



The joy of the Lord is your strength

During the summer we are looking at 'the Fruit of the Spirit' in our morning services. God's Holy Spirit helps us to become more like Jesus and to put into practice good characteristics. This 'fruit' in our lives looks like love, patience, kindness etc. One segment of this fruit is that of joy and I found myself looking at a fantastic Old Testament passage when I was preparing a short talk on it. Nehemiah 8:10 includes the words, *"Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

As I prepared it struck me just how similar, in many ways, the world was when those words were first uttered to our own country today (despite major differences too). For instance, the country at that time (Israel, about 2,500 years ago) had followed the ways of God closely many generations earlier, but little by little that faithfulness to God had eroded over each generation. The people felt that they knew better, that they didn't want to do the things that God says are right and, as a result, as time went on their society broke apart, families were in greater need, violence increased and the world became a worse place. That's not to suggest that everything was perfect when they had faithfully followed God's ways more closely (because all people still mess up), but the world was significantly and obviously worse the more that they strayed from God's ways.

As I thought about that I could see so much of our own society reflected there. Church attendance figures in Britain have been in decline since just after the end of the First World War. People have decided to build their own moral standards, often in opposition to the things that God says are right and wrong, and generation after generation has slowly moved further and further from faithfully following God's ways. What has happened as people have done that? Love, kindness, tolerance, patience etc. have started to be seen less. Anger, hate, prejudice, violence, family break downs, mental health struggles, fears of wars, selfishness etc. have all increased dramatically over the same time period. That's not to suggest that it was all perfect when most of the country went to church and tried to follow God's ways (because all people still mess up), but our world is significantly worse off because of this.

The people at the time of Nehemiah grieved for what they and their ancestors had done, how they had walked away from God and the destruction that they had brought on themselves. And Nehemiah tells them that they don't need to grieve, because even in the rubbish they can have joy. And the reason that they can have joy, is the knowledge that God has got this, that he can make things right again, if the people will just turn back to him. That promise was true then and it still is today. The joy of the Lord truly can be our strength in this turbulent world.

God bless,

Paul

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6 Reasons We Should Care About Poverty

christians
against
poverty

CAP

With a general election taking place recently, you might have been thinking more about the issues that matter to you. At Christians Against Poverty (CAP), we believe that tackling UK poverty should be on everybody's priority list. Here are six reasons why.

One in five of us lives in poverty

According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, an organisation that researches issues like poverty, 14.4 million people in the UK live in poverty.* That's one in every five of us. This is an issue that's much bigger, and much closer, than you might realise.

It impacts our health

The negative effect of severe financial difficulty on a person's physical and mental health directly impacts other public services, such as the NHS and mental health support. Three quarters of those who sought debt help from CAP told us their financial situation affected their health in some way. For some, it worsened an existing condition, while it caused new health problems for others.

Millions are going without essentials

Every person should have access to the basic essentials they need to survive, such as food and a warm home, but millions in the UK are skipping meals or going without heating and electricity because of costs. Amongst these are adults, children and pensioners.

People are borrowing to afford essentials

Besides the ethical issue, the reality that so many people are going without basic essentials has a wide-scale impact. At CAP, we've seen an increase in people who have fallen into debt after borrowing money to cover vital household bills. The more households that are in unmanageable debt, the greater the impact on the economy, making problems like recessions more likely and more severe.

Our future is at risk

Of the millions living in poverty in the UK, more than four million are children. We know that financial difficulty affects all aspects of childhood, including schoolwork and friendships. With so many children at risk of falling behind in life, there will be an inevitable impact on the future of our society.

Ending UK poverty will take all of us

During this new Parliament it's crucial that those who lead our country have tackling poverty as a high priority on their agenda. You can help by respectfully challenging those elected in your local area. Don't be afraid to ask you MP for their thoughts on UK poverty and how they plan to address the issue. You can also join CAP's campaigning community at capuk.org/campaign to receive regular updates on how you can take part in the fight against poverty.

If you're amongst the millions struggling with debt and poverty, be reassured that help is available. Visit capuk.org/help to find free support in your local area, or visit moneyhelper.org.uk for online information.

* Joseph Rowntree Foundation, *UK poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK*.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 800 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

The Green Zone



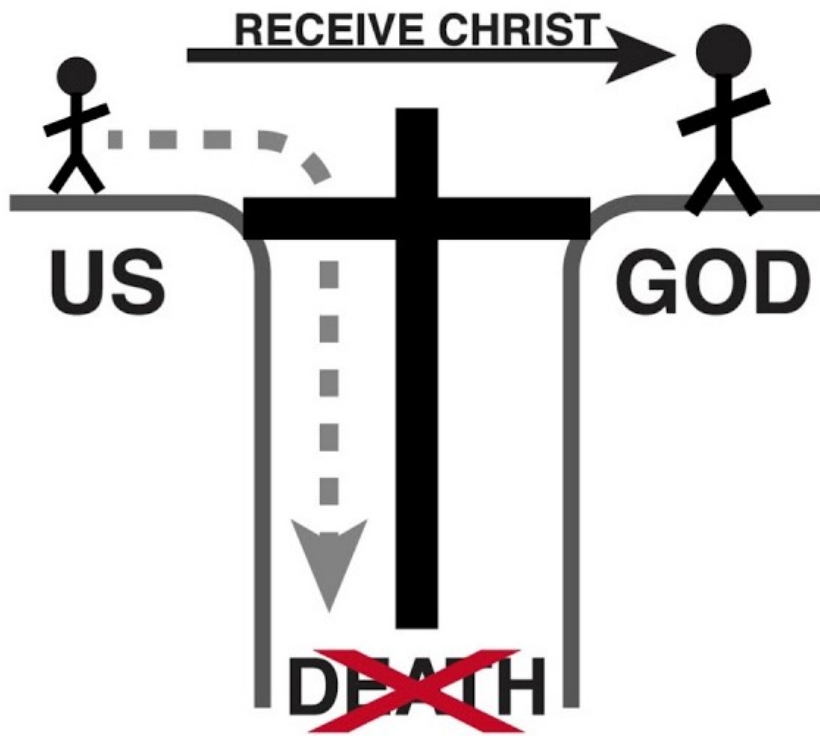
This month's idea to be more environmentally friendly at home is to keep your tyres inflated. That might sound like a very small thing, but over time can make a significant difference.

The reason being that when tyres are not inflated to the correct level identified by the manufacturer they are 'less round' and so require more energy to maintain speed. This means that more petrol is burned for the same journey, costing you more money.

Safety is also very important, of course. Properly inflated tyres are less likely to fail at high speeds and they wear more evenly, and will subsequently last longer.

So, doing your bit for the environment is safer and cheaper too!

Finding Out More About Jesus



The Bible tells us that God loves us and that he wants to be in a friendship with us. Imagine being in a relationship with the God who created the whole universe and yet wants to be personally present in our lives.

But, we sinned against God. We decided that we knew better than the God who created us, and so we turned away from his best ways of living and went our own way instead. That's what 'sin' is.

Because God is holy and perfect he cannot allow unholy people into his presence and so our sin creates a huge chasm between us and God. All of the good works in the world cannot fill that chasm, because once we have sinned we have put ourselves in the place of God. That means that we face a spiritual death, not being able to live with God forever, in this life and the next.

But, God loves us so much he sent his one and only Son, Jesus, into the world to die for us. His death became the punishment for anybody who would turn to him in faith. That is, when we turn to Jesus he takes our punishment upon himself at the cross.

So, when we come to Jesus and have our sins forgiven we can be in a relationship with the God who created us. That relationship is for this life and the next.

In this life Jesus gives us 'life in all abundance'; that's what he said. Across the world millions and millions of Christians can say that is their experience. That since becoming followers of Jesus they have known life to be even more special and amazing than what it was before. That doesn't mean that they don't have difficult times, but they know that God is with them in those times and they also have new amazing times - given to them by God.

And this promise is for the next life too, that when we die we can be with God forever. So death is not to be feared anymore.

This is great news. So, will you turn to Jesus today?

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Got questions about life

Alpha

#TryAlpha
hib.org/alpha

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

Who is it for?

Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish.

How does it work?

Alpha is for 12 weeks, broken into 3 mini-series of 4 weeks (including one optional longer day). Each session begins with a short film and has a discussion where you can share your thoughts. If at any point you think Alpha isn't for you, that is not a problem. There's no pressure and no follow-up.

When is Alpha?

This free course takes place **7:30-9:00 from Tuesday 10th September.**

To find out more or to book a place please contact us on 0161 428 9121 or allhallows.cheadle@gmail.com

New or Visiting?

First Time Here?

If it's your first time here then welcome! It's great to have you with us. Here are a few short notes that you might find helpful.

Relax - You're our guest, so make yourself at home. If there is anything that you would like to know then ask one of the Welcome Team by the front door.

We don't expect guests to give - For those who are members or regular attenders there is an offering plate at the back, but we don't ask our guests for any money.

We have a Loop System - Switch your hearing aid to T-coil.

You might find it useful to sit towards the middle.

Hang around afterwards - Come and join us for a cup of tea or fresh coffee, and for a chat—drinks are served in the hall and we usually gather in the lounge to chat.

Prayer - If you would like someone to pray with you — either prayer for you or for someone you know — there are people who would love to do so after the service. Please make yourself known to the service leader.

Children & Youth - Once a month, the whole church worships together. On other weeks, there is a Sunday School for primary aged children. One of the Welcome Team can show you where Sunday School meets. For pre-school age children, there are green tables at the side of church with activities. Please don't be embarrassed if your children make any noise—they are welcome here and are part of the service, too! All our children and youth leaders have DBS checks and have undergone safeguarding training.

Next Steps

We are all on a journey through life, and our faith is no different. Depending upon where you are on your journey with God here are some 'Next Steps' you could take:

COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

Commit to follow Jesus today!

RE-COMMIT TO CHRIST

It's never too late for a fresh start with faith.

DECLARE YOUR FAITH THROUGH BAPTISM

If you feel you've made a commitment to God but have never been baptised, then this could be a great step for you.

JOIN A LIFE GROUP

If you're not in one, there are a number of groups that meet in homes throughout the week to get to know each other better, look at the Bible and pray together.

BE PART OF THE MISSION

There are lots of ways you can use your gifts to serve God, his Church and the wider community. Speak to one of the church team to find out more.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st—Back to School Sunday

10:00 Back to School Family Service

6:30 Evening Communion Service

Monday 2nd

10:00 Zoom Prayers

Wednesday 4th

9:00-1:30 The Light Café

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

Sunday 8th

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School

6:30 Evening Communion Service

Monday 9th

10:00 Zoom Prayers

Wednesday 11th

9:00-1:30 Light Café

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Sunday 15th

10:00 Morning Communion Service and Sunday School

6:30 Evening Service

Monday 16th

10:00 Zoom Prayers

7:30 PCC

Wednesday 18th

9:00-1:30 Light Café

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Sunday 22nd

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School (+ Visit from 'Safe Families')

6:30 Evening Communion Service

Monday 23rd

10:00 Zoom Prayers

Wednesday 25th

9:00-1:30 Light Café

9:30-11:00 Monthly Toddlers

1:00-1:30 BCP Holy Communion

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Thursday 26th

7:30 Social Night

Sunday 29th—Climate Sunday

10:00 Climate Sunday Morning Service & Sunday School

6:30 Evening Service

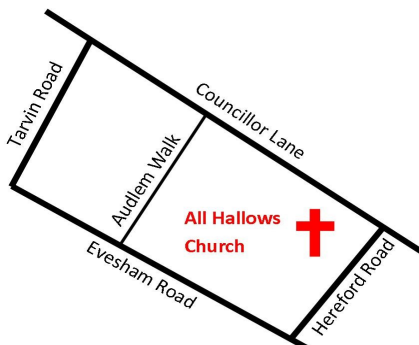
Monday 30th

10:00 Zoom Prayers

Contact Details

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If you would like to make a one-off donation to the work of All Hallows Church you can do so by using the QR Code.