

July 2020

# Our JOYFUL Noise

The Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Britton SD  
Pastor Donald Buck 605 551 9001; Mindi Buck 605 551 9005  
Church 605 448 2460



## The Bucks' Blog

"Give me liberty or give me death!"

A famous quote from a speech given to the Virginia Assembly in 1775 by Patrick Henry.

"They may take away our lives, but they'll never take our freedom!"

Another famous quote from William Wallace, Guardian of Scotland, who led the rebellion against King Edward I of England in July, 1298.

This month we celebrate and commemorate the fourth of July, 1776, and the signing of the Declaration of Independence that declares our freedom from England.

The Revolutionary War was fought for that freedom at a terrible price of treasure and blood.

Our spiritual freedom was also paid for by the greatest one of all, the spilt blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. All who have trusted Him for the forgiveness of sin and the cancelling of our sin penalty live in the freedom for which He died.

Liberty and freedom have been, down through the ages, the heart cry and battle cry of those who would sacrifice their very lives to be free from bondage and free to live their lives as they see it best.

The Puritans first came to America to have religious freedom from the King of England.

The Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Galatians is called the Magna Carta of the Church. It is called a short form of the Epistle to the Romans, the Constitution of the Church, or conversely, Romans is called the expanded version of the Epistle to the Galatians.

Galatians succinctly expresses the freedom and or liberty we have as Christians in the church.

However, spiritual freedom/liberty does not mean a Christian can do whatever they please. Too many "church people" have become notorious for their certainty, self-righteousness, pride, and willful harming of others with cutting words, and judgmental behavior.

Christian liberty/freedom releases a Christian to live a life of thanksgiving, peace, and love for the grace of God in Christ Jesus demonstrated for them.

The freedom/liberty we share is not a license to create personal legalistic rules and regimentation that we use to bring others into bondage. Far be it. We are freed to give the same grace and love to others that Christ has given to us. Those who try to take away the freedom/liberty of another with their self-righteous legalism, rules, and regimentation fail to understand that the main person they are harming is themselves. They have robbed themselves of the Christian freedom/liberty that has already been provided in Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate and commemorate our national freedoms and liberties on this fourth of July, let us all who name the name Christian renew our commitment to extend the freedom/liberty bought and paid for by Christ Jesus, first and foremost, to ourselves. Then, extend it with Christian love and grace to everyone we meet, especially those who also call themselves, Christian. And may we keep this mantra ever utmost in our minds and behavior: "Do No Harm".

Blessings on your holiday. Be safe and be healthy.

--- Donald & Mindi

# 4 Ways to Pray When You're Angry

When your feelings are overwhelming or feel out of control, the Bible offers a path to calmness.

by **Bob Hostetler** Posted in **How to Pray**, Jun 1, 2020, Guidepost



You might be one of those people who spout off when they're angry—you know, who just let the words fly even if you end up saying things you don't necessarily mean. On the other hand, you might be someone who holds your anger in. You might find it hard to form complete sentences—cohesive thoughts, even—when your temperature goes up. Wherever you find yourself on that spectrum, you may find it hard to pray when you're angry. Maybe because you're afraid to really tell God what you're feeling or thinking because, well, He might let loose with a lightning bolt or two. Or you may just not have the words to express your anger—and it takes words to pray, right? If the Bible is any kind of guide—and it is—then it's not only possible to pray when you're angry; it's apparently something worth doing. God's people in the past not only did it, but they recorded some of those prayers in scripture...and saved them for future generations! So what do the Bible's "angry" prayers teach us?

### 1) Let It Out

If God's praying people of the past are any kind of model, you can just let out what's really, truly in your heart and mind. God sees it and knows it already, so you might as well share it in prayer. Whether it's anger at yourself, circumstances, other people or even God, who better to vent to than the sovereign, omniscient God who created you and loves you? Let it out. Vent. For as long as it takes. Follow the example of David, who prayed:

All night long I flood my bed with weeping  
and drench my couch with tears.  
My eyes grow weak with sorrow;  
they fail because of all my foes (Psalm  
6:6-7, NIV).

### 2) Say What You're Afraid to Say

Judging from the psalmists' example, God values brutal honesty. He wants us to pray what's really in us, not what we think He wants to hear. So, go ahead and pray your anger. (It's hard to pray *through* your anger if you won't *express* your anger.) Maybe that's how we can understand the kind of emotion that caused psalmists to pray about an enemy, "May his children be fatherless," and "May a creditor seize all he has" (Psalm 109:9, 11, NIV).

Yes, those are some strong words. Emotional. Raw. And later in the psalm, the guy confesses, "I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me" (Psalm 109:22, NIV). No kidding. But trying to suppress or deny your emotions prevents you from working through them and finding compassion and forgiveness.

### 3) Trust the Holy Spirit to Interpret for You

The Apostle Paul wrote:

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God (Romans 8:26-27, NIV).

Sometimes, when I haven't been able to articulate my feelings to God, I've consciously called on the Holy Spirit to pray what I can't pray. And I believe He does. And He interprets those thoughts and emotions that are too deep—or convoluted—to find expression.

So, trust Him to make sense of even your deepest pain.

### 4) Return to What You Know After Expressing What You Feel

We are thinking creatures and feeling creatures. And sometimes feelings short-circuit thoughts. In that case, we may need to express the emotions, giving voice to the feeling side of our brains in order to remember and express truth from the thinking side of our brains. I think we can see that happening over and over in the "angry psalms" of the Bible. For example, in Psalm 70, David is clearly angry and hurting:

Hasten, O God, to save me;  
come quickly, Lord, to help me.  
May those who want to take my life  
be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin  
be turned back in disgrace.  
May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"  
turn back because of their shame  
(Psalm 70:1-3, NIV).

Because a psalm is a song, I wonder if David sang those verses more than once—many times, perhaps—before he finished his prayer:

But may all who seek You  
rejoice and be glad in You;  
may those who long for Your saving help  
always say,  
"The Lord is great!"  
But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
come quickly to me, O God.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
Lord, do not delay (Psalm 70:4-5, NIV).

It's okay to pray about your anger. Like David and other psalmists, you might even sing it (using a loud electric guitar, perhaps). And you'll probably find, when you've thoroughly expressed what you're feeling, you'll be in a better place to pray the things you know to be true.





## Session Notes:

- Session met on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Bill Tisher died April 1, 2020.
- Jace Paulson was baptized.
- Last day of live stream – May 22
- May 24<sup>th</sup> at Fort Sisseton (cancelled)
- Old Facebook page deleted.
- Church in sanctuary will resume on May 31<sup>st</sup> with social distancing and communion with self-contained elements.
- Confirmation classes will resume in the fall.
- Session approved a debit card for the pastor.
- Giving tab on the website.
- Approved the Pastor getting a Master's degree in Psychology.
- Plans to use the committees more in the future.
- Next meeting June 16<sup>th</sup> – Session voted to adjourn.

## Session Met on June 16<sup>th</sup>

- Approved changing communion from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup>, with group 2 serving, because of the holidays.
- Confirmation classes will begin when school starts. Plans are to hold classes on Sunday with time to be determined.
- Pastor and Mindi have been in contact with members of the church by phone or stopping in to see them.
- Lance will preach June 28<sup>th</sup>, with Norma Jarrett as liturgist.
- Church needs a policy manual, manual on church equipment, and an update on church bylaws.
- Discussed church services that are live streamed. Some had comments on volume and other noises.
- Next meeting will be July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.



## What is a Presbyterian?

Suppose four people came walking down the street, a Roman Catholic, a Methodist, a Presbyterian, and a Baptist. *Question:* How could you tell which person was the Presbyterian? *Answer:* You couldn't.

Presbyterians look pretty much like everyone else. We are a church of much diversity in background, race, age, and culture. Traditionally, however, Presbyterians have exhibited certain characteristics.

A European monarch once said, "I'd rather face ten thousand bowmen armed with spear and arrow than one Presbyterian armed with predestination and providence."

Predestination has nothing to do with fatalism, but refers to the assurance that God's mercy and forgiveness are gracious gifts. Our salvation depends on God's grace, not on our works, and thus cannot be lost. Providence refers to the assurance that we and all creation are under God's watchful care.

The net result of holding these assurances has often been to make Presbyterians literally fearless. Death has no fear for us, (we are in God's hands). Life has no fear for us, (God watches over us). The powers of evil and oppression have no fear for us,

(God is with us). Thus freed from anxiety about salvation, Presbyterians are freed for living life in the world before God, honoring God in all things, combating evil and oppression with confidence and hope. The motive for Presbyterian's worship and action in the world is not the effort to win salvation; that is God's gift. The motivation for worship and action is gratitude for God's grace shown in Jesus Christ. Presbyterians confess Christ as Lord and believe in their hearts that God raised him from the dead. They view Christ as the true Word of God and delight in the Bible as the holy witness to that Word.

Presbyterians have a strong need for God. They have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ but also have an abiding sense of being the community of God's covenant people. God comes close to us in Jesus Christ, but Presbyterians never lose sight of the fact that God is GOD!, the awesome, powerful, holy Creator of the universe, worthy of our worship, devotion and obedience.

In times past when Presbyterians arrived in a new place, they would usually build a church, a school, and a hospital, in that order. The right worship of God is paramount; education is necessary so that we may serve the world in God's name; as Jesus came healing, so do we bind up the wounds of the world.

The European monarch mentioned above had nothing to fear from the Presbyterians as long as he ruled justly and did not oppress the poor. If he did violate God's intention for justice and care, then he had much to fear. Presbyterians believe that God's care

extends to every corner of creation. We are stewards of that care; we are ambassadors for Christ, preaching good news, yes, but also opposing injustice, oppression, and evil wherever we find it. A Presbyterian can be very active in the world in God's name. This is what Presbyterians mean by "mission." Because God cares about all parts of society and every nation and people in the world, so do we. Mission is local, national, and worldwide, but it is the same mission: bringing the good news to all creation.

A Presbyterian thinks about his or her faith, wants to understand worship; reads the newspaper and reflects upon the meaning of God for the world. From time to time, Presbyterians write down what they believe in a formal statement called a "confession." This does not replace Scripture; it is meant to interpret Scripture for a particular time. Scripture always remains primary.

One other thing about Presbyterians: When they have a policy or an action to consider, they pray, talk, talk, talk, and then they vote. Presbyterians probably take more votes than any other religious group. Lay and clergy votes count just the same. The Holy Spirit lives in individuals but works through the community. Presbyterians do not think alike and may disagree on any given issue. Sometimes being a Presbyterian may come down to this: thinking hard on a certain issue; advocating a certain policy or action; losing the vote yet continuing faithful support and life in the church.

Above all, Presbyterians have a passionate love for God in Christ Jesus, and a heart-filled Holy Spirit love for all people.



Please remember that the church is counting on your gifts, pledges and assistance during these trying times, so as you are able, please forward your gifts to: PO Box 127, Britton, SD 57430.

You may also give your gifts by going to our web site and hitting the giving button which will take you to the site for setting up your profile to make a one-time gift or a repeating gift to First Presbyterian Church Britton.

That's at [fpcbritton.com](http://fpcbritton.com).

Check it out!!!

### NOTICE!

Due to Covid-19 concerns, it is uncertain whether there will be another rummage sale this fall.

Therefore, the PWC women would like to ask that **no items be brought to the church for resale at this time.**



Our first Sunday back in the sanctuary was a sparse one, due to covid-19 concerns, but some are beginning to feel more safety in the methods used. As you can see, social distancing has been made easy, and temps are taken at the door. Warren Symens provided the music for the first service.

Welcome back!!!!



First Presbyterian Church  
804 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Box 127, Phone: 605 448 2460  
Pastor Donald Buck 605 551 9001  
Mindi Buck 605 551 9005  
[fpcbritton.com](http://fpcbritton.com)

Pastoral Appointments  
Monday thru Thursday  
10:00 – 4:00