

Pastor Phil & Rhonda Willingham



Heartland Christian Center

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Greetings Friends;

Someone wrote to me asking, “How do you stay strong, hold onto faith when life presents you with challenges?” It is a question many people struggle with; myself included. When “stuff” happens it is difficult to hang onto the belief that this too shall pass and everything will be okay. I wish I could say I possessed a magic wand which would make all the bad things better, or disappear, but I don’t. All I can offer is a few humble words that may help you through the process.

The reason some people walk through the storms and some get blown away by them is due to a few things:

First, strong people aren’t those who hold onto pride and wait the storm out, courageous people are those who allow themselves to be vulnerable and ask for help.

Second, faith is not an illusion that God will make everything better but a belief that there is a reason for everything even if I may not be able to see it until the last breath.

Thirdly, we do not need to meditate like a Monk to hear the voice of God. You just have to find a quiet place and start a conversation. “Dear God, I cannot hold onto this hurt anymore so I am handing it over to you, not because I don’t care, but because I need to let go.” Sometimes all we need is someone to talk to and I guarantee even if you do not have a burning bush moment, God is listening.

The secret of David’s victory throughout his life was his tremendous confidence in God. No matter what happened, whether his enemies came against him to devour his flesh or armies arose to war against him, he was absolutely confident in the Lord.

Psalm 27:1-3 *“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.”*

The Bible consistently teaches that God’s people need not fear. That is why I have reservations about a teaching that imparts fear to God’s people. In Proverbs 3:23-26 we find another beautiful picture of confidence. *“Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; for the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught. Verse 26 tells us where to find confidence: “The LORD will be your confidence. He will keep your foot from being caught.”*

The Lord doesn’t change. He is always in control. He is never flustered. He never encounters an unexpected situation or emergency. He always has the answer. God is calling His people to return to Him, to find rest, and exercise confidence in Him. Those who reject God’s call to quietness, trust and confidence soon learn that their problems overwhelm them, regardless of their schemes of escape. While we may plan on the earthly level, God initiates on the heavenly level. That doesn’t mean it will not be worked out on earth, but we must be sure it originated in the heavenly realm.

We are aware that in all parts of the world, peace is threatened, and upheaval and uncertainty rule the day. Yet beyond this, we as Christ followers and Kingdom builders have a King who has a plan and an answer for our particular situation; He will be our refuge in the time of the storm. The kingdom that He rules is unshakable, and the foundation we build on cannot be moved. Those who make the Lord their confidence can appropriate for themselves the promises given in Proverbs 3:23–26 *“I will walk safely in my way. When I lie down, I will not be afraid. I will not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes. The Lord will be my confidence.”*

God cares for us and wants us to have great confidence in Him. He gives power to those that wait upon Him. When we wait upon Him with confidence we will have great joy and happiness. We need to keep a watch on our heart and soul so as to not allow unbelief, selfish pride, and foolishness to overcome us. God wants us to know that if we try to do things in our own strength, we shall fail. It is only as we have our hearts and desires set on God that we will see the victory and overcome.

I know that God will take us through all difficulties, allowing us to grasp the prize of our high calling as we have our hearts and our hopes set on Him. He will renew our strength. Great is our confidence when upon Him we trust.

Join us each week at HCC as we move forward in our walk of faith and see God do great and mighty things!

Blessed,

Pastor Phil & Rhonda

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TWO GREAT PRESENTATIONS ON INTELLIGENT DESIGN

Ben Stein



No
Intelligence
Allowed

Big science
has expelled smart new ideas
from the classroom
...

What they forgot is that
every generation has its **Rebel!**

Coming to Heartland

March 22

6:00 p.m.

Premise Media Corporation Presents a Rampant Films Production "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed"

Creation vs. Evolution

with Creation Science
expert Malachi King



**Saturday & Sunday
March 28 & 29**

**Heartland
Christian Center**

170 S State Rd 49, Valparaiso

Mar 28 6pm The Origin of Life

Mar 29 10am Made in the Image of God

Mar 29 6pm FAQ Creation vs. Evolution