

“We train disciplemakers...”



Exhausted?
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Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Making Disciples Naturally Podcast

Ron Bennett: March 2,9,16
James Carter: March 23,30,
April 6
Larry Beck: March 21, 28,
April 4

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**Is your outgo > your
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The Walk of Faith
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*Mark your calendars for our
Spring Men’s Retreat
April 12-13, 2024 at
Crosswind Conference
Center. Special guest speaker
is James Carter, Kansas City
Ministry Director for
The Navigators ©*

“Making Disciples Like Jesus” Topic of Men’s Retreat

“Many recognize Jesus as Lord, Savior and Teacher, but few recognize Jesus as a trainer and equipper of committed, courageous and compassionate men,” notes James Carter, Kansas City Navigator City Director. James will be our guest speaker for the spring men’s retreat, April 12-13, 2024 at Hesston’s Crosswind Conference Center.



Prior to his appointment as City Director in Kansas City, James served the Navigators at Fort Riley, Kansas. He has 20 years of experience making, maturing, and multiplying disciple-makers and leaders who live knowing the love and freedom found in the good news of Jesus. James has served in the U.S. Army and the National Guard for over 23 years as an Infantryman.

James is an engaging speaker and will effectively communicate to both younger and older folks as he brings what the Lord has laid on his heart. Be praying about men to invite to join you for this great retreat. To hold your place at this retreat, register today at <https://kansasnavs.org/conferences>

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“Whoever speaks, let it be with God’s words. Whoever serves, do so with the strength that God supplies, so that in everything God will be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”

— 1 Peter 1:11 (NET Bible)

Return to the Hiding Place

For those familiar with *The Hiding Place* movie (1975) describing the faithfulness of Corrie Ten Boom, her sister Betsy and other members of her family during the Nazi era, you will be interested in this film. It is clearly a dark movie and probably not appropriate for the very young. However, it is an inspiring true story of courage and faith during a dark time of the world's history.



story focuses on a young physics student, Hans Poley who chooses not to join the Nazi party.

From the description with the movie: "Watch this harrowing true tale of ordinary students who dare to resist one of history's cruelest tyrants, risk their lives for total strangers, and prove that a handful of devoted young people can change the course of history."

We highly recommend this film if you want to hear the "rest of the story" as well as be encouraged by great courage and heroism.

This film chronicles the heroism of a group of untrained university students, led by Corrie Ten Boom, who are involved in an underground network and saved 880 Jewish people from death, transporting them to safety. This

Where to watch: RedeemTV.com. This is a free movie, although login with your email is required.

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

"If your outgo exceeds your intake, your upkeep becomes your downfall."

— Vol. 3 pages 59-62

Does our outgo exceed our intake? Outgo is the time and energy spent in meeting the needs of others. This includes physical, spiritual, emotional and financial needs. It demands our time and our energy. It may be a ministry to individuals, small groups or large groups. Our time in preparation for these meetings, as well as the time spent with these individuals, is our outgo. The needs of others and our seeming availability to meet those needs may lead us to a continual increase of the "outgo" focus. For some, it may be a few hours a week; for others, a great deal more time is involved. This outgo is demanding on our lives. It gradually depletes our resources of physical, emotional and spiritual margin. Some find themselves running on fumes with their "tank" nearly empty. Others may be so burdened by the demands of ministry that they feel like Elijah, desiring to flee from responsibility and sit under a broom tree. I suspect that many of us have had periods like this in our lives resulting in a collapse of our margin. Our Lord Himself was burdened by lost humanity and His life was one of perpetual service. One day in particular was characterized by a whole town gathering for healing until late in the evening. How did He handle the tremendous responsibility demanding this "outgo" of effort? He did this by balancing the "outgo" with the "intake."

In Mark 1:35 it is recorded that "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." He manifested dependence upon the intake of a vital relationship with the Father. As He did this, the Father moment by moment manifested His life through the Son by means of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord did not act on His own at any time to supply a physical, spiritual or vocational need for Himself or anyone else apart from the Father's will. His intake far exceeded His outgo. He never ran on fumes. His tank of emotional energy, spiritual energy, and physical energy was overflowing through His relationship with the Father. If He, our Lord and Savior, lived in such constant dependence so that He spent all night on one instance (Luke 6:12) with the Father before making a decision about His disciples, do we dare try to function with any less commitment in our lives?

Has our outgo gradually increased over the years while our intake has lessened? If so, then our Lord's words to us are to **remember** the time when our hearts were aflame to spend time with Him alone, to **repent** (change direction), and to **repeat**. In Christ, Richard Spann

The Walk of Faith by Richard Spann

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built-up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7 (KJV)

We receive Christ Jesus as our Lord by faith. Subsequently, we are called to walk in Him by this same faith. This faith is dependent upon our being rooted in Him, built up in Him and stablished in Him. The result of faith is a life which abounds with thanksgiving. There are many ways to describe this walk. One of the most useful to me is the characterization given to the walk of faith by G. Campbell Morgan. He describes four components of what it means to walk with someone else. We must walk in the same direction, be in agreement, have mutual trust, and keep in step with one another.



The direction in which we walk with Christ is clearly away from sin and toward righteousness. It is by faith that we receive His righteousness and it is by faith that we walk in and with Christ, who is our righteousness from God. (Romans 1:17, II Corinthians 5:21) It is not by our own effort that His righteousness is manifested in our lives, but by His grace. In Galatians 2:20 and Colossians 3:4 we read that He is our life. If that is true, then, we can have confidence that His life is expected to be manifest in and through us. It is to be experienced by us and expressed through us by the ever-present Holy Spirit. That righteousness, which is imputed to us when we first trusted Him, is imparted to us as holiness as we walk with Him, and finally implanted in us at redemption. God does not give us things. He gives us Christ. In Him we are complete.

(Colossians 2:10 KJV) All spiritual blessings are in Him.

(Ephesians 1:3) We can look to Him to guide our thoughts, our words, and our deeds moment by moment in order that the righteousness of God, which is Jesus Christ, may be experienced and expressed in and through our life. This direction toward righteousness and away from sin was surely what the Psalmist had in mind.

“As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.” (Psalm 17:15 KJV)

In our walk with Christ there must also be agreement. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3 KJV) There must be agreement on many things, but as regarding our walk with Him, G. Campbell Morgan has summarized some thoughts which succinctly capture our relationship with Him.

“It is in Christ that God is making us what He would have us to be. The sphere in which God operated to the creation of our lives and the perfecting of His thought in and through us is Christ. By the way of His incarnation man came into conscious nearness to God. By the way of His life there was unveiled before the eyes of men what was in the heart of God when He said, ‘Let us make man.’ In the death of Christ there was revealed that mystery of atonement whereby man’s sin is dealt with, canceled, made not to be, that man may find his new opportunity. By the way of the resurrection of Jesus Christ power was placed at the disposal of man so that he not only finds himself in Christ Jesus a pardoned soul, but a being equipped with all resource for the accomplishment of the Divine purpose. By the way of the reign of Christ over the individual life through the Spirit there is the administration of the will of God and perpetual communication of both pattern and power.” (*The Westminster Pulpit*, Baker Book House, 1954-55, p. 245) *(continued next page)*

“One of the lessons I have learned in 94 years is that when we are healthy mentally, physically, spiritually, and emotionally, there is no problem or challenge to which we cannot find a solution we can live with. When we are depressed and stressed about an unsolved problem, we should look beyond the issue to find the real problem. The problem is likely that we are unhealthy in one of these areas. When our health is restored mentally, physically, spiritually, and emotionally, we can solve any problem and finally get a good night’s rest.”

—Jim Downing, in 2007 book “*Living Legacy*.” Jim was Navigator #6, a retired Navy Lieutenant and was one of the first servicemen disciplined by Dawson Trotman.

The Walk of Faith (continued)

As we walk in His righteousness, and in agreement with Him regarding His purpose for our lives, there must also be mutual trust. This trust is seen in the relationship we have with our Lord in I Corinthians 1:9. “God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.” In fellowship we see the operation of mutual trust. The Greek word “Koinonia”, translated “fellowship” means that we have everything in common with Him. G. Campbell Morgan has described this fellowship by the use of two words, “resources” and “responsibilities.” In fellowship with Him, all His resources are made available to meet my responsibilities. His presence is always with me to guide with each decision. His power is made available to do His will in any situation I face. His peace directs my heart and mind throughout all the difficulties of life. Likewise, in fellowship with Him, all my resources should be made available to Him to meet His responsibilities. What are His responsibilities? These are stated in Luke 19:10 (KJV). “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Is my time made available to Him for this purpose? Are my talents at His disposal for the accomplishment of His objective? Have I given Him the freedom to use my monetary assets to fulfill His responsibilities?

Finally, to walk with someone means that you walk close together, side by side. To walk on ahead, or to lag behind is not walking with someone. G. Campbell Morgan states that the balance of zeal and knowledge is needed to keep us walking with our Lord. Zeal without knowledge will propel us on ahead of our Lord. We may, on our own, apart from His direction or desire, become involved in responsibilities that are not His will for our lives. We run on ahead with our program, not realizing that it is our activity, not His. Repentance of these dead works, those in which He has no part, will restore us to His side in our journey. Likewise, knowledge without this accompanied desire or zeal will cause us to lag behind. As the knowledge of His direction for us is imparted, there must also be a matching zeal to see it accomplished. Failure to match the knowledge of His will with obedience results in a separation from Him in our walk. Again, repentance from sins of omission will restore us to His side as we travel together.

The Holy Spirit has rooted each of us in Christ Jesus. As He imparts the life of our Lord, we are built up and established in Him. To the degree that we are rooted, built up, and established is the degree to which we abound with thanksgiving. It is my desire that your walk with Him may increasingly reflect Him in such a manner as to create this thanksgiving in your heart.

In Christ, Richard Spann



“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.” — Charles Spurgeon, 1834-1892, British preacher, author, pastor and evangelist. (Quote found at https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/2876959.Charles_Haddon_Spurgeon)