

OBF Presence Newsletter

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

September
2026

A Month for Renewal

ATTENTION TO READING

In 1 Timothy 4:12-16, the apostle Paul is exhorting young Timothy to be an example to the believers in his sphere of influence. Notice the list of things that Timothy is to be an example of: in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Thus, in verse 13, Timothy is to give attention to reading, to exhortation and to doctrine. It is interesting that the first item listed is 'reading.' Without reading there can be no exhortation or doctrine. In the New Testament the word read is found twenty-seven times and reading seven times.

A great example of reading is found in Acts 8:25-39. Here the Ethiopian Eunuch is reading Isaiah 53:7 but does not understand what Isaiah has written. He confesses to Philip that unless someone guides him there will be no understanding. Therefore the Eunuch invites Philip to open the words of the prophet to him. This results in the Eunuch's salvation and belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (verse 37).

This event happened because Philip was faithful as a servant to the Lord Jesus and to the believers in Jerusalem. Notice Acts 6:1-7 for the full context.

What should this mean to us? Walt Disney once said, "There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." As believers, we possess sixty-six books compiled in one volume known as the SCRIPTURES.

So how much Treasure is found in those books? Treasures that can lead us in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity so that we may be examples to others. (1 Timothy 4:12).

In addition there are many benefits to reading.

From the Desk of Bro. Dan

Think on the following benefits to reading.

BRAIN HEALTH: reading builds new connections between neurons and keeps your mind sharp.

STRESS REDUCTION: Sitting down with a book for just six minutes can lower your heart rate and reduce stress levels by up to 68%.

BETTER FOCUS: Immersing yourself in a physical book or long article helps rebuild your attention span, acting as an antidote to constant digital distraction.

EXPANDED VOCABULARY: New words add to your ability to communicate.

IMPROVED SLEEP: Reading a quiet physical book before bed signals to your brain that it is time to rest.

GREATER EMPATHY: Following characters and deep stories helps you understand different human perspectives and emotions.

All these points are true of Bible Reading.

The point being - the reader can be a *blessing* to others and to him or her own self.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12-16

12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

13 Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading *of Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.

14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

15 Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.

16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.



September's Birth Flowers are:

Asters - symbolizing love and patience

Morning Glory - symbolizing affection

September's birthstone is the Sapphire, a precious gemstone symbolizing wisdom, virtue, and faithfulness.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2  Brockport Noon Prayer Every Wed. 	3	4	5 Dan Haley Jr. Nancy Hatton
6 Breakfast @ Grinds 8:30 10AM Study 11AM Worship	7 Labor Day	8  Holley & Greece	9  Hilton 7PM Zoom Bible Study	10	11 	12
13  September 13 10AM Study 11AM Worship	14 "FOUNDATIONS" Bible Study @ 7 PM	15	16 7PM Zoom Bible Study	Constitution Day September 17th 	18	19 Salvation Station 2-5 pm
20 10AM Study 11AM Worship	21	22 Ana Haley First Day of Autumn	23 7PM Zoom Bible Study	24	25	26  Look East Around Moonrise
27 Autumn Nature Walk @ Northampton Park 2PM, Bring a Bag Lunch 10AM Study 11AM Worship	28 "FOUNDATIONS" Bible Study @ 7 PM	29 	30 7PM Zoom Bible Study	1	2	3

September

2026

"I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being."

UPHOLD WITH PRAYER

Respiratory:

Ron Murphy - COPD

Seth Karpenko - Asthma

Diabetes:

Joy Karpenko, Susan Haley,

Neurological:

Migraines: Kendra Cooke, Joy Karpenko,

Dan Haley 3

Patsy Cliff

Chere Peters (crippling arthritis)

Susan Haley neuropathy

Mental Health:

Jayden and Morgan Cooke

Seth Karpenko

Dean Manchester

Serious Illness

Stephen Pratt: cancer with cont. treatments

Joanne Kraemer: cancer and she is stable

Darcy Haley: serious illness - pray also for her 2 young children

Gina (Carr) Stahl, wife of Charles Stahl: total paralysis on her left side. Waiting for Testing Results so treatment can improve. Pray fervently for those results to be realized.

Bryce Mott, 3 yrs. old. Cancer and undergoing treatments (Kellie Rath's great-nephew)

Special Health:

Dan Haley 3: Alport's Syndrome (hearing, kidneys, pancreas), spinal stenosis

Gordie McKinley: back to work! Thank You, Lord

Victoria Murphy: Sciatica along with other health concerns

Judy Hurst (Susan Haley's sister): memory care facility

Jodi Corona: Alzheimer's; toes removed from her foot and future surgeries possible

Mark Nicholson: Please continue to pray for strength through faithful exercise and mobility. He is wheelchair bound.

James Johnson: for more strength to return to his legs so that he can continue walking well.

Also he has been diagnosed with IBS so please pray for relief from this. Thankfully, nothing keeps him down. as he trusts the Lord.

Lisa Sperazza: heart problems

Loss of Loved Ones

Jeff Payne: Jodi Corona and Christy Auberger's brother.

Ken Engemann: Gail Engemann's son

MY JUDAS EXPERIENCE

Kendra Cooke



Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Ephesians 4:2

While studying the book of John, one thing that sticks with me is the reminder that Jesus sat at the table with Judas. There's something a bit more personal

about reading such a statement when you've gone through difficult periods and had to sit amongst people who openly dislike you. Yet, Jesus did more than sit with Judas. He fed him; he loved him, and he washed his feet, all while knowing that Judas would sell him out for thirty pieces of silver.

It's easy, when we come face to face with our own Judas, to want instant repercussions for their actions and behavior. Especially when it can have a long reaching domino effect, and leaves you with deep-seated trust issues. In the heat of the moment, when the pain is ripe, it's so much easier to point a finger and to let the torrent of pain escape through our mouths. Yet, Jesus simply told Judas to get on with the betrayal. The very action that would lead to Jesus' death.

There's no accusing finger, there's no pointing to the door. Jesus doesn't remove the bread from Judas' hand, or warn him that his actions will have deadly consequences. He simply says,

"What you are planning to do, go do it now." Then Jesus returns his attention to those around the table, and continues ministering and praying over them. When he's alone in the garden, aware of what lies ahead, he doesn't say, "And while you're at it, Father, give Judas a real kick in the pants."

Jesus had an intimate relationship with God, and not only knew the perfect love of God, he walked it. He could sit at the table with his Judas and still pray for him. Still want the best for him. My Judas will never know the many times I've paused in prayer for them, defended them, or saved them from an incoming storm they didn't deserve. Yet I still falter. When the pain is deep, and the abandonment hurts, making me want to point a finger. Until God gently reminds me that to have Christ-like love, I need to sit at the table with my Judas.

Kendra loves to write and has been writing for several years. She creates imaginative stories based upon life experiences.

She has received an honorable mention in the NYC Midnight Micro Fiction Challenge in 2024, and is an active member

of Pitch To Published, Writer's of Tennessee, and Writers of the Upper Cumberland.

The address for Kendra's website is:

www.inkstainedpapercuts.com

It's an interesting thought to consider that September is a month of renewal or of new beginnings.

How can this be?

The Bible connects the themes of harvest and renewal through the natural rhythms of sowing, waiting for the fruit, and God's faithful provision. It revolves around the themes of service, responsibility, and self-sacrifice. And we are taught this by our Lord Jesus through His life and testimony.

Take note of the words given to us in Psalms 126:5-6: "those who sow their tears as seeds, will reap a harvest with joyful shouts of glee!"

"Those who sow their tears as seeds will reap a harvest with joyful shouts of glee. They may weep as they go out carrying their seed to sow, but they will return with joyful laughter and shouting with gladness as they bring back armloads of blessing and a harvest overflowing!"

Psalms 126:5-6



It's a great month to harvest in preparation for the coming winter months. In fact, in Old England, it was called "Haerfest-monath", meaning Harvest Month. The months of August, September, October and November are part of the harvest season, and as Christians we recall God's constant protection over his people and give thanksgiving for the year's harvest. September represents the harvest season in many cultures, a time when the fruits of our labor are gathered and celebrated. It is a reminder that hard work and perseverance bring forth abundance in our lives. To care for and nurture ourselves to provide the comfort we need to be able to go out in the world and care for others. (S of S. 4:16)

As the days start to shorten and the air becomes cooler, it's a time for reflecting on the passing season and embracing the opportunities for renewal and growth. One of the most noticeable signs of September is the vibrant display of colors as the leaves change from green to an array of reds, yellows, and oranges. This transition reminds us that change is a natural part of life and that we should embrace it rather than resist it. (see Ephesians 4:23)

Just as trees shed their leaves in preparation for winter, September invites us to let go of things that no longer serve us. It's a time to release old habits, negative emotions, and anything that hinders our personal growth. Like the changing seasons, our spiritual journey is a continuous cycle of growth, to look inside. Just as nature goes through periods of inactiveness and rebirth, we too experience moments of stagnation followed by moments of profound transformation. Just as gardens require tending and care, our inner lives also need nurturing. September invites us to cultivate self-love, self-care, and self-discovery. It's an opportunity to plant new seeds of intention and watch them grow.

always be grateful.

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's easy to get caught up in the noise and distractions. September urges us to create moments of silence and solitude, where we can connect with our inner selves and listen to the whispers of our intuition. SLOW DOWN AND TAKE A MOMENT TO PONDER GOD'S GIFT OF PEACE AND JOY IN OUR NEW RESIDENCE, NEW CREATION, IN CHRIST JESUS.



Gratitude for the journey: September teaches us to express gratitude for the gifts and lessons we have received along our spiritual journey. By acknowledging and appreciating the blessings in our lives, we open ourselves up to even more abundance and joy.

As September dawns upon us, let's embrace the changing seasons, both outwardly and inwardly. Let's use this time for self-reflection, growth, and renewed intentions. By aligning ourselves with the rhythm of nature, we can navigate our spiritual journey with grace.

OBFPresence
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Salvation Station local Gospel ministry

Please take time to read the main article, check the calendar, realize the spiritual and physical needs of the brethren, read the Journal Page which is a beautiful testimony of one of the Lord's beloved in the OBFPresence ministry, a Saint from the past, or a Hymn Story.

"Thank you Lord for all of the precious folks at OBF. "

Susan Haley, Publisher/Editor; Bro. Dan Haley Jr, Writer; Bro. Dan Haley 3, Writer; those who share their testimony on the Journal Page;

Assistant Publisher and Editor: Christy Auberger Editing Staff: Seth and Joy Karpenko

www.thegodofgrace.org

WHY IS SEPTEMBER CALLED A MONTH OF RENEWAL?

The leaves begin to change as Fall makes its appearance on the 22nd of this month. It's a glorious color that we look forward to each year with the fresh and crisp air!

And we cannot forget the apples and all the delicious wealth of these red and green orbs - YUM! Apple pie, newly made apple jelly with fresh homemade rolls, and the best to come - Cider and Donuts!

Take a quiet walk along the trails at Letchworth or Hamlin Beach State Park. Find your special place to enjoy the season - there are many such places in our local area.

Enjoy some rest and relaxation in the Lord and walk worthy.

With the sincere love of God,

Bro. Dan and Susan and Toby



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:00 AM also on ZOOM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE & MESSAGE FROM THE SCRIPTURES

11:00 AM also on ZOOM

MONDAY "FOUNDATIONS"

7 PM only on ZOOM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION TIME

7:00 PM only on ZOOM

THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP, STUDY & PRAYER

11:00 AM only on ZOOM, when announced

ZOOM LINKS are available on our website on the "Meetings" page

www.thegodofgrace.org

2026 CALENDAR

www.wiki-calendar.com

JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES:

Jan 1 - New Year's Day
Jan 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
Feb 16 - Presidents' Day
Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day
Apr 5 - Easter Sunday
Apr 6 - Easter Monday

Apr 15 - Tax Day
May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
May 10 - Mother's Day
May 25 - Memorial Day
Jun 14 - Flag Day
Jun 19 - Juneteenth
Jun 21 - Father's Day

Jul 3 - 'Independence Day' day off
Jul 4 - Independence Day
Sep 7 - Labor Day
Oct 12 - Columbus Day
Oct 31 - Halloween
Nov 3 - Election Day
Nov 11 - Veterans Day

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Day
Nov 27 - Black Friday
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve
Dec 25 - Christmas Day
Dec 31 - New Year's Eve