



Barnabas Ministries
www.banabasohio.com

The Paraklete

A Publication of Barnabas Ministries

Office: 740-250-4937 • Email: preacherman1971@twc.com

Volume 25 • Issue 3 • May-June 2026

Denny Dawes, Director
1146 Kent Street
Portsmouth, OH 45662



Pause With Dawes

By Denny Dawes
Director, Barnabas Ministries

Spring has finally arrived and now the work of planting flowers and gardens begins. Probably many of you have already begun this work. I am amazed at the abundance of weed preventative products that are available. One method that Joan and I used several years ago was to put the black paper on the ground with the intention of keeping weeds growing through it. That worked for a very little time but soon the weeds were growing faster than the flowers we had planted. This year we pulled up all of the plants and the black paper and the weeds and we started again.



Weeds are plenteous aren't they? I remembered that even Jonah, when he was in the depths of the sea, was surrounded by weeds – Jonah 2:5 – *The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped*

around my head. If Jonah could not escape the weeds even in the depths of the sea, there is no way I can escape weeds in my yard and garden.

Jesus told the parable of the weeds. It is found in Matthew 13:24-30. In this parable Jesus says an enemy sowed weeds among the good seed of wheat a man had sown in his field. We are told this weed is 'darnel'. It resembles wheat during the early growing stages and this similarity makes it difficult to distinguish until the fruit appears. We can recall that in the parable the servants

wanted to pull up the weeds, but the owner of the field told them to wait until the harvest and then the weeds can be separated from the good wheat.

The disciples were a bit slow in understanding the parable and so Jesus explained it to them. His explanation is found in Matthew 13:36-43. The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man (Jesus Christ). The field is the world. The good seed are the people of the kingdom of God. The bad seed are the people of the evil one. The enemy who sowed the weeds is the devil. At the end of the world the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire.

It is not our task to pull up the weeds. This is the work of Christ at the judgment. It is our task to grow where we are planted. It is our job to get rid of the weeds that are growing in our lives. The apostle Paul gives us this instruction – Colossians 3:5,8-10 – *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ... But now you must also rid yourself of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in the image of its Creator.* This is calling for a thorough, constant cleaning of our lives. We cannot leave any room for those practices that were what we used to do in the old life before Christ.

Let us rid ourselves of the old nature and be filled with the new nature of Jesus Christ. And, Happy Gardening to you!



February 8-11, 2027





Dots & Dashes From Danny

By Danny Evans
Associate, Trustee With Barnabas Ministries

Have you ever wondered how God put the Bible together. How did He choose the writers of each book, how many books would there be, what He would inspire each writer to write? I realize we are dealing with God, the all-knowing, all-seeing creator of the universe. God is the perfect Father of all. I am amazed and thankful that God wrote down all we need to know in order to be a child of His. The gospel plan is written in terms we can all understand and follow.



Being a follower is something I wonder if we truly grasp what it is. In Luke 9 Jesus had many following Him but I think a lot of those following Him were doing so because He had just fed them and He was healing people so they

followed Him. I wonder how many follow Jesus today because of what they think they can get from Jesus rather than serving Him to show their love. Today do we have followers or admiring fans of Jesus?

Again, in Luke 9 Jesus gives His very vital instructions of what a follower should do and what they should look like. Followership

is an identity not a function. In verse 23 Jesus says what to do if you want to be a follower.

First, there has to be a desire, you have to want to be His disciple, a learner, a student of Jesus.

Second, there must be a denial. One must deny himself, he must make a personal surrender of personal will and selfish desires to prioritize God's purposes. Remember how Peter denied Jesus when he said he didn't know him? That is what we must do—we must deny we know ourselves and we pursue God's will.

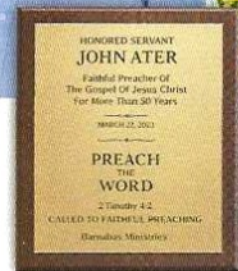
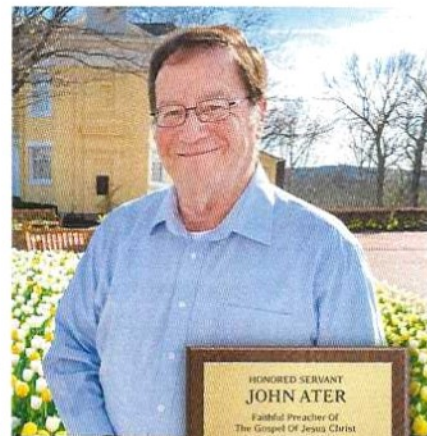
Third, we have to take up our cross. All of us have a cross, we just have to realize it. A cross means there has to be sacrifice. We must be willing to be rejected, hurt, even face death for Christ. We picture crosses today as some sort of ornament or a piece of jewelry, but to the people of Jesus' day they knew exactly what a cross was.

Fourth, we have to do this daily. Luke is the only gospel writer that included the word **daily** but I am glad he did. If that was not included in scripture then we might think we could do this when it is convenient for us. This is a persistent, ongoing commitment that we have to keep. It isn't a one-time action but something we have to do every day. Then Jesus concludes by saying we have to follow Him. It is a constant shadowing of Him. We make Him Lord of our lives and we want to be with Him and no one else.

“It is an honor and privilege to be a disciple of Christ. He died a cruel death so we could have life, but we have to make the choice daily to follow, not just every now and then.”



Recently we were pleased to present the **HONORED SERVANT AWARD** to John Ater. John Ater is from Washington C.H., Ohio. He is a Timothy of South Side Church of Christ in Washington C.H. He is a graduate of Kentucky Christian University. John has been a faithful preacher of the gospel for more than 50 years. He preached at Brilliant, Ohio for 14 years. His most recent ministry was with Dutch Fork Christian Church in Pennsylvania. John is blessed with and greatly supported by his wife Diana. We are thankful to John and Diana for their service and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Sadly, John is dealing with some health issues and we encourage your prayers for him and Diana.





Learning With Larry

By Larry Boggs
Trustee With Barnabas Ministries

What is God's will for your life?

A lot of people treat God's will like a hidden treasure map, which is hard to find and mysterious. But when we open God's word, He makes it very clear what His will is for our lives. However, I don't suggest you try doing what one man did by playing the old Bible roulette method, that's where you flip your Bible open and you pick the first verse you point to. He did that one time and the very first verse was, "Judas went out and hanged himself." Panicked, he tried it again. The next verse he pointed to was, "go and do likewise." And then one more time he pointed to another scripture, and it says, "what you do, do quickly."



There are many scriptures that help us to know what God's will is for our lives. Romans 12:2 – *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

The verse that is a bit troubling is Matthew 7:21 – *Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

So how do we know if we're in God's will? Someone may ask me when did you know it was God's will for you to preach? The answer is, it's not. If I believe that preaching is God's will for my life, then what happens if I'm in a car accident? And my vocal cords are destroyed and I can't speak. Or if my brain is injured and I can't write sermons, does that mean that I've missed God's will for my life? No, I don't think so, because I believe God's plan for our life is not necessarily a career path, but rather His plan for our life is to capture our heart and be completely devoted to Jesus Christ.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Paul says God's will is to – *Be joyful always; Pray continually; Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* These verses sound like something that would be almost impossible for me to accomplish, and that is so true. That's why we need to build a relationship with Jesus. And only through His power that lives in us can we ever accomplish His will for our lives.

We must remember that we don't see God's will for our life from beginning to end, but must take each step of faith one at a time. People want to know God's will like a road map. They want to see the beginning to the end. But I think God gives us more like a flashlight, so he can help us to see that next step that we take by faith. And that next step is always to be rejoicing, praying and giving thanks in all circumstances. For this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.



A man always included in his public prayers, "Lord, clean all the cobwebs out of my life". Every time he was called on for prayer in the church service, he would pray this. Everyone knew what he was going to say and pretty much when he would say it in his prayer. The time came when he was called on for prayer and as always, he prayed, "Lord, clean all the cobwebs out of my life". It was then that a man spoke up and said, "Don't do it Lord. Kill the spider instead."

When your mother asks "Do you want a piece of advice?" It is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no – you're going to get it anyway. – Erma Bombeck

Be a **JONATHAN!** Strengthen a friend.
Be an **ELISHA!** Stay when it is hard!
Be a **BARNABAS!** Lift someone higher

– Deacon Davis, age 13, at 2026 Winter Worship Workshop

Denny Dawes
ON THE ROAD...



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

July 18-19 • Cape Fear Christian Church, Wilmington, NC



Barnabas Ministries
www.barnabasohio.com

Barnabas Ministries is:
A Ministry of Encouragement

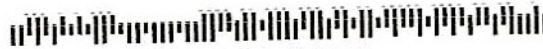
A Ministry Standing on the
Word of God

A Ministry Equipping for
Service, Counseling and
Support, and Faith Building.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portsmouth, OH
45662
Permit #110

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



SEBRING CHURCH OF CHRIST
636 PINE LAKE RD
SEBRING OH 44672-1562

T00048
05/18/2026



ATTENTION!

With ever-increasing printing
and postage costs, we plan to
move *The Paraklete* to an
e-mailable publication.
Would you please send your
e-mail address to Denny Dawes at:
preacherman1971@twc.com

Barnabas Ministries



Doctrinal Statement

BIBLE:

the only inspired record of God's revelation to us

SIN:

the only thing standing between God and man

JESUS CHRIST:

The only perfect One who paid for sin

THE GOSPEL:

The only record of Jesus' life

SALVATION:

the only hope for sinful man

FAITH:

is only "saving faith: if it includes repentance,
confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God
and being baptized as did every convert after
the resurrection of Jesus.

What Barnabas Ministries Offers To You

• Seminars

- Marriage Enrichment
- Ministry of Angels
- Relationships / Conflicts
- Parenting
- Money Management
- Evangelism
- Holiness / Christian Growth
- Counseling Methods
- Teacher Training
- Fellowship of Joy (A fun evening of clean comedy)
- Encouragement Seminar 

• Retreats

- Men's Retreats
- Ministers Retreats
- Family Retreats
- Singles Retreats
- Leadership Retreats
- Church Growth Retreats

• Revival Meetings

• Supply Preaching

Connect with our team to
schedule any of these events



We encourage you to support Barnabas Ministries financially. All gifts are used to further the work of the kingdom and to encourage the brethren.