

Spring River Baptist Association
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Upcoming Events

July

17 – Executive Board Meeting, Purcell

August

September

4 – Labor Day (office closed)

October

9 – Annual Meeting, Forest Park

23-24 – Missouri Baptist Convention, Crossway Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

November

23 – Thanksgiving (office closed)

December

21-1 – Christmas Holiday (office closed)

SPRING RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Reminder

The Word of God is Powerful and Alive

Written by Kirk Baker

I am thankful our convention of churches bases every decision upon the Word of God. As one considers some of the decisions the Southern Baptist Convention must make, one would be in a constant state of confusion without God's word. The Word of God is inerrant and the sole authority we have to continue moving forward planting gospel seeds. Let me give you some reasons why I believe so deeply in this book.

The Word of God is God-breathed. Internally, 2 Timothy 3:16 states, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." God used mankind to pen His message about the prophets of old and the Son who saves for all eternity. This work was not their own inspiration, but God's living breath inspiring them to write the transforming work we call the Bible. Since God is the ultimate author, one must consider His character.

It is impossible for God to lie according to Hebrews 6:18. Furthermore, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Since God cannot lie and Jesus is the truth, we understand the scriptures that are without falsehood. Peter further confirms the Bible as inspired by the Holy Spirit: "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:19-21).

Concerning authority, one must return to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." The Word of God gives every believer the authority to correct, encourage, and prepare for the work God has planned. The Bible shows how to stand before God in righteousness. It also provides reproof and correction as we hold others accountable in Godliness.

Externally, over 100 Biblical figures can be documented from secular sources. Tacitus and Josephus were second-century historians who both attest to the life of Jesus Christ, more evidence that this book is true.

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Trail angels– written by Jon Smith

A meditation on hospitality...

READ: 1 Thessalonians 2:8

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Hebrews 13:1-2

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

THINK:

Sometimes called the Triple Crown of hiking, the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide, and Appalachian trails are iconic. Each is over two thousand miles long, and to finish one puts you on the short list of elite hikers even if you only spent a week or two each year over decades doing it. If you somehow accomplish the feat in one go, on the other hand, you are what is called a thru-hiker and people should probably just stare at you in awe when they see you. That said, hundreds of people every year add their names to the lists of individuals who have finished at least one of them. No one, however, does it alone. Thru hikes on the triple crown trails require assistance, sometimes organized and set up with friends and family, but just as often from 'trail angels.'

Trail angels are people who help weary, hungry, smelly, and dirty thru-hikers by offering food, shelter, showers, and other services when they are needed most. They are called angels because they help without expectation of reward or payment. It could be a person offering a one-time ride into town, or it could be someone who opens their home every day to hikers needing a shower or a place to send a resupply package for the next leg of their trip. You name it, trail angels can provide it and they do so purely out of the goodness of their hearts.

The key to being a trail angel is hospitality, a character trait that has a high value in the Christian life. It goes hand in hand with kindness, and leaves people on the receiving end feeling blessed and refreshed. It's an expression of brotherly love that anyone can practice, but is often neglected. Some people are hospitable by nature, but the good news is that anyone can get better at it, even you. All it takes is practice. All you have to do is try.

ASK:

What does being hospitable mean to you?
Can you remember a time when you were blessed unexpectedly by a stranger? How did it feel?
What is something you could do this week to be an unexpected blessing to someone else?

PRAY:

Heavenly Father, thank you for trail angels and the times in my life when I have been blessed unexpectedly by others. Thank you as well for the times I was blessed without knowing. I pray that you would inspire me this week to be unexpectedly hospitable to someone else. Nudge me, Lord, that I might be for someone else what others have been for me. You are the LORD who gives. Amen.

~Associational Staff~

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~Prayer Requests~

Pastorless Churches

Fellowship

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I am always encouraged when I read Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." It is God-breathed and alive for the benefit of the believer and the lost world.

Keep sowing seeds and honoring the Word of God!

Kirk

Pastor's Breakfast will start back
August 21st 8:30 am
At Spring River Baptist
Association

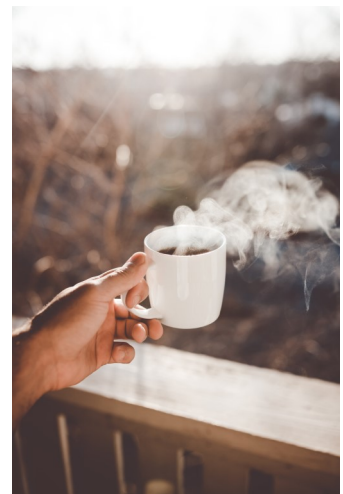


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Mark your Calendar
Annual Meeting
October 9th
Forest Park