LEARNING TO BE STILL

our years ago, as I turned 50, I thought, "Wow, my life is half-over. What have I accomplished, and what else is there to do?" I knew for a certainty that I wanted to fulfill whatever assignments the Lord had ahead for me and to live well, enjoy-

ing and having time for my spouse, family, and friends. I firmly believe that living well includes being an encourager to people and an imitator of Christ as we live life.

As we age, time seems to go quicker. I've gained some wisdom along the way and have come to realize that our minds are powerful and shape who we are and how we live. The Bible is our guidebook for living well and thinking properly.

pleasing and perfect. I have read several books by Dr. Caroline Leaf who is a Christian cognitive neuroscientist. One of her statements has stuck with me—"As we think, we change the physical nature of our brain. As we consciously direct our thinking, we can wire out toxic patterns of thinking and replace them with healthy thoughts." This statement speaks directly to what we read in Scripture.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

> Changing the way we think changes our perspectives, which changes how we act.

The Life-Changing Power to Lead Thoughts Captive

When we read the Bible, we need our minds to change, or we will impose our biases and labels in the words we read. I am continually confronted with this as I go to the Scriptures and then apply them to my life and to what I see in the world.

We are called to lead. Who do we lead first? Ourselves.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Is it even possible to lead *every* thought captive? It must be if the Word of God says it can be. I have found that "being still" is a key to generating a positive thought life.

(continued on page 2)

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(continued from page 1)

Psalm 46:10a (KJV)
Be still and know that I am God.

There is power in "being still." It allows us time for prayer, meditation, capturing our thoughts and keeping our feelings and emotions under the reign of the Holy Spirit. *I am encouraging us all to make time to consider what we are thinking and pursue "being still."*

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

We are called upon to be *the different people*—the calm ones that nothing seems to shake and are impossible to offend. They listen more than they talk. They see *gold* in each person and the positive in every situation. They endeavor to love everyone, even their enemies. Their peace and joy are contagious.

"As we think, we change the physical nature of our brain. As we consciously direct our thinking, we can wire out toxic patterns of thinking and replace them with healthy thoughts." ~ Dr. Caroline Leaf

People who are different understand Philippians 4:8. They choose to see Christ in everyone. They choose good and eliminate negative thoughts at every turn. It requires deciding to love regardless of the circumstances.

Proverbs 11:27 (NLT) If you search for good [the gold!], you will find favor; but if you search for evil, it will find you.

... make time to consider what we are thinking and pursue "being still"

Proverbs 23:7a (NKJV)

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

What are we searching for? We can change our thinking by shifting our focus. When we think, we build thoughts. We are created in the image of God, full of love and grace. If we think this, we can live this.

Ephesians 4:23-24 (NIV)

and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has

been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

We are called to lead. Who do we lead first? Ourselves. Our Father speaks such wonderful things *about us, to us* in his Word. Let's commit to memory more of his goodness about us and then encourage others with it.

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The catalyst for change is always Christ. He is a complete redeemer and friend to us all. In Matthew, he spoke to his people, his disciples, and to the church. He is still speaking to us now.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NASB1995)

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

How thankful we are that our brother Jesus brought us grace and truth and set us free from captivity!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

It's a new life, a new day, and a new way. The SON is shining and so are we. Encourage someone today with words inspired by the Spirit and remember that God loves you, especially you, specifically you!



Senior Pastor CFFM



CHRISTIAN

When we accept Jesus as Lord, we receive his Spirit within us. Having Christ in us makes us Christians and children of God our Father. As we explore the Bible's promises and walk by the Spirit's direction, the character of Christ within begins to transform us from the inside out, revealing Jesus to the world through our lives.



FAMILY

The Bible describes the followers of Jesus as God's sons and daughters.
We are born again into an eternal family of the Father's love. He has uniquely gifted each of his children and called us to stand together in compassion, encouragement, and forgiveness.
The spirit-inspired kindness that we share in our faith communities works to heal relationships and restore families.

FELLOWSHIP

Christian fellowship is relationship. It is an intimate partnership of spiritual connection, association, and involvement. God calls us to a personal relationship with himself, with Jesus Christ, and with fellow believers so that our joy may be full (1 John 1:3-4). Our faith community is devoted to encouraging and cultivating these healing partnerships for everyone involved.

(ALENDAR www.cffm.org

We encourage all of God's people to get together freely and often in order to minister God's love and truth to each other, to cultivate spiritual maturity, and to develop a meaningful faith-community

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... for your prayers,
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financial support that make all
our ministry services possible,
cultivating a healthy spiritual
family

Join our live or archived 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Fellowships by Live Streaming at cffm.org/live-streaming

Also enjoy past teachings on our website, podcast or YouTube channel

As Announced	TEEN FELLOWSHIP (12-18 yrs. old) HOSTS: Casey & Katrina MacPherson If interested, contact Casey at youth@cffm.org	CFFM Tipp City, OH
As Announce	MEN'S FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Jeff Shroyer & Mark Harbert	CFFM Tipp City, OH
On Going	THE MESSAGE: A DAILY DOSE OF GOD'S WORD Daily Email Subscription / EDITOR: Wayne Clapp	Worldwide
9/7-12	BAY AREA ITINERARY Saturday 9/9 Open Fellowship ~ San Rafael GUESTS: Kevin & Sara Guigou / HOSTS: Brian & Carole Jones, Elden & Kathy Daugherty, AJ & Eileen Perez	San Rafael & Mill Valley, CA
10/7-8	"The Coming of the Son of Man" Book by author Janet Magiera An Interactive Study Weekend Hosted by Jan Magiera & Sid Helmus For more info email: sidney.helmus@gmail.com Limited space available.	Kalamazoo, MI
11/3-5	CFFM Conference Join Bobbie Blair, Tonia Shroyer & Jan Rawlins for a Women's Weekend of RESTORATION & RELAXATION Optional Men's Gathering Sat. & Sun. Morning with Tom Blair & Jeff Shroyer	Waco, TX
3/15-17 2024	CFFM Conference STRENGTHEN ~ TRAIN ~ ACCOMPLISH A Weekend with ROBERTS LIARDON SPIRITUAL LEADER ~ CHURCH HISTORIAN HUMANITARIAN ~ AUTHOR ~ PUBLIC SPEAKER	CFFM Tipp City, OH





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Let's enjoy spirit-filled days in the Scriptures together!

ecently, I was meditating on Romans 6:18, 22 (KJV).

Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. ²² But now being **made free** from sin and become servants to God, ve have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

I sensed the Lord asking me if I believed what I read. I replied, "Of course Lord, I know it's true, but I don't know if I've ever received it in my heart." I asked myself, "Do I live that way in my thought life?"

There are many scriptures that proclaim my **freedom**. A few of those are:

Isaiah 61:1 (KJV)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me: because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to **proclaim liberty** to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound:

Ohio

Pastor

Galatians 5:1 (KJV) Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

John 8:32 (KJV) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Yes, the Lord wants me free. How do I get that into my soul?

My wife and I were spending time with our youngest daughter, Taylor and her friend, Emily. I asked them, "What does freedom mean to you?" Emily piped up and said, "I think it's about trust." She had given me an answer I didn't expect. I didn't realize that I was trying to figure out what work I needed to perform in order to receive.

When I first started to write this, my goal was for us to see that there is much more available than we have received. The Lord wants us to be free—unencumbered by sin and the wrong thinking that keeps us from his goodness and his forgiveness—in order to put us in a place where we can think his thoughts! In John 5:19, Jesus said that he did what he saw his Father do. What a way to live life! What true freedom it would be to only think his thoughts!

There is a line in the movie *The Great Debaters*

where Denzel Washington says, "...to find, take back and keep your righteous mind." It's time to let the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) rule what we think and say. Jesus had to know who he was and what he was called to do. When Jesus humbled himself, his Father exalted him (Philippians 2:9). *Freedom doesn't mean that we can do whatever we* want. It does, however, mean that we can do whatever he wants! When we humble ourselves before Him, he will work in our lives also (Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 2:13).

Freedom is found when we know who we are in Christ. Galatians de-

scribes the battle well.

Galatians 5:16-23

(TPT2016) As you yield freely and fully to the dynamic life and power of the Holy Spirit, you will abandon the cravings of your selflife. 17 For your selflife craves the things that offend the Holy Spirit and hinder him Tom Dill from living free with-Hollansburg, in you! And the Holy Spirit's intense crav-**CFFM Associate** ings hinder your old self-life from dominating you! The Holy Spirit is the only One who defeats the cravings of your natural life. So then, the two reedo incompatible and conflicting forces within you are your self-life of the flesh and the new creation life of the Spirit. 18 But when

you are brought into the full freedom of the Spirit of Grace, you will no longer be living under the domination of the law, but soaring above it! 19 ...the cravings of the self-life... are obvious: Sexual immorality, lustful thoughts, pornography, 20 chasing after things instead of God, manipulating others, hatred of those who get in your way, senseless arguments, resentment when others are favored, temper tantrums, angry quarrels, only thinking of yourself, being in love with your own opinions, ²¹ being envious of the blessings of others, murder, uncontrolled addictions, wild parties, and all other similar behavior. Haven't I already warned you that those who use their "freedom" for these things will not inherit the kingdom realm of God! 22-23 But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its various expressions... Joy that overflows, Peace that subdues, Patience that endures, Kindness in action, A life full of virtue, Faith that prevails, Gentleness of heart, and Strength of spirit. Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless.

Isaiah 26:3 (KJV)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.

There is true freedom in letting him be our Savior!

Come join Bobbie Blair, Tonia Shroyer and Jan Rawlins for a Women's Weekend of

RESTORATION RELAXATION



Optional: Informal men's gathering Sat. & Sun. AM with Tom Blair and Jeff Shroyer Location TBA

FRIDAY, NOV. 3 - SUNDAY, NOV. 5, 2023 WACO, TEXAS

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FRI., NOV. 3 7:00 PM Doors open

7:30 PM Evening session

SAT., NOV. 4 9:00 AM Doors open

9:30 AM Morning session

EXPLORING WACO IN THE AFTERNOON

(Maybe we'll run into Chip & Joanna Gaines!)

SUN., NOV. 5 9:00 AM Doors open

9:30 AM Morning session

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CONFERENCE

Let His Voice Be Heard! **Speakers: Keith Ferrante & Margriet Leach**

CFFM Tipp City, OH ~ JUNE 2023

































Public Ordination of **Debi Pilot**

(shown with Joe Pilot & NJCC/CFFM elders)

New Jerusalem Christian Church Bay City, Michigan

May 21, 2023



n the creation narratives of Genesis, man and woman were each made with the divine image of God and with it came the equally shared responsibility to govern over what he had created (Genesis 1:26-27; Hebrew *adam* means "mankind"). As partners, they were commissioned to tend the garden and to rule over the animals and entire physical world.

Yet after the first couple's rebellion, consequences included increased difficulties in the activities of marriage, childbirth and physical labor (Genesis 3:16-19). Conflicting struggles of authority and responsibility have continued in marriages, in families, and among God's people ever since that tumble from humanity's Edenic beginnings.

BUT GOD's plan of redemption birthed men and women into a

new covenant. The Holy Spirit's infilling became the great equalizer between sexual genders, races, ethnicities and nationalities. Any strife or hatred between those distinctions should dissolve in the shared presence of God's spirit, word and love!

Even though the two genders were designed with wonderous differences, in the broadest spiritual sense, God doesn't play favorites between the two sexes. "There is no male and female" (Galatians 3:28).

Even under the times and cultures of the Old Testament, God commissioned and energized women who put their trust in him. Over 300 ladies or groups of them are mentioned there. Among them, *Deborah* was a prophetess and one of twelve judges over Israel (Judges 4) which included military leadership. *Esther* was a queen of Persia who risked her life to save her people.

Sarah was wife of Abraham and mother of nations (Genesis 17-25). **Miriam** was a prophetess, influential sister of Moses, and

part of the leadership team (Exodus 2; 15; Micah 6:4). *Isaiah's wife* was a prophetess (Isaiah 8:3). *Jochebed,* mother of Moses, defied Pharoah's order to kill male Hebrew infants. *Huldah* was an influential prophetess (2 Kings 22) under the reign of King Josiah.

Among others, much more could be said about *Ruth, Hannah, Naomi, Abigail, Rahab* and *Jael*. Much of their fearless faithfulness over many generations directly laid the groundwork for the birth of the Messiah.

The influential leadership of New Testament women was also significant in God's plan of redemption. The weight of history rested on the young shoulders of *Mary* who not only had "Christin-me" for nine months, but also, along with Joseph, taught and trained the child Jesus to step into his sacred mission. What a leader she was!

Prophetess *Anna* had special words to speak over infant Jesus (Luke 2). The *Samaritan woman* at the well was among the earliest "evangelists" to announce the Messiah's presence as his ministry began to unfold (John 4). Sisters *Mary* and *Martha* (Luke 10:38-42) ministered to Jesus in their home. Mary sat like a student at his feet, an act which was normally the role of a male disciple ("learner" and likely future teacher) with a rabbi.

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna (Luke 8:1-3) traveled with

Jesus and the Twelve, also serving as patrons to the work. The first two along with *Salome* and *James' mother* were among the very first witnesses of Christ's resurrection. Several of these ladies had stayed at the foot of the cross to support Jesus till the end.

In Romans 16, Paul mentions nearly 30 people, a third of whom are women who are highly commended in their service to the saints. The first is **Phoebe** (16:1-2), house church deacon and benefactor to many, who is understood to have hand-delivered the original letter and likely reading it to its first audience.

Priscilla and her husband Aquila (Romans 16:3-5) were prominent figures in the development of the early church. In Acts 18:25-26, Priscilla played a key role in privately teaching and correcting the doctrinal understanding of Apollos, an acclaimed gospel teacher. In Romans 16:7, **Junia** is also listed among the



GOD'S WOMEN: On the Front Lines of His Kingdom

By Kevin Guigou, CFFM Associate Pastor

apostles of the movement.

Peter's first sermon on Pentecost (Acts 2:17-18) included the prophet Joel's revelation that God would pour out his spirit on *all* flesh and that "daughters" and "my maidservants" would be among those who boldly prophetically in the control of t

sied. And in 1 Corinthians 11:5, it's clear that women were *publicly praying and prophesying* in church gatherings.

Any difficult scriptures must be understood in light of clear passages on any subject. So when we come across more challenging texts on this topic, like 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:9-15, we must interpret through a filtering lens of more specific, historical, culturally localized circumstances that would explain any "silence" (respectful tranquility) dictated toward women in church gatherings.

Space doesn't allow that discussion here, but I elaborated on this whole topic in Sunday Morning Fellowship teachings at **www.cffm.org** or our YouTube channel: *Women in Ministry: Women on the Front Lines of God's Kingdom* (6/25/23) and *Women in Ministry: Women Be Silent?* (7/25/23).

You could also contact our offices for Wayne Clapp's helpful booklet, *Women in Ministry* or listen to his three audio teachings on the subject on our website.



A Weekend with Roberts Liardon

Author | Public Speaker | Spiritual Leader | Church Historian | Humanitarian

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 - SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY 1575 W. STATE ROUTE 571 • TIPP CITY, OHIO



Dr. Roberts Liardon was called into the ministry at a very young age, preaching his first public sermon at the age of thirteen and lecturing on God's Generals in Christian colleges and universities at age fifteen.

From age sixteen, he has utilized every platform to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bring maturity to the Church, and encourage those in ministry. He has produced radio, television, and Internet programs and has also authored over eighty books which have been translated into over sixty languages and to date have sold 16.5 million copies.

Strengthen **Believers**

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SCHEDULE

FRI., March 15 6:30 pm Doors Open 7:00 pm Session Begins SAT., March 16 9:00 am Doors Open 9:30 am Session Begins 12-2 pm Lunch on your own 2:00 pm Session Begins SUN., March 17 9:30 am Doors Open

10:00 am Session Begins

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\$45 per ATTENDEE \$49 per LOCATION FOR LIVE STREAMING

Register online at www.cffm.org/events by the registration deadline, February 28, 2024

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I pray that **your partnership with us** in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Philemon 1:6 (NIV)



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