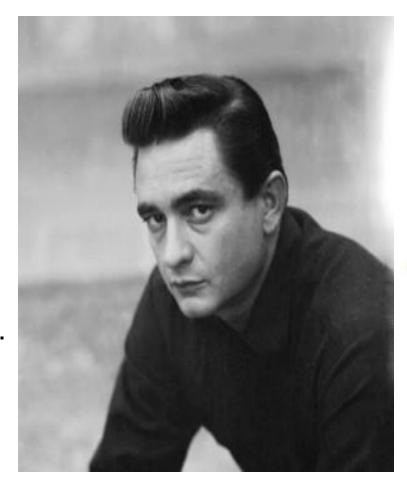


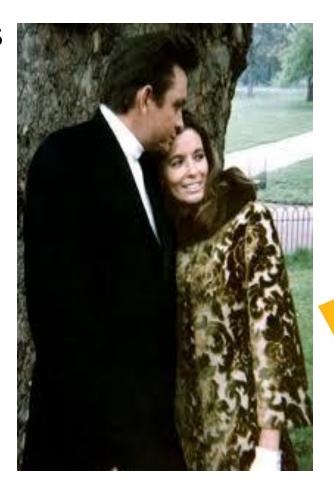
MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

- Johnny Cash- Feb. 26, 1932 Sept. 12, 2003
- Born into poverty during the Great Depression
- Brother killed in 1944 by a table saw.
- Cash started drinking heavily and became addicted to amphetamines and barbiturates.
- Attempted suicide 1968.
- Developed diabetes and related brain/ nerves disorder.
- Pneumonia damaged his lungs.





- member of 3 music Hall of Fames
- 9 Country Music Awards
- 17 Grammy Awards
- Millionaire
- wife June, died May 15,2003
- dead from diabetes complications at 71







- Man has struggled with the purpose and meaning of pain for centuries.
- Christian authors and thinkers argue that pain is God's tool in our lives.
- Pain tends to stick out in our memories



- We want to live a meaningful life, but pain causes tension with that desire.
- Our brokenness causes us to deal with our pain in the wrong way.
- We don't know what to do with pain in the hurting world.

- God has prepared everything for us to live a meaningful life and that includes our pain
- Will we see and hear what God says about our pain?



[7] Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me- to keep me from exalting myself! [8] Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. [9] And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. [10] Therefore I am well content with weakness, with insult, with distress, with persecution, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

MAKE YOUR

- "to keep me from being conceited"
- A real danger for us; "a big head"



- "I was given a thorn"
- God doesn't do this!
 - But Paul says he does...and that it's a GIFT!
- 1. Rejecting pain and demanding answers delays, even stops, the healing process.
- 2. It reveals my self-idolatry.
- 3. It reveals my sinfulness.
- 4. It draws me to God.
- 5. It protects me from sin.



"Thorn"

- Thorns are small and often unseen
- Thorns are constant sources of pain
- Thorns can become ever-present and debilitating



- "Tempted/ torment" = to strike with short, rapid blows
 - -Intended to humiliate you keep your attention



Paul has told us that his pain was

- A gift from God to protect him from self worship
- 2. Used by Satan to tempt and belittle him



Paul responded by:

Vs. 8- "Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me"

Turning to God in faith and expectancy



Vs. 9-10 "And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weakness, with insult, with distress, with persecution, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Embracing his weakness



- Resting in the Lord
 - We all know people who have been controlled and destroyed by their pain. Paul rested in God's grace and for God to be seen as strong.



LADIES ~ BIBLE STUDY & INSIDE OUT

- TOMORROW, Sept27, at the GreatwoodRec Center
- 7-9 PM
- Becoming a Woman of Excellence, explore what it means to be a woman after God's heart

Inside Out Night... Sign up today to make a beautiful fall flower arrangement & enjoy dessert, coffee, and fellowship on October 4th @ 7pm at the home of Dede Harrington. Get your \$5 ticket at the women's ministry table. Details in the

bulletin...

Baptism Sunday

Sunday, October 17th

If you are interested in baptism please email us at: info@thesanctuaryfellowship.com





Habitat for Humanity – October 9th and 23rd

We're at it again and we need your help!
For more information or to sign up,
email Liz at

info@thesanctuaryfellowship.com.

MOTHER'S OF PRESCHOOLERS

When & Where: Tuesday, Oct. 5th

9-11AM @ the Greatwood Chick-fil-A

For: Bible study, fellowship, and encouragement.

Bring your children! Childcare will be provided.

RSVP today at info@thesanctuaryfellowship.com

See bulletin for contact information.









Update your Information...

- Please help us as we update our database...
- You will find a card in your bulletin that you can fill out & drop off at the resource center.
- Thank you!

