



August, 2017

FROM PASTOR CHAMBERS: What an incredible summer we have had this year at Spring Hill Baptist Church! Looking at our attendance we were up in June by 20 people (ave.) from 2016; in July we were up by 16 people (ave.) from 2016! We are still seeing on ave 2 visitors per Sunday! We praise the Lord for our guests as well as those who are faithfully attending! Thank you all for being friendly and continue to be "guest friendly" and pray for these people as they visit as well as pray for each other as God continues to move us forward. As August is here and we are preparing for fall, I want to encourage our church family to do two things. First of all, if you lead a ministry and as you are taking this month to plan your activities for the fall, please look at the church calendar in the church office or on the webpage at shbcwv.com for availability and please call the church office so that we can get those dates on the calendar and announced. Secondly, we need help in several areas in the church as it concerns our ministries. We need more nursery workers, we need a few more AWANA workers, we need more workers to help with our Good News Club ministry at Bridgeview Elementary this school year, we need more help with the younger children in Junior church on Sunday morning, we need more ushers. Please be in prayer to see what areas in which you can serve. If you would like to help with any of our youth ministries, according to our church policy, you will need to be a member and have a background check in order to minister to minors in our church. I want to make this an opportunity that if you have been attending for a while and would like to join our church as a member, please see me or a deacon and we can walk you through the steps toward membership. It is incredible to see the Lord work through our church sending people our way! Just remember that as more people come to our church, the more help we must have because more needs are revealed. Please be in prayer that the Lord will place the right people in the right positions so we can continue to grow and move forward for the Lord!

HAPPY 97TH BIRTHDAY SPRING HILL BAPTIST CHURCH!

On Thursday, August 5, 1920, a small group of people met to organize the First Baptist Church of Spring Hill, WV led by Rev. J.C. Woodrum as moderator. A Church Covenant and Rules of Order were read and adopted, followed by the election of a clerk and three trustees. 17 people agreed to the church covenant and enrolled themselves as charter members. After the enrollment of the charter members, the clerk was authorized to notify 5 surrounding churches to send their pastor and two deacons to sit in council later in the month to effect a permanent organization.

On Sunday, August 29, 1920 at 11:00 am the planned meeting was held and the clerk was authorized to write the officers of the Kanawha Valley Association stating the actions of the body, followed by a short sermon from Rev. W.A. Cadle. The First Baptist Church of Spring Hill was officially organized in August of 1920.



On Friday, January 21, 1921, Rev. J.C. Woodrum was unanimously chosen as the first pastor. On motion it was decided to purchase the "Maurin Lots 11 & 12 Block 4 B & B addition." This original deed to the church property which would be dated February 2, 1921 covered 2 lots of land on the corner of what is now Ohio and Vine streets, where the church sits today.

This is just a sample of the original advisory council minutes of the first few years of what is now Spring Hill Baptist Church. 97 years and 13 pastors later, praise the Lord that our church is still alive, some of the original buildings are still standing and well maintained, and the Lord has been faithful to us. We can praise the Lord for His constant watch care over our church. There have been many trials but many blessings. God has and WILL always be faithful. May this church continue to bring glory to Jesus Christ through our lives and witness until He comes again! (*Full history of Spring Hill Baptist Church available on the website www.shbcwv.com/about-us/history/*)

IDENTIFYING AND "CASTING DOWN" OUR NEGATIVE THOUGHTS: Think about the difference between two birds: a vulture and a hummingbird. Vultures soar high in the sky, looking and searching. What does a vulture find? Dead things. The ugly oversized bird doesn't stop until he finds lifeless, rotting road kill. Contrast the vulture to the tiny hummingbird. With wings flapping twenty beats a second, what does this small bird find? Not dead things and disgusting rancid meat, but instead, sweet, life-giving nectar. Daily, each bird finds what he is looking for. The same is true for you. You can be on a road-kill diet or you can find nectar in each day. It's up to you, because you will find what you search for. If you want to find things to be negative about or to worry about, it is not hard to do. If you plan to be critical, you don't have to look far to find fault. If you choose to be negative, you'll easily accomplish your goal. But if you want to see the good in life, you can find it everywhere. If you choose to watch for places God is working, you'll see his loving presence each place you look. If you decide to look for hope, faith, and a better future, you will discover these positive things and more countless times a day. Decide the destination of your mind. Any time your mind drifts toward dangerous thoughts, stop. Grab those runaway thoughts. Do whatever it takes to get the trash out of your mind. From my study of God's Word, my own experiences, as well as the shared experiences of others, I've identified four specific "negative thoughts" that can poison our minds...

1. **Pessimism** - which usually produces chronically negative thoughts. Take a minute to survey your thought life. Do you battle with chronically negative thoughts about yourself, others, or life in general? Or perhaps you are often overwhelmed with too much to do. While you might actually have a lot on your plate, your negative thoughts only compound the problem. It could be that your negative thought patterns tend to surface in more mundane areas of life.
2. **Anxiety** - which usually manifests as fearful and worried thoughts. A close cousin to negative thinking is fearful thinking. You may even be able to quote the verse that says, "God has not given us a spirit of fear," even while your thought life is haunted by a host of fearful spirits. Like a lot of people, you might be consumed with **economic fears**. Or you might be overwhelmed with **relational fears**, whether it is your spouse, your friends, or your children or grandchildren. Even when you know it's irrational, you still find yourself riding a bullet train of worry all the way to the last stop at "high anxiety."
3. **Bitterness** - which pollutes our thinking with discontented and envious thoughts. Although most people alive today are more blessed than anyone in the history of the world, it is still so easy to be consumed with discontent.
4. **Criticism** - which pumps destructive judgmental thoughts into our minds. Perhaps without even knowing it, you are consumed with criticizing anything that crosses your path. You can find fault with people, buildings, companies, churches, today's lunch menu, or anything else you encounter.

Pause for a moment. Think about your thoughts. Be brutally honest. Ask yourself - Do you battle with negative thoughts about yourself, other people, or life in general? Are you often consumed with fearful, worrisome thoughts, putting your faith in bad things happening rather than good? Do you find yourself discontented, always wishing life were different or better? Are you occasionally or often critical, finding something wrong with a lot of people, places, or things? If you answered yes to one or more of the previous questions, your life is being infected by toxic thoughts. You are losing the battle of the mind. It's time to fight to win. After you take a good hard look, jump in and do the following to these thoughts...

1. **Flag it** - If there's anything you think that God would find unholy and displeasing, flag it. Negative, fearful, discontented, critical thoughts are not allowed or tolerated. They are your prisoners. You are not theirs.
2. **Replace it** - Once you have identified toxic thoughts, it's time to take action and replace the lies with truth. In Philippians 4:7-8, Paul said, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and your minds through Christ Jesus" (4:7). As you meditate on God, he will protect your mind. Furthermore, you will be filled with what you feast upon in your mind. As Paul explained it, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true ... honest ... just... pure ... lovely ... good report — if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things (Phil. 4:8). When you think "God thoughts," he will guard your mind with peace. Instead of meditating on poison, you will meditate on truth. You might not see an overnight change in your life, but if you direct your thoughts toward God, I promise you that over time your life will be more joyful and peace-filled than you can imagine. Once you acquire a taste for wholesome thoughts and godly thinking, your mental palate becomes more sensitive to the taste of poison.

There is a choice we all must make when we confront our thoughts. When we hear something that is not true, we first have to discern the lie. We might slow down to ask ourselves, Is this true? To answer, we might have to think, What does the Bible say about this? Once we determine that the thought is not from God, we have to determine what is from God. Then we choose to think the godlike thoughts instead. Romans 12:2 says, "**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the RENEWING OF YOUR MIND...**" To renew our minds means that we restore, renovate, and make them better than new. If you want to live a clean thought life in a polluted world, you must remove the seeds of poison from within. Practice taking every thought captive. Ask God to identify and help remove the life-draining ideas and images from your mind. Fill your thoughts with his truth and the beauty of his goodness. Renew your mind and watch your faith grow in ways that will astound you...

CHURCH EVENTS FOR AUGUST: Remember the official "church calendar" is located in the church office. **Also we have revamped the church website and you can also find the church calendar as well as the nursery schedule on the website.** (www.shbcwv.com) Every announcement in the bulletin for Sunday comes from the calendar. If you lead a ministry and desire to plan an activity not yet on the calendar and need it announced for Sunday, please let us know by **Friday morning** so that it can be announced in the bulletin each week.

Sunday, August 6 - Lord's Supper - pm service

Monday, August 7 - Advisory Council Meeting - 7 pm

Sunday, August 13 - Tim Pauley speaking - am service; John Koster speaking pm service

Wednesday, August 16 - Tim Pauley speaking - pm service

Sunday, August 20 - Tim Pauley speaking - am service; John Koster speaking pm service

Monday, August 28 - Ladies Bible Study - Fellowship Hall - 7-8:30 pm



*Youth Group and Kid's Group on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm throughout the summer months

*Choir Rehearsal 5:45 pm on Sunday evenings through the rest of Summer
