

The Channel flowing from...



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Rivers of Living Water Cathedral

December 2025

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A Want or a Need?

Rev. Julia Schwert

We hear it all the time, “I **want** this!” We hear it especially at this time of year from our children or grandchildren. We may even ask them, “What do you **want** for Christmas?” When we are on a tight budget, we may respond to their requests by saying, “You want it, but do you really need it?” Of course, that is when they try to persuade us that they really want it and cannot live without it. How many times have you or I said to God, “I **want** xyz.” And, if we don’t get what we think we want we get upset with Him. Let’s see what happened to a few people in the Bible when they wanted something. Did they get what they wanted?

In Acts 3:3-6 Peter and John were asked for money from a man who was unable to walk. He had been carried every day of his life, and as he got older someone started carrying him to the temple to ask people for money. He probably discovered that he received more money there because people were on their way to worship God. He **wanted money** so he could buy food and other things necessary to survive. How else was he going to get these things? He was unable to work; therefore, he **wanted** money. Some people gave him money; others did not. Peter looked at him and said, “Silver and gold I do not have.” He was saying, “We don’t have any money.” This was God saying, “No” to what the man wanted. But wait!

God knew what he needed to live. Peter went on and said, “But what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene begin now to walk and go on walking!” The man jumped up and began walking. Others recognized him as the person who sat begging for coins at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. He always **wanted** them to give him money. But **money was not what he needed**.

Let’s briefly look at God’s chosen people, the Israelites. In I Samuel 8:6 Israel said, “Give us a king to judge and rule over us.” The people of God **wanted** a king like all the other nations. God wasn’t happy with them, but He loved them; so, He gave them what they **wanted** – King Saul. This is recorded in I Samuel 9:16-17. However, this was not God’s plan from the beginning of time. He wanted to dwell among the people! He wanted to live **WITH** them and **IN** them! Isaiah prophesied of a virgin conceiving, bearing a son, and naming him Immanuel (which means ‘God with us.’) – Isaiah 7:14

Many, many years passed after Isaiah prophesied. The people kept looking for this promised king. Then Matthew, a former tax collector and a follower of Jesus, revealed the mystery of Isaiah in Matthew 1:18-25. The virgin’s name was finally revealed! Her name was Mary. She conceived, brought forth a son, and called him Jesus because He was to save His people from their sins. Again, Luke recorded in 1:26-33 that Gabriel, an angel from God, was sent to a virgin named Mary. He told her she was highly favored, and the Lord was blessing her with a son who would be named Jesus. Gabriel went on to tell Mary that Jesus would be great, would be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God would give unto him the throne of his father David. He was to reign over the house of Jacob for ever and his kingdom would never end.

Wait!! The **people wanted a king** to rule over them. What did God do? **God sent them a baby!** God knew **they needed a Savior** who would save the people from their sins. They **needed** deliverance from the bondages of sin that had kept them separated from the goodness of God. They **needed** healing in their broken spirit that would place them back into right relationship with the Father. They **needed** healing in their minds which were tormented by evil. They **needed** healing in their physical bodies that only the Creator could fix. They **needed**

healing in their soul: their thoughts, emotions, and actions. They **needed** God to pick them up out of the mess they had made and create a new, abundant life for them.

When we ask God for something, we are really asking Him for what we **want**. When we don't get it, we think God either doesn't like us or He is saying, 'No.' In reality, God is saying, "I hear your request. I hear **what you want**, but that is not **what you NEED**. Remember, His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. His ways are higher than our ways. His way is the best! The beggar **wanted** money. God knew he **needed** healing so he would never have to beg again.

Israel **wanted** a King in the natural – God gave them Baby Jesus to show us how to live in the Kingdom of God here upon the earth. They **wanted** a king. God knew they **needed** to become a new creation and reign as a king! Revelation 5:9-10 – "And they sang a new song [of glorious redemption], saying, 'Worthy *and* deserving are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slain (sacrificed), and with Your blood You purchased *people* for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom [of royal subjects] and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.'" God was saying to Israel, 'You **want** a king, but you **need** to be the king reigning over your circumstances.'

Rivers of Living Water Service Times

Sunday

Beginning at 9:30 – Intercessory Prayer
10 a.m. – Morning Worship

Wednesday

11 a.m. – Intercessory Prayer
6:30 p.m. – Bible Foundation



Feed **your** Soul
every week.



Post Your Prayer Request on the Cross

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers." I Peter 3:12



Our PayPal account info?

- An easy way to e-mail us?
- Our messages preached at Rivers?

You can easily link to any of the above by going to our website: **rolwohio.com**

Happy Birthday
God bless you always.

December 1 – Pastor Natalie Dagg
Santisha Jones

25 – Jacobus Bouillon

31 – Alexander (Keith) Dukes

HAPPY Anniversary

December 15 Deacon Charles & Rita Foster

NOTICE!

Want to submit something to the Channel so **everyone is informed** about what your department is doing, would like to share some good news, or know of someone who has passed away? Please fill out a yellow form and give it to Cathy Sewell by **Sun., December 21.**

CHURCH NEWS



Sisters in Christ
Saturday, December 20,
4 P.M.

Christmas celebration,
there will be finger food,
games, & karaoke. Come
and join us bring a snack,
a friend, and anticipate
on having fun.



Inclement
Weather
Policy



Pastor Stephen & Pastor Natalie Dagg will determine if it is necessary to **cancel a scheduled church service**, meetings, or Bible Foundation class, you will be **notified through the following**:

- TV Channels 11, 13, & 24 or
- By checking our Digital Church Directory app. or
- If the sheriff has declared a level 3, cancellation is automatic.
- Please use your own discretion when traveling in inclement weather because we want you **SAFE!**

It won't be long until you won't find be able to find paper calendars anymore. Their days are numbered.



The oldest computer was owned by Adam & Eve. It was an apple with very little memory. Just one byte and everything crashed.



The devil wouldn't be attacking you so hard if there wasn't something holy inside you.

Thieves don't break into empty homes!



Kroger's Community Rewards blessed us with a donation **\$25.77** which came from **12** households linked to our church from **Aug. 1 to Oct 31, 2025**



- If you would like pictures of the **25th Anniversary Banquet**. Please bring a USB 2.0 flash drive, so you can get a copy of all the pictures. Give your flash drive to Rev. Julia Schwert.
- If you are interested in being involved in **Servant Life**, we need **Ushers**. Please see Pastor Natalie Dagg.
- **January 18, 2026**, will be our **Annual Business Meeting** for all church members following our Sunday morning service. In case of inclement weather, it will be held the following Sunday.
- A **Christmas musical** program directed by D. Greg Fox will be celebrated at **2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14**, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 135 Adams Street in **Port Clinton**. Greg's program will feature the Voices of Freedom Choir, a youth choir, with a narration from the gospel of Luke. This is a community-wide event and **ALL** are welcomed. Following the Christian musical program, there will be refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall at TUMC for everyone.
- New kitchen appliances were included in our kitchen remodel. Therefore, if anyone needs a fridge, gas stove, or microwave please contact Pastor Stephen Dagg.



Take the 'Faith Towel Challenge'

Submitted by Evangelist Drenediea Haywood

It's a God thing, not a worldly thing. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

- 1) Get 2 towels (an old one and a new one)
- 2) Take the **OLD** towel, put it in a baggie along with a letter. In the letter, write down in faith all the old issues of your old self, problems that cause you anxiety, depression, or fear that make you want to '**throw in the towel**' and give up. You must have faith and believe that they will be left behind in 2025. When you throw that old towel away and burn that first letter, [Remember, FAITH without WORKS IS DEAD], believe and have faith that the old things have passed away are and gone on 12/31/25.
- 3) Take the **NEW** towel, put it in a baggie along with a Prayer Request Letter. In this letter write down what you have faith and are believing King God to do for you in 2026 – until. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Not unto man!) – Philippians 4:6
- 4) Place both baggies on the altar at church or on your shelf at home. On 12/31/25, your faith shall be tested. Put your faith to work, **throw out that OLD towel** and have faith and believe when you **burn that letter**, old things, old attitudes, pride, and habits will pass away, be gone, and left behind in 2025 in Jesus Name.
- 5) On 12/31/25, get your baggie with the **NEW** towel and Prayer Request Letter off the altar at church and take it home. Put your faith to work in 2026 – until. Pray, fast, trust, believe, and have faith over that Prayer Request Letter that King God can and will make the impossible possible in EVERY area of your life. Let's make our prayer requests known to King God daily (not unto man).
- 6) In the month of **July 2026**, take your Prayer Request Letter out of the baggie to see what King God has done for you in 7 months. Your faith will be tested! Put your faith to work! Keep making your prayer requests known to King God (not unto man) and thank Him for what He is doing in your life. 'Make known his deeds among the people.' – Psalm 105:1

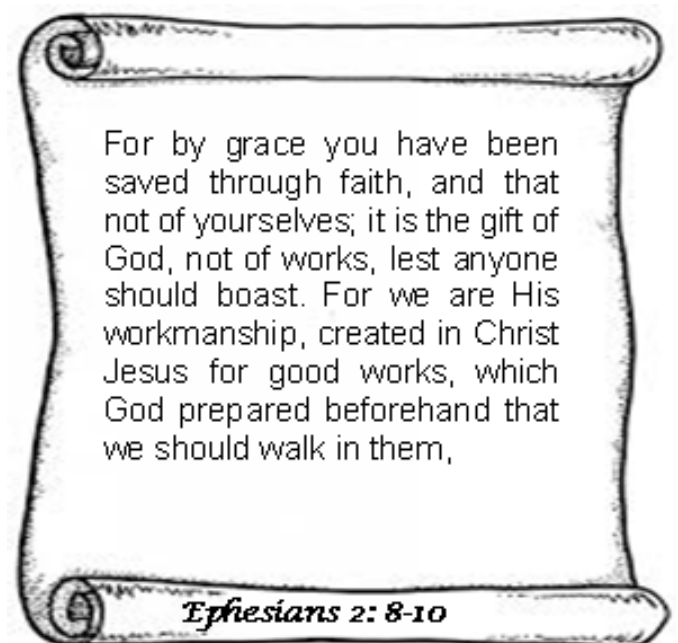
- 7) "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing. Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert." – Isaiah 43:19

Put 'your' faith to work and **TAKE** the 'Faith Towel Challenge!'

**Truly, if the Lord said it be done,
'Let' it be done!**

Submitted by Candie DeLaCruz

Just like our bodies having "**Muscle Memory**" for heartache or sore muscles, it tries to remember the pain to not let trauma happen again. Jesus doesn't want our traumas to be remembered in our bodies. **Nor for our bodies** to search for the bracing of it **or** to safeguard us from it happening again; whatever the trauma is. I truly believe He who is in Heaven (Jesus and God the Father) can help **shift** the "**Muscle Memory**" from trauma to being **Memory of His Healing Touch** not the brace of trauma impact.



For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them,

Ephesians 2: 8-10