him.

2.) Keep in the Word.

YOU SAY: Isn't that the same thing as #1?

ANSWER: Probably...but it is important enough we need to say it again.

Stay in the Word...why?

~ Matthew 8:8 – Speak the Word only and your manifestation will come.

~ Matthew 14:28 – Responding to the Word will cause you to walk on the storms.

~ Psalm 119:89 – The Word is forever settled in the heavens (can't be corrupted).

~ Isaiah 55:11 – The Word will not return void. It will do what it was set out to do.

UNDERSTAND: Mark 4 tells us the enemy is coming for the Word...so ***if we move from the Word during those times of pressure...are we not giving the enemy EXACTLY what he is after?***

We've got to quit doing his work for him.

Isaiah 55:3 – “Incline your ear, and ***come unto me: hear,*** and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.”

Proverbs 4:20-23

20 My son, ***attend to my words;*** incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are ***life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.***

23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; ***for out of it are the issues of life.***

“Issues of life” – boundaries of life;

THEREFORE: How much are you going to get in life? The Word that you attend to will decide for you.

3.) Keep your words in check.

BELOVED: Watch what comes out of your mouth. Watch what you say!

Psalms 105:1,2

1 O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: ***make known his deeds among the people.***

2 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: ***talk ye of all his wondrous works.***

BELOVED: Quit talking about how tough life is and how much pressure is on you...what are we suppose to be talking about amongst the people? His wondrous works! Yep! That's it!

Proverbs 18:20,21

20 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

I AM CONVINCED: That we don't really (REALLY) know (or believe) the power of our lips...if we did, we would NEVER speak a word of unbelief again!

Mark 11 – Quit talking about the MOUNTAIN and talk to the MOUNTAIN.

James 3:2 – “For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.”

James 4:7 – “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

“Submit” – do what God says to do.

“Resist” – do what God says to do...put His Word in your mouth and QUIT AGREEING WITH THE DEVIL (that is what resisting is all about).

4.) **Keep your joy full!**

BELOVED: Whatever you do...no matter what is going on...no matter the pressure that is being applied...***don't let the pressure steal your joy.***

JERRY SAVELLE: If the devil can't steal your joy he can't keep your goods.

James 1:2 – “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;”

“Count” – govern, keep control of; to rule or exercise authority over

QUESTION: When are you suppose to govern your JOY?

ANSWER: ***When the pressure comes!***

Psalms 5:11 – “But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.”

NOTICE: You know exactly where you put your trust by where your JOY is in the middle of pressure.

REJOICING? Trusting in God.

NO REJOICING? SORROW? Trusting in your circumstances.

Keep your joy full (John 15:11; John 16:24).

REMEMBER: How we talked about in order to keep the bones from moving out of place you have to strengthen the muscles around those bones?

GUESS HOW YOU strengthen yourself so the thing doesn't keep popping out?

Nehemiah 8:10 – “Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; ***for the joy of the LORD is your strength.***”

REMEMBER: Psalms 16:11 – In His presence is fullness of joy!

THINK ON THIS: When we are in the middle of pressure we need to be spending our time IN HIS PRESENCE...not in the middle of everything else.

We may need to NOT ALLOW some things in our lives, so that we can strengthen ourselves in Him.

1 Samuel 30:6 – “And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”

Before David did anything else...he went into the presence of the Lord and was encouraged...
JOY!

5.) Keep away from the blame game.

BELOVED: I know I say this often, but I have seen it too often when people have pressure applied to them.

If my spouse. If my kids. If my boss. If the person next to me. If my pastor. If God!

UNDERSTAND: All of these blame games have one purpose (with the enemy) to get us back to IF GOD. To blame God. To be offended at God.

THINK ABOUT religion...they try to be “spiritual” by saying, “If it be thy will”...but they are just placing the blame on God.

Mark 4:16,17

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

Let's quickly think about Joseph:

One of my favorite insights last week was the opportunities that Joseph had to blame everyone (sitting in the prison for two years)...

- ~ The butler for forgetting him
- ~ Potiphars wife for framing him
- ~ Potiphar for not believing him
- ~ His brothers for selling him
- ~ Reuben for not doing more
- ~ His dad for not spanking his bothers more
- ~ Grandpa Isaac for not raising his dad better

BELOVED: This line of blaming can only stop ONE PLACE...with God.

Let's quickly think about Jacob:

- ~ He could have blamed Laban for being dishonest.
- ~ **HONESTLY:** He could have blame himself for being deceitful in his past.

NOTE: It is ultimately our fault...but Jacob's deceit was in his past...***the blessing was HIS NOW.***

BELOVED: Your blessing is your now...quit blaming the younger you for all of your problems...and put PRESSURE ON THE PRESSURE.

Mark 4:38 – “And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?”

JESUS identified the blame game as having NO FAITH at all!

Conclusion

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

BELOVED: Pressure the pressure!

Quit letting the pressure call the shots.