

May 17, 2026

West Hill

Church of Christ

All In

Spiritual Growth: Add Moral Courage

By David Sproule

Focus 2026

Faith is the foundation of the Christian life—but faith alone is not enough. Peter instructs believers to “add to your faith virtue” (2 Pet. 1:5). This word “virtue” carries the idea of moral excellence, strength of character and the courage to do what is right. If faith is our conviction in God, then moral courage is the determination to act on that conviction.

The word for “virtue” refers to excellence—something that stands out as worthy and admirable. Essentially, it is a settled resolve to do what is right in the sight of God, regardless of the cost or consequence. It is not merely knowing what is right, but choosing to pursue it with strength and consistency.

This quality must be added to faith because faith without action quickly becomes weak and ineffective. James affirms that “faith without works is dead” (Jas. 2:26). When faith is joined with moral courage, it becomes active and visible. A person who is determined to do what is right will naturally begin to live out their faith in daily life.

Moral courage is essential for spiritual growth. Peter emphasizes diligence—earnest effort—in developing Christ-like character (2 Pet. 1:5, 10). We cannot grow spiritually while remaining comfortable with mediocrity. We must pursue holiness (Heb. 12:14) and completeness in Christ (Matt. 5:48).

Following Christ demands this kind of courage. Jesus calls His disciples to live differently from the world—to love enemies (Matt. 5:44), resist temptation (Jas. 4:7) and remain faithful under pressure (Rev. 2:10). That kind of life cannot be lived without a strong determination to do what is right.

So how do we develop moral courage? It begins with the Word of God. Scripture is designed to equip us for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). As we read, study and meditate on God’s Word, our understanding of what is right becomes clearer, and our resolve to pursue it becomes stronger. Like the blessed man in Psalm 1, we grow into spiritually strong and fruitful people when we delight in God’s law and meditate on it regularly.

Moral courage also develops through our mindset. The apostle Paul provides a powerful example in Philippians 3:12-14, where he explains how he refused to be satisfied with where he was spiritually. He forgot past failures and successes, pressed forward with purpose and kept his focus on the eternal prize. That same mindset—i.e., never settling but always striving—builds moral strength.

Finally, moral courage is demonstrated in both private and public life. It will show in our personal devotional time with God and in our visible service among others. When we are committed to doing what is right (consistently and without compromise), our progress will be evident (1 Tim. 4:15).

Sunday: Worship 10:30am & Class 5:00pm

Tuesday: Benevolence 9:00-10:00am & Young at Heart Class 10:30am

Wednesday: Class 6:30pm

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**ALL INSide out
Joy**

There are so many emotions that we possess:

**God _____ These
Jesus _____ These**

- These can be _____
- These can also _____

**Today's Emotion should be a Pillar in the
Christian Arsenal: JOY**

Χαρά is used nearly 60 times in the NT – “The Experience of _____.” In the NT, there are many things that can bring Joy:

_____ Being Born (Luke 1:41)
_____ (Luke 15:7, 10)
The _____ Lord (Luke 24:41)
_____ and _____ (Luke 24:52)
The _____ (Romans 15:13)
_____ (2 Corinthians 8:2)
_____ (Philippians 2:2)
Fellow _____ (1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20)

A Few Misuses of the Emotion of Joy:

Believing Joy is only present when life is _____

Not _____ Joy for the things that bring Joy to _____

Seeking Only _____ Joy

John 15-17 – An Unlikely Passage about Joy

1. You can _____ Joy (15:1-11)

- He _____ us
- He Makes us _____
- He _____ us (17:12-13)

2. Joy can come through _____ (16:16, 19-22)

- James 1:2f
- Hebrews 12:2

3. You can _____ for Joy (16:23-24)

- _____ for Joy, but also ask that your idea of Joy _____

**Todo de adentro hacia afuera
Alegría**

Experimentamos muchas emociones:

Dios las _____

Jesús las _____

- Pueden ser _____
- También pueden _____

**La emoción de hoy debería ser un pilar en el
arsenal cristiano: LA ALEGRÍA**

La palabra alegría se usa casi 60 veces en el Nuevo Testamento: “La experiencia de _____”. En el Nuevo Testamento, hay muchas cosas que pueden traer gozo:

El nacimiento de _____ (Lucas 1:41)
El _____ (Lucas 15:7, 10)
El Señor _____ (Lucas 24:41)
La _____ y el _____ (Lucas 24:52)
El _____ (Romanos 15:13)
_____ (2 Corintios 8:2)
La _____ (Filipenses 2:2)
Los _____ en la fe (1 Tesalonicenses 2:19, 20)

Algunos malos usos de la emoción del gozo:

Creer que el gozo solo está presente cuando la vida es _____

No _____ el gozo por las cosas que le dan gozo a _____

Buscar solo un gozo _____

Juan 15-17 – Un pasaje inesperado sobre el gozo

1. Puedes tener gozo (15:1-11)

- Él nos _____
- Él nos hace Él nos hace _____
- Él nos _____ (17:12-13)

2. La alegría puede surgir del _____ (16:16, 19-22)

- Santiago 1:2
- Hebreos 12:2

3. Puedes _____ alegría (16:23-24)

- _____ alegría, pero también pide que tu idea de alegría _____

JOIN US FOR VBS

**INSIDE
OUT**

JUNE 15-17, 2026

**PreK - 5th
5:30- 8PM**

**WESTHILL CHURCH OF CHRIST
3400 W HWY 22, CORSICANA, TX**



Church Leadership & Westhill Works

Deacons

David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645
Casey Hendrix - 817.307.2127
Michael Jones - 430.236.2244
Matt Newman - 972.935.5789
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032
David Shastid - 903.257.6464
Jose Sosa - 903.872.0535
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
Mike Wylie - 214.837.3848
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Shepherds

Scott Barham - 903.641.0133
Percell Milton - 214.803.2644
Rusty Owens - 903.229.3650
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464

Ministers

Anthony Warnes - 430.775.0196 (Pulpit)
Brandon Watson - 903.771.6359 (Family)

Staff

Jay Mahoney - 903.467.9093 (Office)

Community Outreach

Addiction [Recovery](#) Counseling
Benevolence Program

Food for Fitness
Forever His

Local Missions

Bear Valley - Wayne Jones
Cherokee Children's Home
Disaster Relief
The Jenkins Institute
Knoxville School of Preaching
Memphis School of Preaching
[WVBS school.wvbs.org](http://WVBS.school.wvbs.org)

U.S. Mission Points

Tilton, NH & Mesa, AZ

Foreign Missions

Cameroon Preacher Training
India Preacher Training

Prayer Needs:

Anna, Anthony's sister, remains hospitalized as doctors work to prolong her pregnancy with baby Hank.

Bronny Watson is home after rehab at Heritage Oaks.

Donny Beal is improving and currently in rehab at Avir Nursing Home.

Paul Slaughter has returned home from the hospital and was cleared of pneumonia.

Levi Haden fractured a disc in his back and is considering treatment options.

Faith Beamon is scheduled for a baclofen pump replacement procedure on May 21 at UTSW.

Donna Drain is recovering from cataract surgery and has another procedure scheduled for May 19.

Donna Brooks is dealing with a toe wound following recent surgery and will need further medical evaluation.

Deb Lindell, friend of Buck Murphy, has widespread cancer. Please pray for her and her family.

Continue to remember: Bronny & Ruth Watson, Dan & Rita Dominy, Eula Henry, Louie & Patty Williams, Nick Tooley, Bill & Beverly Abercrombie, Judi Olsen, Myrna Haufe, Royce Smith, Loyd Ander, Teresa Shastid, Larry Rowden, Tiffany Smith, Cooper Olsen, & Doris Lynch

Announcements:

Lightpost, our new church communication app, is a great way to stay informed and connected with our church family. If you have not yet activated your account and completed your profile, please do so soon to help us rebuild our directory. Contact the church office if you need assistance.

Baby Shower honoring Dalton & Julianna Shastid — May 24, 3:00–5:00pm in the Parlor.

High School Senior Banquet — Sun. May 24, 6:30-8pm

5th Sunday Schedule — May 31 we will follow our 5th Sunday format. Please plan to stay for food and fellowship during our potluck lunch. We will reconvene at 1:00 PM for a special service led by our young men as part of their leadership training.

Young at Heart Classes — Tues. morning @ 10:30am

Westhill ARC (Addiction Recovery Counseling) meets weekly - contact Jay Mahoney

Staffed nursery available for babies up to 2 yr old.
Nursery Attendant this week: **Andria Warnes**

Records for May 10, 2026

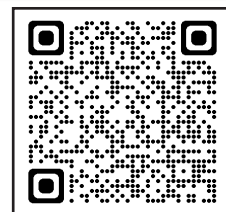
AM Worship..... 219
Contribution \$8,072

This Week's Birthdays

May 18 - Terry Barrett & Veronica Giles
May 20 - Judy Smith

Visitor Form

Thank you for joining us for worship! We would love to follow-up with you...



Privileged to Serve

AM Song Leader

Brandon Watson

AM Opening Prayer

Greg Olsen

Scripture Reading

Paul Wells

Communion Leader

Justin Williams

Communion Servers

Owen Warnes

Ethan Drain

Jason Burnett

Brent Stewart

James Olsen

Joe Haden

James Horn

Levi Haden

Marcus Dancer

Lukus Seat

AM Closing Prayer

Colton Nicholson

PM Song Leader

Jeremiah Parrish

PM Opening Prayer

Grayson Baumgartner

PM Devo

Anthony Warnes

PM Closing Prayer

Owen Warnes

Wed. Song Leader

Matt Newman

Wed. Invitation

Marcus Dancer

May Worship Coord.

Matt Newman / David Shastid

May Elder of Month

Scott Barham