

Series: "DARE..."

For Message: Matthew 28:19-20; Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 2:44-47; Psalm 119:11, 105;
Ephesians 4:15, 6:18; 1 Corinthians 12:7

Message Title: "DARE ... to GROW"

Introduction: Good Morning BMZ! Today we have the opportunity to hear another message in the "DARE" series called "...to Grow". Pastor Stan has asked me to deliver this message that he has outlined for us. I have filled in the between the lines and I hope that by the time we are done here today, that we would have the tools in our spiritual tool belt to continue to grow as we enter into another new week in 2019. I Dare you to grow, spiritually.

GRAB your MESSAGE NOTES ... *If you haven't already, I invite you to take out your 3-HOLE PUNCHED MESSAGE NOTES and CONNECTION card. You will see that there are blanks to fill in ... Please take the time to do so. Grab a pen and write down whatever else you think is important to you and your faith journey. After worship, drop off your CONNECTION CARD and take your MESSAGE NOTES home. Please Re-read the Scripture and the notes to keep growing and learning. **For those of you joining on-line, you can go to our website, www.bmzchurch.org / MESSAGES ... find the NOTES and the CONNECTION CARD and follow along ... LET'S PRAY (turn off marked lights during prayer)!***

Our scripture today comes from Mathew 28:19-20, but before I read it, I would like to look at the previous verse, vs. 18. Jesus came and told his disciples "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ today, He lives in you. You belong to Christ and Jesus dwells with in your spirit. Now lets read Math. 28:19-20.

Matthew 28:19-20 = ¹⁹ *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.* ²⁰ *Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* ¹

Anytime you see Therefore, we need to look back and find out why its therefore. I want you to think about the disciples and their state of mind at this point. Over the past couple of days they had seen their leader, Jesus, get arrested, be falsely accused, beaten with in an inch of his life, crucified, dead, laid in a tomb, and then the body comes up missing, then Jesus appears before them, and ate with them. Now Jesus is meeting with them again to prepare them for the rest of their life as believers and leaders in the church before he ascends into heaven. Wow! Talk about an emotional roller coaster. I could see that the disciples might be wondering what awesome thing is Jesus going to do for them now.

Jesus was giving them their mission for their ministry. This scripture is call "The Great Commission", He is telling them that they have what it takes to be a life changer on this earth. Vs.19. therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the ends of the age"

Jesus is telling them, I have poured out my life for you all, Now, you go, because I am will be with you. He is a part of us, no matter how many trials we face, no matter how many times we fail, we can still be life changers, community changers or world changers, we have

nothing to fear because he is with us. Wow! I think we could go home right now, except for we haven't finished our fill in the blanks. So,

I WILL INVEST IN MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN 2019 BY...

1. Receiving **BIBLICAL TEACHING** Every Sunday

Hebrews 10:23-25 = ²³ *Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.* ²⁴ *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.* ²⁵ *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*²

Vs. 23, We need to be reminded to hold tight without wavering the hope that we as church have in Jesus Christ and know that we can trust in His promises. Woah!! You mean we can't doubt what we have set our hope in? We can't doubt in who Jesus Christ said he is? What about His promises? What has he promised us? We have to know his promises. That means studying scripture and coming to Church. We are very blessed here at BMZ, we have a Pastor who preaches the bible, unashamed and he expects us to be growing with what we receive when we meet. There are many churches in America today that are hearing feel good messages. Messages that make you feel all warm and fuzzy inside, that do not encourage you to read your bible or grow spiritually and that tell you not to talk about Jesus outside these walls because you might offend somebody. These are churches that do not have biblical teaching.

v.24 When we come together we should be motivating others to acts of love and good works.

v. 25 we need to be encouraging others to keep on growing in the faith, to keep coming to church and not stay away because they feel they can get their church on TV. I believe it is vital that we as church meet regularly. We need to hold each other accountable and be praying for one another to see our mission through until the end. We are all in this together.

Now you may say that I like to worship God from my tree stand or from my boat or maybe just being alone in a quiet place. I believe we are to worship God every minute of every day, no matter where we are or what we are doing, but when we come together in cooperate worship, there is a whole nother level of worship. And it is a blessing to all who participate. If we were meant to worship alone how would we grow or how would we be encouraged? We need to be involved in a home church that builds us up and encourages us to continue to grow spiritually. At BMZ we have just the thing to help you grow throughout the week, Growth groups.

2. Connecting to A GROWTH GROUP Weekly

Acts 2:44-47 = ⁴⁴ *And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.* ⁴⁵ *They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.* ⁴⁶ *They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—*⁴⁷ *all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.* ³

I can remember as I was growing up in our family we would all go to church on Sunday morning, we would go to somebody's house Sunday night for bible study, even though I was young and did more running around inside the house and outside, I still remember being at bible study with good friends from church. Then we had , what was called family league which was at someone else's house every month, again I can remember all the fun I had playing with the other kids. The one thing I liked the best was the fact that we were able to see our friends from church again during the week. You have an opportunity today to be a part of a small group study. I have been apart of a small group study since they started. It is awesome. It gives me a spiritual pick me up during the week. It is very encouraging and helps me to grow in my spirit. There is a place and a time for personal bible study and for group study, I believe we should take every opportunity we can to get into God's word, to study it and to meditate upon it. Growth groups are a big part of the ministry of this church. There are usually 8-10 groups spread out in different areas, with approximately 8-15 individuals per group. This is a great number, but it's a number that needs to grow. Sometimes there is even a day care provided for those families that have small children, how great is that. Someone else is willing to share their gift of child care so someone else can be blessed by being in a growth group. Some of the leaders for the groups are finding that they have the gift of leadership, and they may never have known this gift if they didn't take the chance to get out of their comfort zone and lead a growth group so others could grow. When we first started the growth groups, one of the main goals was to encourage people to become leaders, which we all are in some way, it's just finding out where, or who, God wants us to lead.

3. Studying GOD'S WORD Daily

If we don't know what God's word says, His lamp will not guide our steps and we will be lost.

Psalms 119:105 = ¹⁰⁵ *Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.* ⁴
 All of us believe in something. How did we get that belief? Did we get it from human intelligence or did we get it from the Holy spirit while we were studying God's word. Growing up in the United States, we have had the opportunity to hear a lot of good sermons in our churches. And I think we get in a mind set to focus on what the Pastor says but then not follow it up by studying and making sure that what was said agrees with what the word of God says. As church members, we have more to do then just sit and listen to good preaching, we are to follow through, get invested in our spiritual growth and make sure that we are growing in something that is Godly and not something that is worldly.

One of the reasons we have growth groups is to be able to talk about the bible and to listen what other people have to say about it, everyone involved in the group has an opportunity to share

³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ac 2:44-47). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ps 119:105). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

about their personal faith journey. Everyone in the group is blessed by listening to testimonies of what God has done or is doing in their life. We usually always end up talking about the sermon or the scripture from the previous week. All of this listening and sharing and experiencing helps us to grow closer to God.

Psalm 119:111 = ¹¹¹ *Your laws are my treasure; they are my heart's delight.* ⁵

Do we treasure what God's word says? Is it the most important thing in your life? Do we take every opportunity to join with fellow Christians to worship God? There is a song that was sung at a church I used to go to that was taken from Psalm 42:1-2 King James version, it goes like this, As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longeth after thee, you alone are my hearts desire and I long to worship thee....

When we get frustrated with the way our life is going, when we get upset with the way our jobs are going, we become dry in our spirit. If we do not have someone or someplace to go to, to replenish our spirit we become vulnerable to letting world things fill us. This is another great reason for being involved in a growth group study. It brings us back together for fellowship, studying God's word and for replenishing of our spirit. Sometime there is really good snacks also. They are always willing to pray for whatever situation we find ourselves in. speaking of prayer;

4. Talking with GOD IN PRAYER Constantly

Come on! Pray continually? Really?

Ephesians 6:18 = ¹⁸ *Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.* ⁶

Remember back in December when I talked about the Holy Spirit? He is great! When we have the spirit of God in us, we can talk to him all day long. We don't have to pray continually out loud, but we can pray silently in our spirit. We don't need to be on our knees praying when we are working we can do it standing up or walking. We can pray while we are driving just keep your eyes open and your hands on the wheel. God wants us to communicate with him at all times and that is the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

5. Serving OTHERS IN MY CHURCH Monthly

I have never been to a church that has been so devoted to serving others. If you have never really served someone without gaining anything in return, you need to take advantage of the many ministry's that BMZ offers. I remember the first mission trip I went on. It was after Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. I remember the road trip down and how freeing it was to feel like I was getting away for a little down time. Boy was I in for a shocker. When we arrived at our destination, I was in shock. I couldn't believe the devastation. There were boats and barges 20 miles inland, you really had to look hard to find a house or business that wasn't totally destroyed. My emotions were running wild and I thought to myself, why even bother rebuilding. I don't think I have ever cried as much as I did that week. As the week went on I remember thinking about the people in charge of scheduling all of the workers that were there. And how could there be supplies enough to really help all those people. Then I thanked God that he could use me to be a blessing or an answer to somebody's prayers. I cannot tell you the impact we had or the jobs we

⁵ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ps 119:111). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁶ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Eph 6:18). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

finished, but I know that when we left the area and headed home I never felt so good in my spirit. Knowing that we changed lives for the better while we were there. Since then, I have went on numerous mission trips and I have seen many peoples lives changed for the better in the name of Jesus Christ. We have had men's groups that have went out into the communities and help the elderly with yard work, doing small repairs on houses or garages, repairing roof's and painting. We have so many talented individuals in this church, if you haven't volunteered please do so and share your gift in a way that brings glory to God. You will be blessed.

1 Corinthians 12:7 = ⁷ *A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.* ⁷
 This means that each and every one of you here today have a gift to give to someone in need, I suggest you get it out and use it, you won't believe the joy it brings to your soul and the change it brings to the one receiving. Always remember, we have Christ living in us and the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells within us. He can use, what you may think is a very small gift, and He can move mountains with it, if you will use it for God's glory and not your own.

6. Surrendering MY LIFE TO GOD Moment by Moment

Ephesians 4:15 = ¹⁵ *Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.* ⁸

When we make Jesus Christ the lord of our life, we take on the Holy Spirit of God in our spirit. We are to live as Jesus lived on this earth. This is why we need biblical teaching, so that we can be more and more like Christ every day. We need to quit living for ourselves and start living in a way that draws others to Jesus Christ. As the Bible says in Hebrews 10: 23-25 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

In closing, I want to ask you a question. If we woke up tomorrow, and all of the churches were burned to the ground, your bibles were taken and destroyed, and you were thrown in prison for what you believe. How would you grow spiritually? Would you know God's word enough to keep your spirit strong to endure until Christ return? Would you know it enough to be able to share it with fellow prisoners? Would you be able to stand strong for Jesus and not cave-in to an easy way out? I DARE YOU TO GROW!!!!

Let's PRAY!

Next Steps: *I will memorize Matthew 28:19-20*
Sign me up for GG#: _____
I will invite a friend to the "UNTANGLED" relationship series starting Feb 10th
I will attend SUPER SERVANT SUNDAY WORSHIP at Boscobel Campus NEXT
SUNDAY at 10am followed by BRUNCH and CELEBRATION!

⁷ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (1 Co 12:7). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁸ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Eph 4:15). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.