

Don't Lose Heart!

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Occasionally in the Bible, God tells His people not to lose heart. The phrase “lose heart” might be somewhat confusing to the casual reader, as this saying is not one that people always automatically understand. Upon reading these words, one might ask, “Is this referring to someone whose heart falls out of their chest?” Or maybe, “Does losing one’s heart mean that someone is no longer loving?” To help us understand this idiom more correctly, let’s look at some dictionary definitions. According to the *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, to “lose heart” is “to lose one’s confidence or courage”.* The *Cambridge Dictionary of American Idioms* defines this idiom as “to stop believing that you can succeed”**.

With these definitions in mind, notice the four times that God told His people not to lose heart. Before Jesus gave the parable of the persistent widow, Luke 18:1 states, “And He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and **not lose heart.**” Paul wrote in II Corinthians 4:1, “Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, **we do not lose heart.**” He understood that he had the great task of sharing the gospel with lost souls, giving them hope. Therefore, Paul would not lose heart in his ministry. In the same chapter, Paul wrote about the Christian’s hope of spiritual maturity and eternal life, saying, “So **we do not lose heart.** Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day” (II Corinthians 4:16). Lastly, Ephesians 3:13

tells us, “So **I ask you not to lose heart** over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.” Paul didn’t want the fact that he was imprisoned for his faith to scare the Ephesians away from remaining faithful.

Do God’s people ever lose heart? Do God’s people ever lose their confidence in the Lord and in His Word? Do God’s people ever give up? You better believe it! God wouldn’t have had to tell His people not to lose heart if there wasn’t an indication of them starting to lose heart. He wouldn’t have inspired these four passages if He didn’t think they needed a boost of confidence. God wanted His people to focus on what was most important in this life, which in turn, would keep them pressing on toward the goal of heaven (Philippians 3:14). Our world may crumble all around us, but that doesn’t mean that we have to crumble with it. We can take our faith in Christ and be strong in the midst of struggles (James 1:2-4).

Don’t lose heart, brothers and sisters! Keep fighting the good fight of faith (I Timothy 6:12)! Keep striving to be in the kingdom of God (Luke 13:24)! Keep loving those who are hard to love (Matthew 5:44)! Keep making every aim to attain the resurrection on the last day (Philippians 3:11)! Satan wants us to lose heart so that he can have our hearts. Don’t let him get what he wants. Don’t. Lose. Heart.

Luke Yates

*lose heart. (n.d.) *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*. (2002).

**lose heart. (n.d.) *Cambridge Dictionary of American Idioms*. (2006).

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Jerry and Louise Faules, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Jean Hanger, Faye Haight, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Bobbie Tuggle, Robin Van Dorn, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Treva Wolgamott, Velda Wood, and Neosho Christian School.

- Joe Freund is at KU Medical Center this week for tests.
- Jean Hanger has returned to Medicalodge and is now in room 413 and under hospice care.
- Richard Tink is at Freeman West.

Thank you to everyone who helped knock doors in Stella. I really appreciate your willingness to help! I know that there are some who would have liked to have helped, but could not make it. I likewise appreciate your willingness to help though you did not get to! ...Like Paul said in regards to giving, "For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have." (2 Corinthians 8:12, NKJV). I am sure that God is pleased that you were willing, though perhaps unable! I likewise want to thank Luke for helping plan things, contact people, and for keeping people informed (he was the brains behind the efforts, I was just the one to make the suggestion)...I love you all, my Hillcrest family!

God bless, and in Christian love,
Zechariah Anderson

Juice boxes: We're collecting juice boxes to help with the Bright Futures effort to send needy Neosho children home with nutrition over the weekends. Place your donations in the west nook of the foyer.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *Learn Obedience*
 (Hebrews 5:7-9, Danny Boggs)
 P.M. Lads to Leaders

Our week at Green Valley Bible Camp is only 68 days away! Register at greenvalleybiblecamp.com. Whoever gets the most friends to come to camp with them will get a cash award of \$123.03!



Men's Breakfast: Join us this Thursday at 7:00 at Braum's for breakfast and fellowship.

The **Senior Saints** will meet this Saturday at noon in the fellowship room for food, fun, and fellowship. Join us!



Our **Lads to Leaders** participants will demonstrate their progress this Sunday night. Don't miss it!

Upcoming Area Events:

- The Anderson church of Christ will host a gospel meeting with John Johnson April 9-12. We will take the van from Hillcrest at 6:30 Monday.
- 26th and Connecticut church of Christ is celebrating 50 years of serving the Lord in Joplin, MO, April 9-12. Former preachers and current preachers and song leaders will guide worship during these four days. We will take the van from Hillcrest at 6:15 Tuesday.
- The ladies at the Pea Ridge church of Christ will host a Ladies' Day and breakfast this Saturday beginning at 8:30. Please look at the bulletin board for more details.
- The ladies at the Fordland church of Christ invite all ladies to their 5th Annual Ladies Retreat on April 22, with guest speaker Donna Faughn.
- The ladies at the Aurora church of Christ invite all ladies to their Ladies' Day on April 22 from 9:30-noon. Lunch will be served.

Neosho Christian School will host a yard sale this Friday and Saturday. If you have items to donate, please drop them off by Thursday afternoon.



Neosho Christian School invites you to their annual Benefit Banquet on April 22. Hors d'oeuvres and silent auction

begin at 5 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. This year's guest speaker is Anderson Maestri, educator, author, and public speaker. See the invitation posted for more details.



every ONE counts! Remember to give an extra dollar every Sunday to help someone in need.

ASSIGNMENTS	
Prayers Sunday, April 9	Scripture Reading Sunday, April 9
•AM Opening: Casey Flint	•Galatians 3:25-29, Pete Babb
•AM Closing: Miles Wolgamott	Prayers Wednesday, April 12
•PM Opening: Jared Thomas	•Opening: Jackson Collinsworth
•PM Closing: Zechariah Anderson	•Closing: Sam Collinsworth

RECORDS	04-02-17	04-03-16
Bible Study	149	151
AM Worship	200	193
PM Worship	148	141
Wednesday	114	134
Contribution	\$9,613.86	\$8,442.70
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67