



*“Who then can be saved?”*

BUT JESUS LOOKED AT THEM AND SAID,

*“With man this  
is impossible, but  
with God all things  
are possible.”*

**MATTHEW 19:25-26, ESV**

June 9, 2021

First Church of the Brethren

730 Church Street Eden, NC 27288

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### Reflections:

What's your superpower? Hope, after watching the Disney Movie "Frozen 2" dozens of times has adopted the ability to make all of us stand still be simply saying, "Freeze!" When I try to do the same to her, she tells me, "that's not your power!" So I have to work to figure out what my power is, I guess.

While I was spending some time in prayer in meditation earlier this week, it occurred to me that on Sunday after reading the scripture that went along with my message on whether or not we should share the gospel, I never came back to that original scripture from Acts chapter 2. If you'll remember, Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer when they encountered a crippled man begging for money. It is then that Peter utters those famous words, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

Now there is a superpower for you. No, I am not talking about the ability to heal someone. I am talking about the ability to introduce someone to eternal life. When the beggar got up, he was walking and jumping and praising God. Through this powerful act in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the man was introduced to the One who has the power to save. That is a superpower that we all possess. Maybe we can't cause the lame to walk, but we can help someone to find the road that leads to living forever.

In my message on Sunday, I invited you to write down 4 or 5 names of people with whom you want to share the gospel and/or invite to church. How are you doing? Have you written those names? Are you praying for them on a daily basis? More than ever, I believe prayer is our most powerful tool that we have in bringing people into the kingdom. Sometimes we may stumble upon that perfect moment, but more often it is after weeks, months or even years praying for that person – if not you, someone else. So plant the seed, water the seed, for the sake of the lost in your life, use your super power! Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1

## WHAT IS AGAPE LOVE, ANYWAY?

### **RFTH Ministries**

*“May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.” 2 Thessalonians 3:5*

Agape love. Perhaps you’ve heard the term before, but the meaning always remained a bit fuzzy. Well, you’re not alone. With so many different meanings of the word “love,” what is agape love?

To clarify things a bit, let’s first look a little at what agape love is *not*. *Agape love* is not romantic love. People of all faiths (and those with no faith) experience romantic love. On the other hand, agape love is not brotherly love – the kind of love where you have natural chemistry, or friendship, with another person. Terrorists and members of the mafia experience brotherly love. There’s certainly nothing uniquely Christian about that.

Agape love is *unconditional love*. It’s a choice we make to love another person whether they love us back or not. It means that you choose to love someone even if he or she is your enemy. Agape love is not based on emotion at all. In fact, it may be contrary to our every emotion. Agape love is an act of the will.

Now, this kind of love presents a real challenge for us Christians. It’s tough to live out because it’s hard to love someone who doesn’t respond to you in the way we’d like. And no matter how much we try to avoid difficult people, there will always be certain individuals—even within the body of Christ—who are just hard to love. And yet, God’s Word is very clear: “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.” Now, you couldn’t find a clearer command about what we’re called to do as followers of Jesus Christ.

We love because God loved us first. God loved us when we didn’t love Him. God loved us when our sins crucified His Son on a cross. God “agape loves” us and commands us to “agape love” others. Will you?

# FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

June 9, 2021

730 Church Street Eden, NC 27288

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## **Pray Without Ceasing**

Sheila Barnes, Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Katherine Bridges, Carolyn Combs, Melissa Dalton, Donnie Gilley, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Gary Janney, Tania Martin, Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Arnie Roberts, Jutta Shelton, Roger Shockley, Louise Tudor, Patsy Underwood, Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

## **Thinking of You**

Mark Williams

## **District Prayer Request**

Pray for the meeting of the Virlina District Board, scheduled to be held on June 19. Let us glorify and honor God in the business of the church as well as in every aspect of life.

Thank you for continuing to honor your commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through your tithes.

Would you rather send your tithes by PayPal?

You can find us listed as Ncbrethren.tithe@gmail.com

The Witness Commission will be collecting items for Hospice of Rockingham County during the months of June & July.

Please help them keep providing comfort to others by purchasing some items on their wish list. You may place the items just inside the door downstairs or in the container in the narthex. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, make your check payable to the church and put "hospice" on the memo line. You can place all monetary donations in the offering plate. Thank you for all your help!



If you cannot attend regular Sunday service do not forget that you can watch a live stream of Sunday Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren, where you can view the live stream each Sunday, or watch any of our recent sermons online.

Need to restock flavorings?

The Home & Family Life Committee can help!

\$3 per bottle

Regular Vanilla Flavoring  
Almond Flavoring

Clear Vanilla Flavoring  
Lemon Flavoring

Attendance and Offering for the week of June 6, 2021

Attendance : 67

Offering	\$	5,486.00
Hospice of Rockingham County	\$	60.00
Home & Family Life	\$	<u>60.00</u>
Total	\$	5,606.00

Camp Bethel's "Sounds of the Mountains" festival

is available to stream until June 19<sup>th</sup> at

**[www.soundsofthemountains.org](http://www.soundsofthemountains.org)**

Listen to 6 of the world's best storytellers and their original stories online anytime and be sure to donate to Camp Bethel as this is one of their largest fundraisers each year!

Upcoming Birthdays

June 13: France Cox

Wes Martin

June 16: Avery Hazzard

Aaron Wilkinson

June 17: Steve Chatham



“May I have a word with you about the new summer choir outfits?”