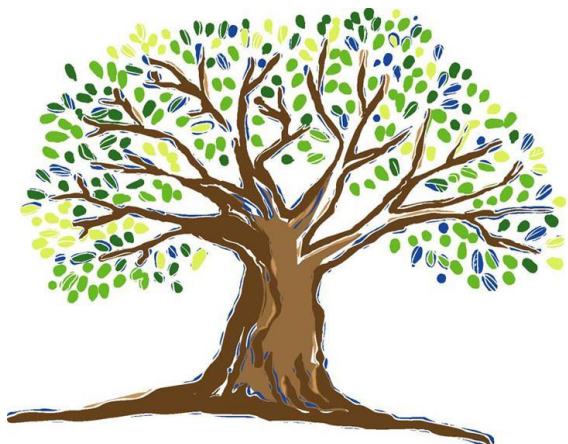


## God's Amazing Power



Several years ago a giant tree stood on the banks of the Awash River, in an arid valley about two hours southeast of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It stood there for generations, seemingly eternal.

In times of terrible famine the people in the surrounding district looked to the tree for help. Believing that a spirit gave the tree divine powers, they worshipped the towering giant. When rain eventually came, they gave credit to the tree.

World Vision began a development project there, including an irrigation system. But even as they labored to build the system, the tree presided over the community, enslaving the people with fear. The idolatrous tree was a huge barrier to the entrance of Christ's kingdom and transformation of the community. World Vision staff began to pray and claim what Jesus said, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this ... tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you" (Luke 17:6).

Soon the whole community knew the Christians were praying about the tree. Six months later the tree began to dry up. Then its leafy foliage disappeared. Finally, it collapsed like a stricken giant into the river.

The people of the community were astonished, proclaiming, "Your God has done this! Your God has dried up the tree!" In the days and weeks afterwards, approximately 100 members of that community received Jesus Christ because they saw His power displayed in answer to the Christians' prayers.

### Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Feb. 26

5:15 p.m. – Movin' Up

Sunday, Mar. 1

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service

### Teacher Schedule

Mar. 1, 2020

#### **Nursery**

Evalyn Fate/ Sydney Collins

#### **Kids' Time**

Ruth Ann Monroe /  
Chris McFarren

#### **LOL**

Remain in Service

### Stewardship Report

Feb. 23, 2020

Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	\$10,679.00
Missions	255.00
Building/Maint Fund	230.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,164.00</b>

## Parent Meeting

The Christian Education Board would like to meet with parents of all of our church youth on Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the church dining room. The job description for the new youth pastor will be presented at the meeting. Board members will be asking one parent to serve on the Search Committee and will ask all parents for their support for the new program. Please make every effort to attend.

## Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Our Bible Study will begin on Monday, March 16 at 1:00 p.m. We will continue in the book "Thirty-one Proverbs to Light Your Path." We will begin with numbers 13 & 14. If you need a book, please let Debbie know as soon as possible so she can order one for you. If you weren't with us for the first part, but would like to start, it is no problem as each Proverb stands alone.

## Update on Chas Isch

After three weeks in the hospital, Chas returned back to their hotel on Monday afternoon. Hopefully in another couple of weeks they will head back to Indiana. Please continue to pray for his full recovery.

## Why No Ashes at FBC?

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which is observed primarily in catholic churches, orthodox churches, and churches that follow a liturgical calendar. On Ash Wednesday the priest places ashes on the foreheads of congregants to begin a season of repentance called Lent. This time of penitence ends with Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

As a general rule most Baptist churches have not historically observed Ash Wednesday. And the season of Lent is only periodically emphasized within our faith tradition. Why? We believe that through justification followers of Jesus can already stand confident in the righteousness of Jesus. In sanctification we daily and continually renounce sin and turn wholeheartedly to God, and not just during a special season of the year.

However, most Christians cheerfully join together at the empty tomb to celebrate the resurrection of our LORD. Jesus died, was buried, and three days later came back to life. Any person who places his or her faith in Jesus alone, will be forgiven and receive the gift of eternal life.

# Dealing with Demons

Followers of Jesus are commonly encouraged to pursue prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and evangelism. All of these are valuable disciplines. Yet believers are rarely taught about the importance of regular, definite resistance to demonic influence and attack. We are taught sub-normal Christian life. The New Testament cannot be read carefully without there emerging a clear call to resist Satan and defend against his evil schemes for our downfall. Four truths put us on track to stand strong in the LORD and overcome these dark forces continually.

**Justification.** Believers are righteous in God's sight because we have received the righteousness of Jesus. Our confidence is never based on our own virtue or morality. We can be confident before "the accuser of the brethren" because we stand in the perfect righteousness of Christ. God gives Christians permission to stand courageously against Satan based on the righteousness of the Savior; the righteousness of Christ has been granted to us through our union with Him.

**Sanctification.** Every believer is making progress in actual holiness in our daily lives. This means living under God's call to become more and more like Jesus. This calling is not a major hassle because we're simply becoming who God intended us to be. Our growth is exactly what Satan is fighting against. There is no way he can pull to pieces a believer who is rooted in holiness and securely grounded in the righteousness of Christ. Christians experience a progressive deliverance from sin as we abide or remain in Jesus. Moment by moment the Savior guides us to turn away from sin and self and turn wholeheartedly toward God and toward serving others.

**The Indwelling Holy Spirit.** We can do none of the work of sanctification in our strength. God the Holy Spirit comes to live inside followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit immediately begins to help believers become more spiritually mature through teaching, guiding, motivating, and equipping. When Satan tries to tempt or dismantle Spirit-filled believers, he quickly finds himself fighting against the all-powerful Creator dwelling in us. Our role is simply to submit to the LORD and resist the devil. Scripture makes clear that Satan and his agents eventually find no other option but to flee away (James 4:7).

**Authority in Spiritual Conflict.** "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3:8). Since we are joined to Christ, this is our work as well. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus (Matt. 28:18). We are called on, through spiritual union with Him, to accept and use that authority in spiritual battle. Someone has said that believers are like a police officer stopping traffic with a hand gesture. It's not power that stops the traffic (no policeman could physically impede an oncoming truck). Rather, it's authority – in this example, the authority of the state. Christians command demonic agents to leave our lives based on the authority of Christ and not based on our own personal power.

Standing with you,

Les



202 West Cherry Street  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714



## Help People Follow Jesus

[fbcbluffton.com](http://fbcbluffton.com)

### First Baptist Church

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260-824-1558

[firstbaptist@adamswells.com](mailto:firstbaptist@adamswells.com)



First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell

Cell phone: 260-273-9073

### This Sunday

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

**10:15 a.m. – Worship Service**