

# The Seed

Edited by Stacie Thomas



Word of Light  
Community Church

## Note from the Editor:

Did you catch the theme again? Did you? Because it was blatantly obvious. Um, hello... are we ever going to get that this world, this life, us... is not about us?!?!

The message was about 'uncaging' your heart. You got that, right? And it was a semi-end cap to the Noah series and VBS we had... (You know, where the flood happened because the people of this world had become so hard-hearted that God wanted to start over, using Noah, the only one left with love in his heart for God). Satan waged war, beginning with an apple, and still continues today. His sole purpose is to steal our hearts; to take us away, as far away from God as possible. (In reality, even a little bit of our heart stolen is too far away).

But do you remember the end of the Noah series last week where Doug discussed the difference between the raven and the dove? (I hope so- he even mentioned it at the beginning of this message). The raven (disgusting, death-devouring, broody bird) and the dove (pure, faithful, peaceful bird)... ringing a bell? Doug challenged us to let go of our ravenous (see what I did there? Ha-ha!) ways—letting go of the sin (death) we live with, and welcoming the new life God wants us to enjoy—with Him.

Did you ever notice that fancy-schmancy weddings release doves after the marriage ceremony, representing love and commitment, and unity in the journey of a lifetime together? And many funeral and memorials release doves as a symbol of our eternal soul returning 'Home'. (Interestingly enough- often the release is of a 'Spirit Dove' followed by a flock of 'Angel Doves' that escort it Home)

Militarily speaking, doves are a symbol of peace, with historical reference to communication (war (homing) pigeons: rock doves: messengers). In Christianity, doves represent the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16, Luke 3:22). (Side note: Doves mate for life and are loyal to each other, work together to build their nest and raise their young. Egyptians view the dove as 'quiet innocence'. The Chinese see it as a symbol of peace and long life. Greeks and Romans claimed it represented love, devotion and care for a family.)

Are you catching any of this? Through communication with the Holy Spirit (our Messenger), our loyal life/soul-mate (unity) will work with us to build our lives (nest) and raise our children. When truly filled with Him, we are filled with peace (quiet innocence), can have a long (eternal) life, filled from His Love and Devotion.

It's our commitment in love on this journey (life) unified with Christ being led home by our soul. In essence, open the cage and let the dove fly free...towards God, and away from Satan.

**WORD OF LIGHT COMMUNITY CHURCH • PO BOX 256 • CULLODEN, WV 25510**

**[www.wordoflightcc.com](http://www.wordoflightcc.com)**

**Pastor Doug Doss**

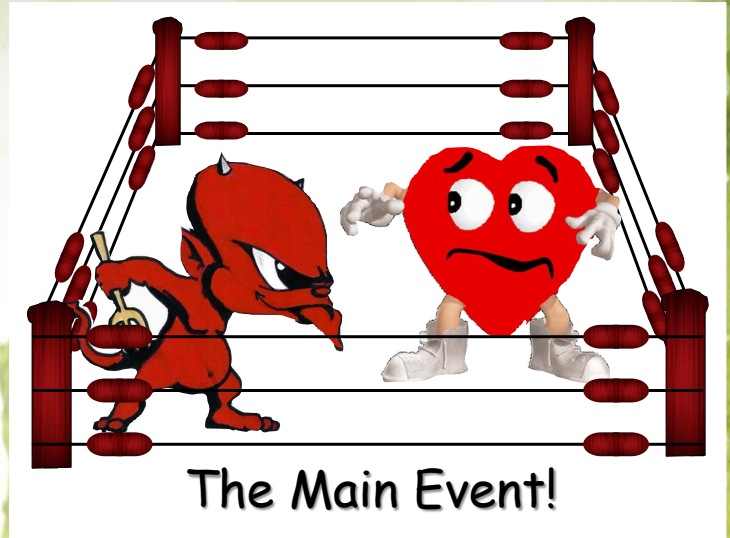


### The Main Event: The Cage Match

Our church compares our Christian Walk to being in a full-scale 'war' because it is a literal and accurate comparison. The problem is that most of us aren't aware of the level on which the war is fought or what the true objective of the enemy really is in your life. We see what the enemy wants us to see and don't realize that the real world (the real war) is going on behind what we perceive. Every war is fought with a common goal between the enemies- there is something that is so valuable that each side is willing to sacrifice almost anything to obtain or protect it. Unfortunately, as Christians, we rarely realize what the war is waged over- and if you don't recognize what the enemy is after, it's hard to create the proper defense.

Jesus compares the strategies of Himself versus Satan in the midst of war: John 10:10. If Satan succeeds in stealing, killing and destroying in the physical world- does that claim victory for him? Luke 12:4, Matthew 6:31-32: Jesus is clear that these aren't the things we are to battle over. He says we aren't to give these things worry or thought. So- what does He consider important enough for us to take up arms over? What is this battle really about? Matthew 5:8, Matthew 6:21, Matthew 12:34-35, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 22:37, Ezekiel 36:26: it is so clear, and yet we miss it so often. Satan has come to steal our hearts, kill our hopes and destroy our souls. Christ died on the cross- to pay for our hearts. If we lose the battle for our hearts- all is lost in the war. We say we know this- but we don't view life this way: we end up with depression, unforgiveness, broken families or divorce, wasted time, wasted resources, wasted lives.

Jesus' purpose in war: John 10:10- He doesn't mean when we get to Heaven: He wants you to have a full life now—which means serving Him, seeing Him work, feeling His love and power, hearing His voice: in general, letting your heart be one with His- now. You must realize this! Your heart being in the right condition now is what makes every day real living. It makes every relationship good or bad; every situation a joy or a burden. Too many of us have lost the war and are being robbed of the joy that Christ meant for us to have because our hearts have been taken as Prisoners of War. It's possible to serve God and have a captive heart, losing the joy of serving, missing the reason for serving, not reaping the joy and relationship with Christ as you serve: getting swallowed up in life... John 15:9-12<sup>1</sup>: if we want to stand in the middle and surround ourselves in Christ's love we have to keep His commands- separate ourselves from all that would steal our hearts. This is the core reason for sanctification- to abide in His love. Only then can we find full joy. When we realize that life is a war, and our hearts are the objective of the enemy, and understand that everything that Satan throws at us is for the sole purpose of controlling or defeating our hearts- life begins to make more sense. You can't get so focused on the decoys of life that the real goal is overlooked. When your heart is caged- you're missing the

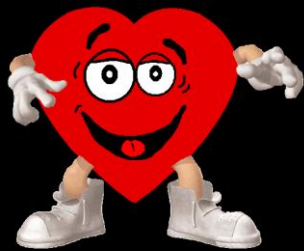


<sup>1</sup> Abide means to "surround yourself" with or "stand in the middle of"



### Your Life Is Not About:

Getting even...  
 Being right...  
 Winning the argument...  
 Getting the most...  
 Being the best...  
 Looking the finest...  
 Being liked...  
 Walking sinless...  
 Living perfect...  
 Experiencing happiness & pleasure!



Are You Ready...



Or is Your Heart  
Caged?

Jehovah-Mekaddishkem

"The Lord Is Our Sanctifier"

abundant life you could have, you're hurting yourself and others and you're unable to do anything of value for God.

How you view and treat your spouse, children and others in life, how easily you are rattled, upset or overwhelmed in times of trouble is a big clue to your heart with God. Do you feel that your relationships are all about getting your way, looking the most justified or intelligent, winning the argument? At the expense of your children, happiness, ministry, marriage? Do you have bitterness, disrespect or anger towards others when dealing with coworkers, friends or even the church family? Do you find that the things of God get in your way? Put a damper on what you want to be doing, what you choose to do with your life, how you think things should be—you even put God second in your ministry. Do you find yourself doing what you know you shouldn't do? Seeing or hearing the truth over and over and continue to do what you feel like doing? Do you see sin in life and refuse to deal with it, feeling guilty for a little while and then go on with life? Are you right where you were last time a sermon made you feel bad about that same sin problem that you never dealt with then either? It's not a question of 'will'—but what, and how often, something will cage your heart. We must walk ever ready to defend our hearts because Satan doesn't quit. Sometimes we can lose our heart just for hours or days—sometimes for months or years—because we don't even recognize the real prize is taken. Christ wants you to take a good look at your heart right now and not let another minute go when you can't hear Him sing. Remember: Your life is not about: getting even, being right, winning the argument, getting the most, being the best, looking the finest, being likes, walking sinless, living perfect or experiencing pleasure; it's about keeping your heart from the enemy. You protect your heart by knowing that loving God and others is more important than all else and recognizing that everything else is worth letting go of or losing completely in order to accomplish this! Relax in trust knowing that if we do this—He will be faithful to do the rest. Quit worrying over and trying to do God's job.

We need to follow God's commands to set ourselves apart to truly live differently from the world, to guard our hearts as the object of the war and keep them for Him only. If we continue to remain a part of this world, as many of us do, there will come a time that you can't hear the call or song from Christ anymore because your heart has been captured while in the world and when you quit listening altogether, Scripture says that God will eventually stop trying to sing to you anymore. Romans 1:28.

HT COMMUNITY CHURCH

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**John 10:10 (NLT)**

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

**Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)**

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

**Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)**

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

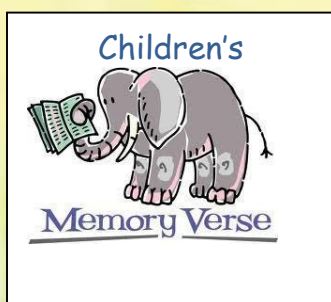
**John 15:9-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**Romans 1:28 (NCV)**

... So God left them and allowed them to have their own worthless thinking and to do things

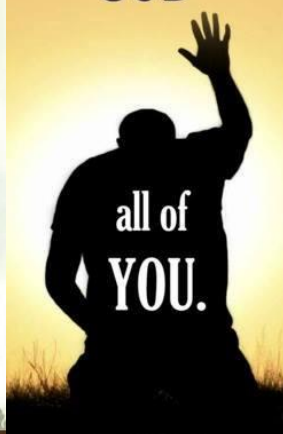
To submit pieces for publication to or for questions regarding The Seed, please contact Stacie Thomas: [info@wordoflightcc.com](mailto:info@wordoflightcc.com)

**Children's Church:**

**"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." 1 John 5:7 KJV**

**There's no  
greater act of  
WORSHIP**

**than giving  
GOD**





## August Birthdays

- 1- Matthew Morgan
- 4- Ayden Blankenship
- 6- Lipas Hicks
- 17- David Morgan Jr.
- 24- Jennifer Romine
- 27- Caleb Kinser
- 31- Courtney Massey

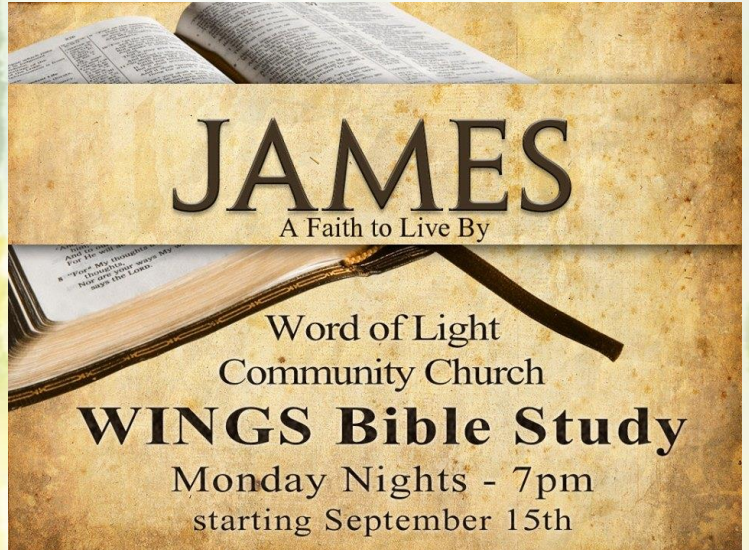
## August Anniversaries

- 10- Chris & Angel Yanero

## August Events

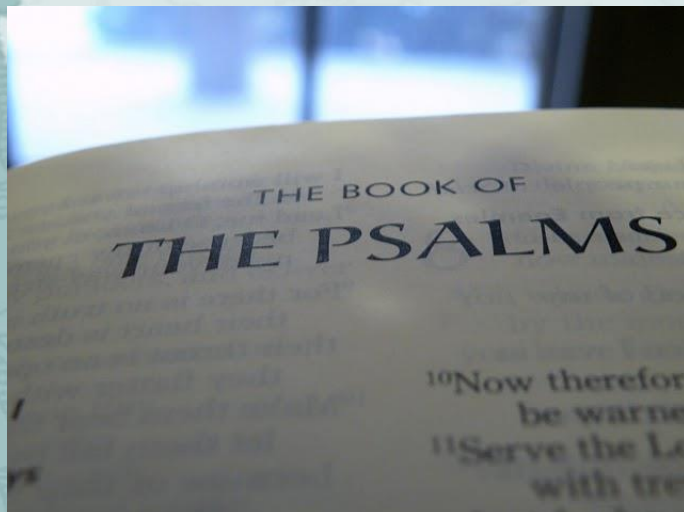
- 3- VBS Blowout Party: 3:15 Pump Up the Fun, Barboursville
- 9- FLOCK Pool Party
- 17- Fellowship Lunch

**\*Don't forget to bring food pantry items on Sunday**



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**P.A.C.T.** (Prayer Accountability Commitment Trust)  
(9:30am Sundays) Adult Sunday School class



PACT resumes studying the book of Psalms; looking at the Hebrew writing styles, the authors, and the many purposes of the Psalms. The Psalms give us everything from prophecy, to history, to learning how to worship, to learning how to pray, to learning righteous living, to learning expressions of every heartfelt emotion to God!

Next Chapter: 43 & 44- Read ahead & be prepared to discuss!



## MINISTRIES:



*The Women's Bible Study meets every Monday evenings at 7:00.*

**W.I.N.G.S.** (Women In Need of God's Strength)  
 Women's Bible Study (Every Monday 7:00pm)  
 All women aged 18 and over are invited to join the ladies with unique bible studies. They are on hiatus until late September when they will begin studying the book of James.

<http://www.wordoflightcc.com/women.html>

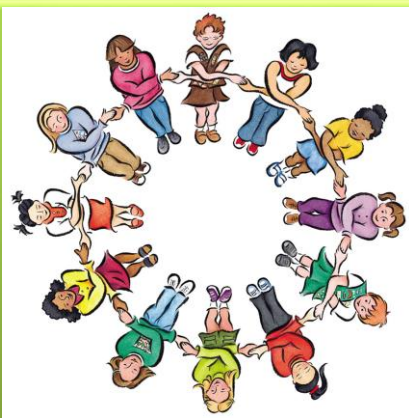
For information regarding the group, please see Ginny Blankenship.



*The Youth Group meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Wednesday evenings at 6:30.*

**The F.L.O.C.K.** (Faith, Love and Obedience to Christ the King) Uth Group (Sundays 10:30am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm)

Youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to join in the activities of our Youth Group, focusing on the core values of the Christian Church: Fellowship, Missions, Worship, Evangelism and Teaching.



*Children's Sunday School meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Children's Church during the sermon.*

**Children:** Sunday School and Children's Church- boys and girls in kindergarten through sixth grade. The goal of these classes is to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

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Pastor Doug Doss





### West Side Story Project

As you've probably heard by now, our Church has taken the step in purchasing land that came upon us during our Church-wide fasting... With donations and our savings included, we now have a total of over \$50,000 towards our building and land fund goal. Our goal to buy the land outright and start the ground breaking

**HAS BEEN REACHED!!!!**

*Won't you join us in our Building Pledge Drive!?!?!?  
We've reached our goal to start- but we need your help to keep it going!*

**KEEP PRAYING FOR THE BUILDING!**

<http://wordoflightcc.com/WSSP.html>

**\$50,000**

**\$25,000**

**\$0**

Looking for a previous version of The Seed? Find it on the website along with its' corresponding sermon link- Now you can catch up on any sermons you missed, or review them when you need it. <http://www.wordoflightcc.com/nLarchive>



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Community Church

2276 US Route 60  
PO Box 256  
Culloden, WV 25510

### **SERVICE TIMES**

#### **Sunday**

Sunday School-9:30 a.m.  
Worship-10:45 a.m.

#### **Wednesday**

Adult Service-7:00 p.m.  
FLOCK Uth Service-6:30 p.m.

