Welcome Everyone

Good to be in Church

Thank you to Gary and Shannon for the Donuts each week

Prayer – Terrie / Micheal & Amanda

Get Out of God's Way

Proverbs 3:5-6, Matt. 16:21-26

5/18/25

Has anyone ever told you to get out of the way? Hopefully they said it a little more tactfully than that but we've probably all heard it at some point in our lives. Usually this happens because someone is doing something or going somewhere, and we are impeding their progress.

Most of the time we're not intentionally trying to be in someone's way. Often times we're actually trying to help but we're just in the way. Then there are times when we are purposely trying to get in the way because we don't want whatever is happening to be carried out.

In the same way, sometimes when God wants to do something in or through us we can get in the way of that. We allow things like pride, selfishness, fear, doubt, worry or anxiety to get in the way. We play the 'what if' game. Today’s goal, if you so choose to accept it and apply it is to learn to ***“GET OVER YOURSELF AND STEP BOLDLY INTO THE PURPOSE HE HAS FOR YOUR LIFE.”***

This morning, I am really praying that we take time and reflect upon an essential aspect of our spiritual growth journey: the act of "getting out of God's way." As humans, it’s natural to try and navigate the complexities of life. It can be tempting to take the reins, to control every circumstance, and to shape our paths according to our own limited understanding. But as we’ve been sharing many times this year, true faith calls us to surrender, trusting that God's plans far exceed our imagination, wisdom and our ways! This morning, I want us to truly explore what it means to step aside and let God work in our lives, maybe for some the 1st time ever!

To "get out of God's way" is not to abandon responsibility or cease all effort in life...We don’t just stop living life and say, “Ok God...I’ll sit here until you tell me which way to go!” Rather, it is an invitation to recognize the sovereignty of God and to submit our will to His greater plan.

* Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us: ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."***

This scripture encourages us to develop a heart of surrender—acknowledging that human understanding is finite or limited, while God's wisdom is infinite or limitless.

Truth, is we in our limited capacity, don't understand impossible the way God does. As humans, our understanding of impossibilities is often shaped by our limitations—what we see, touch, and reason. Yet, the impossible is a realm where God thrives. What seems insurmountable to us is merely a canvas for God’s miracles, a place where His power is revealed in full measure.

* Isaiah 55:9

*For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*

* Luke 1:37

*"For nothing will be impossible with God*.

When we fully surrender, and get out His way, we acknowledge this divine truth: God's definition of impossible encompasses possibilities we have not and in many cases cannot conceive. Gods impossible is not constrained by human logic or the laws of nature. Instead, it is guided by His limitless wisdom and unwavering love. By stepping aside and trusting Him, we open the door to witness the extraordinary, the miraculous, and the divine.

This all sounds great, but, more times than not, we create barriers that keep us from seeing, experiencing, and living in Gods impossibles! What keeps us from this very real situation...? The greatest obstacle to allowing God to move in our lives is our own ego. Many believe we know what is best or us as we cling to plans, desires, or fears that hinder Gods divine intervention. **What forms do these barriers take?**

* **Pride:**
	+ **The belief that we can handle everything on our own.**
* **Fear:**
	+ **A reluctance to trust in God's timing and outcomes.**
* **Control:**
	+ **The need to micromanage every detail of our lives.**
* **Impatience**
	+ Sometimes we're trying to make something happen in our time.
* **Sin**
	+ Sin will certainly get in the way of what God is doing.

God's always working; always trying to accomplish things. And he graciously desires to have us be a part of that work. But sometimes we get in the way. Not personally, it's the things that we put in the way-our excuses, our own agenda, our priorities, etc. One of the people that got in the way a few times was Peter. Let's see how he got in Jesus' way.

* Matt. 16:21-26

*1 From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. 22 But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” 23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.” 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?*

It's safe to say, if two people are not on the same page with something, that different way of thinking or different focus will get in the way. Peter's focus was not on the same page as Jesus'. As soon as he heard that Jesus was going to suffer and die he sprang up and communicated his disapproval. Peter rebuked Jesus! Talk about feeling strongly about something.

Jesus responds by rebuking Peter. Why? It seems Peter is just upset that his Lord is going to suffer and die. That sounds noble. Jesus should be thanking Peter for his passionate care and concern, right? But he doesn't do that. So, there must be something here that we're not seeing.

You see, Satan was using Peter to try to get in the way. Jesus said he was a stumbling block to him; he was trying to trip him up. Jesus identified the spirit behind Peter's words and tells Satan to get out of the way, i.e. get behind me. He wanted Peter and the others to realize that what Peter said, though seemingly loving, was actually a detriment.

Jesus said Peter had in mind the things of men, not God. Peter was only thinking from the natural, not the supernatural. That's the most common way we are not on the same page as God. God is always thinking of things from the spiritual perspective. So, when Jesus is saying something to us and we counter it, disagree with it or resist it, we're thinking from a worldly perspective and that’s why our minds need to be constantly renewed.

Say God moves us to talk to someone about the gospel. Our response is, 'what if they get mad at me', 'what if they laugh at me', 'what if they ask me something I don't know'. These thoughts are understandable, but they stem from the natural mind, not the supernatural.

* Truth is If we let panic, worry, fear, doubt or anxiety get in the way then we won't carry out God's plans. **If God is making it clear that he wants us to make a certain decision, but we are making excuses, playing the 'what if' game then we are “getting in the way.”**

Getting back to Peter, we see he was also being selfish. As many of us may be, Peter was stubborn and strong-willed. This is okay when it applies to staying firm in the truth and doing God's will, but when it's about selfishness and pride it's another story. Jesus said if we are going to follow him we need to deny our own will; we need to be willing to suffer for his sake. Peter's will was to keep Jesus with him. Part of his concern may have been, 'if Jesus is crucified what will that mean for me? Will they crucify me too?' Peter's concern is valid, but it's selfish, it doesn't fit with what Jesus is calling us to do.

Paul said in 2 Tim. 3:12 that if we want to live a godly life we will be persecuted. Not that we should go looking for it but if we are in a situation where we know that could happen and we run away from it, we're getting in the way of what God wants to accomplish. We don't want to hear about persecution; we don't want to hear about suffering; we want comfortable Christianity. We don't want to be challenged; we don't want to be taken out of our comfort zone.

If we're going to be on the same page as Jesus we need to let go of our will so we can fulfill his; otherwise, we'll get in the way. God wants us to be a witness but if we avoid those opportunities because it's uncomfortable then we're in the way. He wants us to follow the way not get in the way.

When God reveals his will to us, but we think we know a better way we're just getting in the way. We have to understand that we're not doing God any favors. God wants us; but he doesn't need us. If we humbly get that we'll understand we really bring nothing to the table except our willingness to be used by him. We get in the way when we incorporate our intellect, thinking our plan is better than the one God came up with.

Our ultimate example of submission to Gods will is found of course in Jesus Christ when in the Garden of Gethsemane. Facing unimaginable suffering, He prayed: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Jesus modeled perfect obedience, relinquishing His own desires to fulfill the divine purpose.

If Christ Himself demonstrated surrender, how much more are we called to release our plans and trust in the Father? His example teaches us that surrender is not passive—it is active faith, rooted in love and trust.

# **Steps to Getting Out of God's Way**

How can we apply this principle in our daily lives? Here are three practical steps:

## **1. Trust His Timing**

Ecclesiastes 3:11 declares: "*He has made everything beautiful in its time."*

* God's timing is perfect, even when it appears delayed from our perspective. Waiting is an act of faith, and patience allows God to align circumstances for His glory and our good.

## **2. Relinquish Control**

Matthew 6:27 challenges us with a simple question: "*Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?*"

* Worry and control often go hand in hand, but they do not serve us. Instead, release the need to direct every outcome and invite God's peace into your spirit.

## **3. Seek Guidance Through Prayer**

Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us: " 6 Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

* Prayer is our lifeline to God's counsel. When we pause to pray, we open our hearts to receive direction and discernment.

**Closing:**

The Bible offers numerous examples of individuals who stepped aside and allowed God to work.

* Moses, who hesitated when called to lead Israel out of Egypt. Despite his doubts and fears, he obeyed, and God's power was revealed through him.
* The Apostle Paul, once a persecutor of Christians, surrendered to God's plan and became a one of the boldest messengers of the Gospel.

These stories remind us that **surrender often precedes miracles**. When we yield to God, we create space for Him to transform our circumstances in ways we could never have imagined.

Ok, if I really do this, what happens when I get out of God's way? The blessings are many:

* Peace:
	+ A deep sense of calm, knowing God is in control.
* Purpose:
	+ Clarity in understanding our role in His divine plan.
* Fruitfulness:
	+ Witnessing God's work bear fruit in our lives and the lives of others.

When we surrender, we align ourselves with His higher ways, inviting His wisdom to guide us and work in and through our lives...

As we close, ask yourself this morning, “Have I ever, or even worse, am I currently in the way of Gods progress in my life because I’m not willing to change the way I do things?”

Sometimes change isn’t good, but when it's clear that God is the one initiating it, our response shouldn't be, NO WAY, God, but rather, YES, Lord, let me get out of your way!

Our hearts and minds need to be open to what God is doing. We need eyes to see and ears to hear. We should desire to be a part of God's wonderful agenda. We should be humbled that he wants to use us. Our will and our flesh wants us to get in the way of what God is trying to accomplish, but we need to make sure that doesn't happen anymore...

Starting this morning, let us embrace the courage to step aside and let God work. Remember, surrender is not a one-time act; it is a daily practice, rooted in trust and humility. As we release the barriers of pride, fear, and control, we’ll position ourselves to receive His blessings and fulfill His purpose.

* Let us, therefore, trust not in what we see, but in who He is—the God for whom nothing is impossible.
* Let us begin to be aware that when we get out of God's way, we do not lose control—we gain freedom.

Truth is, **if we continue to be stubborn and unwilling to do things God’s “Way”, we will continue to see defeat and continue to get in the way of what God is trying to do in us and through us.**

So, this morning I wonder if you’d come to these alters to relinquish control, and begin to walk in faith in a new way...out of Gods way, trusting that His plans are always for your good.

Prayer