

A New Hiding Place

2 Samuel 22:1-33

We seek through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.

In the past we used our addiction as a hiding place when life became overwhelming. Now that we are in recovery, life can at times feel even more overwhelming. We'll need a new place of refuge to escape the storms and find protection.

King David experienced many battles. He said of God: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. . . . I called on the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies. The waves of death overwhelmed me; floods of destruction swept over me. The grave wrapped its ropes around me; death laid a trap in my path. But in my distress I cried out to the LORD; yes, I cried to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry reached his ears. . . . He is a shield for all who look to him for protection. For who is God except the LORD? Who but our God is a solid rock? God is my strong fortress, and he makes my way perfect" (2 Samuel 22:2-7, 31-33).

There will always be times when we feel the need for a safe place, the need to run and hide. God can be that hiding place. When we were in distress, surrounded by "waves of death" in our old life of sin, we called to God for help. He heard our cries and brought us to a place of safety. He's always there, ready to shield and protect us whenever we call on him.

Know Our Limits

2 Samuel 21:16-17

Accepting our limitations is a critical mark of maturity. David acknowledged his diminishing physical strength and agreed to stay away from battle. Sometimes our pride will not allow us to admit our limitations, and we try to do things we are not capable of doing. We might think we are strong enough to persevere on our own in recovery, even in unsafe contexts. Such an attitude will only lead to a fall. We would be wise to follow David's example and admit there are certain things we cannot and should not try to do.

Praise God

2 Samuel 22:1

David had lived a fruitful life, full of service to God. He had certainly had his problems and his share of mistakes, but he had trusted God through them all. Here, near the end of his life, David still had a song for God, full of unabashed, authentic praise. No matter what we've been through in our lives, we need to regularly remember the victories God has given us and praise him for his healing love in guiding us through the recovery process.

God's Hand

2 Samuel 22:17-18

Through it all, David was able to recognize God's hand in his life. He knew that God had reached down taken hold of him and drawn him out of deep waters. Even at the end of his life he recognized his helplessness and Gog's sovereignty. Although this is one of the first requirements in recovery, it is something we should never forget.

Today's Service

997 O Come, All Ye Faithful
Prayer
1001 Hark the Herald Angels Sing
1002 Angels We Have Heard On High
1012 Go Tell it on the Mountain
1028 O Holy Night
995 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

996 O Little Town of Bethlehem
Lord's Supper
Collection
Lesson
1018 Joy to the World!
Prayer

Leadership

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Doug Barber – Worship		208-589-3674
Aaron Kays – Building & Grounds		505-879-4624
Daniâl King – Benevolence		208-970-5078
Les & Teresa Pope – Special Programs		208-524-0238

Supported Missionaries and Works

Glenn Langston - Blind Ministry	Nathan and Alvin Luther – Philippines	Caleb Odle - Arlington, Texas
Ghana West Africa Water Project		Cimi Kafexhiu - The Church in Durres, Albania

Most wonderful time spent at the West Yellowstone Rendezvous....hope more can join next year!



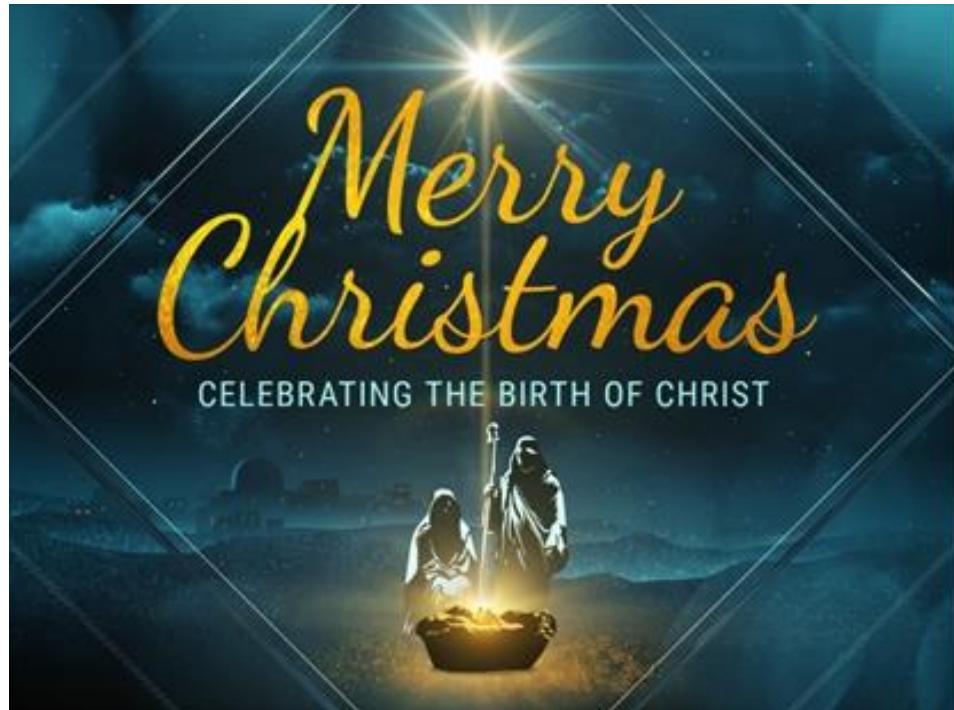
Calendar

Sunday	10:00 am	Bible Study	At the building and live stream
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship	At the building and live stream
Sunday	4:00 pm	Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus	At Pam & Rob's
Wednesday	10:30 am	Senior Breakfast	At Perkins Restaurant
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Bible Study	At the building

- Jan 14th Memorial Service for **Bonnie Borgstrom**, Barb's mother and Anna's grandmother.
- Jan 15th Memorial Service for **Marlene & John Young**.
- Mar 16-18th **Men's Retreat '23**: There will be a Men's Retreat at the Railroad Ranch Dormitory and Dining Hall in Island Park. The cost is \$35 per person which includes lodging and meals. This retreat is open to teens also. We will begin Thursday early evening and finish Saturday early afternoon. If you have any questions, please ask Andy.

Prayers and Praise

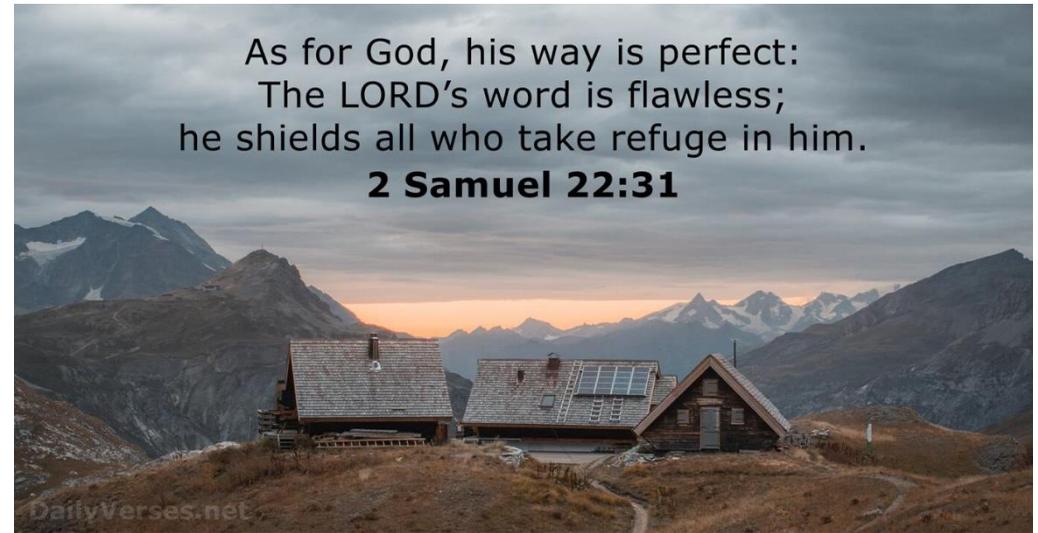
- Prayers for Brian Felushko, John's father, who is coping with undiagnosed pain.
- Prayers for Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- Prayers for continued healing for Kay's nephew Jeremy.
- Prayers for Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- Prayers for Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces.
- Prayers for our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, Millie & Carolyn.



The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

Welcome!

We're a bible-based congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls to praise and worship the one God and to support and encourage each other. All are welcome! Please join us in our worship services and classes.



Meditation for Today

Although unseen, the Lord is always near to those who believe in Him and trust Him and depend on Him for the strength to meet the challenges of life. Although veiled from mortal sight, the Higher Power is always available to us whenever we humbly ask for it. The feeling that God is with us should not depend on any passing mood of ours; we should try to be always conscious of His power and love in the background of our lives.

I pray that I may feel that God is not too far away to depend on for help. I pray that I may feel confident of His readiness to give me the power that I need.

Online Bulletin at <https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite/general-8>