



Walking in the Steps of Jesus

By Signe Godfrey

When I consider how to bless others, the Beatitudes provide a good place to start. They show us how God gives hope to those in need by assuring them that he will take care of them, from comforting those who mourn, to blessing those who are mocked and persecuted because they follow the Lord.

But beyond God's blessing, I believe the Beatitudes also give us a model for how we can bless others, as well.

As a professional mediator, being objective and balanced is very important to my work. Participants in a mediation often show strong emotions and extreme personality characteristics, so being objective as a mediator can be challenging. I pray a lot during mediation sessions, asking the Holy Spirit to be close to me and help me with judgment and humanity. And when I feel moved to bless a person, I do so silently.

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Be a Blessing

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. (Philippians 2:1-2)

We are sent and anointed by God to be a blessing to others. We are not here just for ourselves. God calls us to follow him, but also to be in covenant relationships with others.



When we open that door to those relationships, we become considerate and kind, even with people we don't like. We pray for our enemies. We look for the good in others. We become a quiet voice of reason for others in the middle of troubles. We help where we can help. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be a blessing by providing spiritual strength and guidance, while transforming us to serve others.

April Reflections: Pages 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

Letting God Lead

By JJ Borja

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:25)

I was up in the catwalk of a church, getting things ready for an upcoming conference. I was making sure the audio/visual was working well and everything was going to be pristine.

It was 7:00 p.m., and my wife asked me to do something with her that night. I said to myself, "Let me finish this for the conference first. It starts tomorrow," and in my high-achieving personality, this was the most important thing to do.

As I continued my work, I heard the Holy Spirit say: "You are not doing this for me."

"What do you mean?" I responded, "I'm setting this up so people will receive what the speakers say from you. Of course it's for you."

Mind you, I was a lot younger and still thought I knew better than God. The Holy Spirit responded, "But I didn't ask you to do this, and because of that, your wife cries to me because you are not with her."

That moment shifted how I approached ministry and caused me to reassess saying "yes" to everything. I wish I would have heeded the correction more deeply, because 10 years later, both my wife and I were burned out because I made the mistake of pulling her into ministry with me and not always asking the Holy Spirit for guidance.

It is important to seek God and make sure *that we know, that we know, that we know, that we know* God wants us involved in the thing(s) being asked of us. If not, we risk disobedience to him—although church culture many times celebrates being busy for the church. We should also be mindful of potentially sacrificing what God has us in covenant with before the church: our marriage and family. Letting him lead makes us the biggest blessing.

JJ Borja is WorkLight's communications director and a member of the Hawaii Chapter. He is an entrepreneur, former pastor, and community leader with over 30 years experience in business and 26 years of ministry experience.

PRAY

Lord, help us to seek your will in an effort to seek the elusive "work/life" balance so that we may serve you more fully.

REFLECT

Have you been disobedient to God? What was the outcome? What could you have done to change the outcome?

DISCUSS

Share about a time when you let God lead you in a direction that you did not consider and how that turned out.



Each One Reach One.

Join us as we prayerfully invite the next generation of Christ-followers into the transforming fellowship of WorkLight. Too often we hold back. We don't reach out. We choose comfort but miss spreading God's love. Seek out future WorkLight Igniters who need our support and encouragement to shine for Christ at work. Let's not wait any longer.

Invite an Igniter to your next Challenge Weekend or Chapter meeting today.

REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Gain from Pain

By Marty Anderson

No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:11, CSB)

Dave (not his real name) was always a hard worker, someone inclined to get everything done quickly. Yet his go-go persona had a deeper negative side. Although I was his leader, I didn't realize he'd been using alcohol excessively to cope.

On a solo work trip, he made some poor decisions which led to intoxication, rental cars being left exposed, and appointments missed. His choices and actions led to his immediate termination. While I can assume it was a very scary time for him, I know that it was the worst day of my long career

as a leader. How could this happen? Where did I fail? Was this my fault?

Guidance from a coworker who served as a leader in AA helped me appreciate the power addictions can have over a person. Yet, I was still concerned for Dave. Would he be able to find meaningful work again, overcome his addictions, and be a good husband and father?

Thankfully, a former colleague asked whether they should pursue Dave for a job. I encouraged them to meet with him and see where things went. Afterwards, I learned that Dave had confessed everything to them and he was seeking to turn things around in his life.

It has now been over 10 years later and Dave is thriving. He continues in his relationship with God and is an inspiration to others who want to turn their lives around. The moral of the story for me is the importance of being obedient even when it's hard.

God's plans are always greater than any I can imagine. Even when the immediate outcome looks bleak, we may just be a blessing to the person we think we're hurting.

Marty Anderson lives in Bloomington, Minnesota, with his wife Cecilia and enjoys contributing to WorkLight publications.

PRAY

Lord, help me to trust you and be obedient even when it hurts.

REFLECT

Is there a person or situation where you need to take action and stop avoiding?

DISCUSS

Share a situation you are facing where you need to obey and ask others for prayer.

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Listen Carefully

By Tom Petersen

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)

As Christians at work, we have a unique opportunity to share Jesus with coworkers. We can encourage those conversations when we make others feel seen and heard.

We can begin by truly seeing other people. I am always amazed how I can be so singularly focused on work problems and deadlines that I miss the people I work with.

Once we notice the people around us, we can learn about their needs by listening. Really listening.

I was talking to a colleague when she

shared that her husband's grandfather had died. She and her husband planned to drive home at the end of the week to attend the funeral services. I expressed sympathy. But as the conversation wound down, I asked in a sing-song voice, "So, any big plans for the weekend?" She sat stone-faced and said, "Well, aside from the funeral, no." I was mortified. It was yet another example of how I sometimes participate in work conversations without really hearing what is being said.

When we engage intentionally, we can go deeper. That can mean praying for people. Mostly, it means focusing on the people God puts in our lives.

The story of Philip in Acts Chapter 8 shows what personal ministry looks like. After serving the people of Samaria, Philip is miraculously transported to answer the questions of an Ethiopian eunuch, eventually baptizing him. This story reminds me that ministering to one person may be even more important than serving rooms full of people.

God wants us to tell his story to the people with whom we work. We can open the door to that conversation.

Tom Petersen is a former utility communications professional who writes on work and faith issues.

PRAY

Lord, reveal to me who in my circle of influence needs my attention and needs to hear your story.

REFLECT

When is it hard to pay attention to other people? How can you ask the Holy Spirit to help you be more attentive to others?

DISCUSS

What tactics do you use to engage with others at work? How are you a blessing to others?

Yes, And ...

By Nancy Huddleston

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

During my first day on the job, I sat down with the church director for what I thought was a standard onboarding meeting. As we finished, he asked me if I had plans for an upcoming weekend. I assumed it was a friendly question when I replied, "nothing in particular."

"Good, we've got an all-staff retreat planned," he replied, "I'll get you the information." Then he handed me a copy of *StrengthsFinder 2.0*, and said we'd be talking about it at the staff meeting ... in one hour.

At the meeting, I discovered that although everyone else was aware

of the retreat and had copies of *StrengthsFinder 2.0*, they also didn't know how both things fit together. The director met our "deer in the headlights" looks with a presentation that introduced us to the book and to his vision for the staff to implement what we were learning.

When his presentation ended, he smiled and left the room without saying another word. I was dumbfounded by the way he finished, but chalked it up to the fact that it was my first day. Then, one by one, my coworkers threw up their hands, expressing their universal confusion about the meeting and what we were supposed to do with the information. As we all contemplated what to do next, one person said: "yes, and ..." which helped us pivot away from criticism to acceptance.

After we completed our *StrengthsFinder 2.0* tests and read the book, we had a great retreat as we focused on how to bring what we learned to fruition. As a result, we came together as a team to become a collective blessing to the parish when the pastor faced a health

crisis that required all of us to step up in ways we never imagined.

Nancy Huddleston is the editor of The Flame and lives in Burnsville, Minnesota, with her husband, Mike. She can be reached at nancy.huddleston58@gmail.com.

PRAY

Lord, help us to calm our hearts in order to understand your plans for us so that we can fulfill your wishes

REFLECT

Has there ever been a time when you thought your boss missed the mark? How did you react to that situation?

DISCUSS

Share about a time when your expectations at work were wrong and in the end, you actually turned out to be a blessing for someone else.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

Joined in The Spirit

Prayer is woven into everything we do at WorkLight. Whether we work as a staff member, consultant, volunteer, or board member; we know our power lies in the Holy Spirit and not our own understanding.

Yet we are called to be the presence of Christ in our work. No one earned

this. No one deserves it. But by the grace of God we are invited to pursue it together.

There is great value in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. But being Christian doesn't stop there. We are called into authentic relationships with one another. Wise vulnerability. Brotherly and sisterly love. CommUnity in Christ.

It has been said that worshipping God is the purpose of human life. While moments of silent solitude and stillness are time well spent, so are seasons of hard work together for the Kingdom on Earth. We are not only called to believe. We are also called together to respond to what those beliefs mean. Together in Christ; our work can become a form of worship.

As we strive toward 26 Challenge Weekends in 2026, together we

can steward new brothers and sisters into the relationships that become the building blocks of God's Kingdom. Whether a Chapter or a Small Group, those relationships quickly become communities through the power and presence of Jesus. Hallelujah!

Who might God be placing on your heart to pray with and pursue as the next brother or sister to be a part of this movement of the Holy Spirit we call WorkLight? Let's get to work together.

With you in Christ,

Wes

Better than Good: I am Blessed!

By Keith Kerber



How many times a week are we asked, “How are you?” or “How’s it going?” It is a ubiquitous greeting, and the nearly as ubiquitous response is usually some form of, “I’m good/OK/fine/great/alright.”

Instead, what if “I am blessed” was the reply from those of us who are united with Christ and trying to live life in the Spirit?

Sometimes we don’t feel blessed when we are under a deadline, struggling to complete a project, having difficulty with a boss or coworker, or struggling with supervision of an employee. Are we still blessed?

When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount the very first word was

“Blessed.” “Blessed are those who ...” He follows with eight more “Blessed are you ...” phrases. Most of us read this passage in English translated from Greek. “Makarios” is the Greek word translated “blessed.” Its modern meaning might mean happy, fortunate, or favored. However, Jesus most likely would have been speaking Aramaic, deriving the word translated blessed from his Hebrew tradition as “baruch” and “ashrei.”

“Baruch” is first encountered in Genesis 1 when God blesses the fish and the birds on the fifth day, following his blessing with, “... be fruitful and multiply.” In the next few verses, after creating men and women God blesses (baruch) them with a charge or expectation that they will fill the Earth

and subdue it and rule over the fish and the birds. An even greater blessing. Baruch is an action verb. A blessing is being cast on us. God blessed you and me to be the most productive part of his creation. Isn’t that amazing?!

We first encounter the other Hebrew word translated blessed, ashrei, in Psalm 1: 2,3: “Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the law of the Lord.” “That person is like a tree planted by water ... that never withers ...” Instead of blessing being cast upon us, the blessing is observed in us.

When Jesus was on the mountain, he was speaking to outcast people: hired hands, slaves, fishermen, tax collectors, the sick, the inferior. He said, “I see you,” and observed that you are blessed (ashrei). I see that you are pure in heart, that you are meek, and that you show mercy. You are part of God’s Kingdom on Earth.

Responding with “I am blessed” reminds me that I am in God’s presence, that I am blessed, and moreover, that we should recognize that blessing is a call to seek out and actively bless others.

Keith C. Kerber, CFRE, M.Div., serves WorkLight as a philanthropy and fundraising consultant. He can be reached at keith@worklight.org.



Pay it Forward

As a steward of God’s creation, you can support the ongoing ministry of WorkLight through planned giving of cash, equity or property. Through a partnership with the National Christian Foundation, we can help take the complexity out of legacy gifts.

Help others shine bright with planned giving at WorkLight.org/legacy.

WORKLIGHT.

Me vs Be-Attitudes

Beatitudes at Work

Our ego holds us back. Our supreme Idol with a capital “I.” Me-Attitudes are shallow, self-centered. The Be-Attitudes are self-sacrificing and other focused. Be-Attitudes overcome and eradicate the Me-Attitudes. The Be-attitudes put the emphasis on being Christ, rather than making it about “me.”

Adversity reveals a lot about ourselves. There are three ways we can react to trials and difficulties. Resist, resent, or embrace. Jesus calls us to embrace our trials as allowed by God (Romans 8:28) and in his hands.

Christ in Us

The Baptism of the Spirit that Jesus brings is transforming us into the image of the Son. Let’s remember the prophecy of Ezekiel. The promise to give us a new heart and a new spirit. The Beatitudes express what that very heart and spirit look like.

It’s a hope that carries us through suffering and trials producing perseverance, character, and more hope. It is the love of God poured out into us through the Holy Spirit. To be a disciple means to let Christ himself, his very Spirit, be incarnated in us.

Living in the Me-Attitudes resists the incarnation of Christ in us. To lose our life is to gain his life. But we don’t do this by focusing on losing our life, but by letting his life be expressed in us in each present moment.

Transformed to Radiate Christ

It is actually Christ in each of us, not just us acting, imitating, or pretending to be Christ. It is his heart and his spirit being poured out in and through us. It is Christ being made visible, attractive, and admirable in real time and space that we occupy. We embody Christ. Or as we said in the beginning, we “re-present” Christ. This makes a critical difference in understanding the power of the Beatitudes in our life and mission as WorkLight.

Rooted in the Beatitudes, Christ is made present, concrete, tangible, physical, re-presented and embodied. In WorkLight we come together to bring this reality to life in our workplaces and with each other. Our individuality and personalities are gathered together in the Beatitudes. Each unique in its own way.

The Be-Attitudes transform us to radiate Christ. Not just individually but together. It’s not a given. It takes our cooperation and participation.

“Beatitudes at Work” is an ongoing series exploring the practical and formative aspects of the Beatitudes found in Matthew’s recording of the Sermon on the Mount. These eight character traits will prove foundational for fulfilling our mission to be Christ in the workplace.

Next month:

Poor in Spirit: Our True Treasure

Walking in the Steps of Jesus

Continued from page 1

In one session, I silently blessed a man who was in mediation with his wife about a divorce. This couple was older, married for more than 40 years, and he still loved his wife and did not want to get divorced. But, his wife showed she did not care for him anymore.

Sometimes speaking the truth out loud is the only way that the reality of the situation can be heard. The husband wanted to financially support his wife after the divorce and he kept stating how much he wanted to pay for the mortgage; however, he did not have the means to do so. Finally, I gently said to him that he did not have the necessary income, and upon hearing this, he realized that he could not do what he wanted. The Holy Spirit was with me and I teared up at this point in our work, as I felt very sad for the husband and his situation.

At this moment, I felt I was being a blessing to this man by helping him shift his perspective to understand that our troubles on Earth are only temporary, as illustrated in 2 Corinthians 4:18: “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

The Beatitudes show us how we can bless others in our work. My prayers before mediation sessions have helped me see that creating peace between people by helping them come to an agreement creates harmony. Creating peace is not easy, but being able to listen to those in conflict is truly a powerful way to walk in the steps of Jesus. Sharing that with the other person can be very loving.

Signe Godfrey is a great grandmother, grandmother, mother, widow, mediator, and former business owner in Honolulu, Hawaii. She is a member of WorkLight’s Board of Directors, the Generosity Committee, Cohorts in Christ, and the Governance Committee.

NEWS

GENEROSITY COMMITTEE CALLING?

With new momentum around transformational giving and a culture of generosity, there has never been a more exciting time to be a part of WorkLight's Generosity Committee. This group of gifted brothers and sisters is charged with stewardship over the relationships, conversations, and interactions that connect our mission with those in a position to provide resources for the work at hand. If you have a background in community formation, revenue growth, and/or fund development please pray about visiting one of our monthly meetings to learn more. For more detailed information and to get meeting information, e-mail Dalena Byrd at admin@worklight.org with the subject line "Generosity Committee."

COHORTS IN CHRIST

Last year, we celebrated 500 igniters on Challenge Weekends. In the

background, our Board of Directors was hard at work throughout the year calling, emailing, and texting brothers and sisters from across the country. Now in its second year, our Cohorts in Christ initiative seeks to support members of WorkLight's Board and Generosity Committee to build and sustain prayerful relationships with the hands and feet of this movement from coast to coast. So if you get a call or a voicemail from an unknown number, it just might be a WorkLight Board member reaching out to check in with you. If you'd like to make sure you get a call this year, please send an email to Dalena Byrd at admin@worklight.org to let us know.

FLAME WRITERS WANTED

If you've felt called to share a story at a Chapter or Small Group meeting, how about extending the reach to *The Flame*? We're always looking for new writers to share their workplace

UPCOMING CHALLENGE WEEKENDS

Fresno Women's Chapter

- April 24-26, St. Francis Retreat and Conference Center, 549 Mission Vineyard Road, San Juan Bautista, CA.

Honolulu Men's/Women's Chapter

- August 28-30, Saint Anthony Retreat Center, 3351 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI.

Check out these events and more at WorkLight.org/events/.

experiences with others! Members of our Editorial Team stand ready to help you share your story. If you have a story to share, contact Nancy Huddleston, editor of *The Flame*, at communications@worklight.org.

26 X 26

FILLED IN SPIRIT. FORMED IN COMMUNITY. SENT IN POWER.

In 2026, WorkLight will step into a bold new season: 26 Challenge Weekends across the country, the most in our ministry's history. This effort, grounded in Acts 2, 6, and 26, is a movement of the Holy Spirit calling us to go beyond ourselves and open eyes to God's presence in the workplace.

Our goal for expansion follows a biblical pattern. Just as the early church was filled with the Spirit (Acts 2), formed new leaders (Acts 6), and then sent out to open eyes and transform lives (Acts 26), we believe this is our time to do the same.

Will you help lead the way?

Pray about hosting or leading a Challenge Weekend in 2026.

Let's answer the call, together.



*"I have been
crucified with Christ
and I no longer live,
but Christ lives in me."*

Galatians 2:20

APRIL 2026

WorkLight.org

THE FLAME™

WORKLIGHT PRAYER

Father,

*Fill us with your Holy Spirit
that we may be made new
and bring the presence of Christ into all we do;
That we may grow in love for you, and for all;
That we may be humble and wise stewards of your creation;
That we may bring your light into our workplaces;
That we may lead all to unity in you;
Through Jesus, our Lord.*


Amen

VISION Being Christ in the workplace

MISSION To encourage and equip Christians to be God's presence in the workplace by the power of the Holy Spirit, exercising faith, integrity, and excellence

VALUES Christians in Commerce (DBA WorkLight) is an ecumenical organization committed to:

- Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ
- Manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Building strong brotherhood and sisterhood
- Serving God and expanding his Kingdom in all aspects of our lives

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