



Sticking it Out  
Through Hard  
Relationships

NorthRidge Church

Pastor Paul Myers

May 17, 2026

Holiness grows ONLY in a \_\_\_\_\_

### The Letter to Philemon

1) Attention to: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Attention to: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Attention to: \_\_\_\_\_

### So What ...

1) If God has planted you somewhere, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

a. You have a responsibility \_\_\_\_\_

2) Primary Focus: \_\_\_\_\_

a. Messiness is needed to ...

i. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Community is needed to ... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Passages to consider

- o Romans 5:1-11
- o Colossians 3:1-17
- o James 1:2-4
- o Matthew 20:25-28

## Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

“Unanswered” Prayers? PERSERVERE!

Let me tell you a story...a true story which reminds us of many truths.

NOTE: Names have been changed to protect privacy.

(Ruth) has an adult son (Nathan) who was involved with drugs. He left home and made no contact for years. Ruth searched but without a phone number or address, the search was fruitless. Ruth prayed fervently, asking the Lord to bring Nathan back, to break his strongholds, and to draw him to his Father God. The grieving mom posted Nathan’s picture on FB asking, “Where are you?” Ruth knew God’s truths, but lack of evidence of God’s working and her emotions constantly drained her faith. “How long, O Lord?” Ruth recently got word that Nathan had been in detox since November. For 6 months Ruth had been struggling with despair not realizing the Lord was already answering her prayers in powerful ways. Nathan is now in an Opportunity House. We’re praising the Lord for answered prayers! How many times are we like this precious mother...praying fervently yet despairing because we don’t see evidence of answered prayers! Here are some lessons Ruth and Nathan’s story can teach us.

- When we don’t see evidence of the Lord working, we must CHOOSE to remember: The Lord is always at work even when we don’t see the evidence! John 5:17; John 16:8-9
- Just as Ruth didn’t stop praying, we must persevere. Luke 18:1
- Just as Ruth rejoiced at her son’s return, there is joy in heaven when one sinner repents. Ruth’s joy helps me visualize the rejoicing in heaven when someone turns to the Lord. Wow...Luke 15:7-10
- Just as Ruth battled despondency, grief, and doubts by taking her thoughts captive, we must do the same! 2 Corinthians 10:5
- Scripture tells us no one draws near to the Lord unless He draws them. We are called to PRAY for this to happen in the lives of many! John 6:44
- Ruth had no power to change her son’s heart. It’s the Lord and He alone who writes His principles on hearts making it so we have a genuine desire to follow His principles. This is the only way there will be lasting change. PRAY! Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 10:16



Holiness grows ONLY in a **messy community**

### The Letter to Philemon

- 1) Attention to: **His own spiritual development**
- 2) Attention to: **Onesimus' Humanity**
- 3) Attention to: **Leadership**

### So What ...

- 1) If God has planted you somewhere, **you're meant to be there**
  - c. You have a responsibility **opportunity where you are**
- 3) Primary Focus: **our own Spiritual Development**
  - a. Messiness is needed to...
    - i. **Show us sin**
    - b. Community is needed to ... **provide practice for newly developed convictions.**

Passages to consider

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