Sermon Notes: Drifting Away from God (Heb 2:1-4; Rev 2:3-5; Luke 10:40-42; 15:20; Matt 6:33)

Introduction: Anchoring Ourselves in the Word (Hebrews 2:1; Revelation 2:3-5)

Point One: Drifting is Subtle and Quiet

Point Two: Distractions Become Detours (Luke 10:40-42)

Point Three: Distance Dulls Desire

Point Four: The Way Back Is Always Open (Luke 15:20; Matthew 6:33)

The Messenger

Weekly Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ
Loving God / Loving People

The Lord's Day, November 30, 2025

Order of Worship

Greeting: Mickey McDaniel
Scripture Reading: Randy Sowder (Hebrews 2:1-4)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Rick Lowe
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(Drifting Away from God)
Announcements / Prayer: Stan Davis

During Sermon

Nursery: Kayla Stanton (Sub: Kathy Hanshaw)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade Bible Hour: Angie McDaniel

Schedule of Services

Bible Studies: Sunday 9:30am & 5:00pm / Wednesday 7pm
Worship: Sunday 10:30am

Connect with Us

Church Office	(317) 535-1627
Church Text:	(317) 953-5095
Website:	www.whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Email:	info@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Prayer:	PrayerRequest@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Social Media:	www.Facebook.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC_Youth
	www.X.com/@Whiteland_COC
Online Worship:	www.YouTube.com/@WhitelandCOC

Mail In Contributions

Whiteland Church of Christ / PO Box 85 / Whiteland, IN 46184

Leadership

Elders
Stan Davis (317) 507-1936 / Ed Tichenor (317) 412-2416
Minister
Ronnie Hewitt (317) 966-2029

Welcome

Thank you for being with us today. May you find your time here to be a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Recent Prayer Requests

Cindy Davis is scheduled for surgery on December 9th.
Sarah Day is requesting prayers of encouragement.
GayLee Sutton has wet macular degeneration. She is to have an injection to help with the bleeding retina and will be participating in a clinical trial for the next two years.
Wanda Weaver is to have extensive dental work on December 4th.
Eddie Culin, Wiwczaroski's friend, his latest scan shows a 50% reduction in the tumor size. He is now scheduled for surgery on December 19th.
Nancy Duncan, Rodney Dowell's sister has a serious infection and is in urgent need of a kidney transplant.
Greg and Heather Schmidt, cousins of Amy Wiwczaroski, are facing several medical issues. Heather has breast cancer and will be starting chemo treatments soon. Greg is recovering double hernia surgery.

Long Term Concerns

Gavin Brooks (son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues), **Juanita Brunnemer** (shut-in), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, cancer), **Karen Deford** (injections in her hip due to arthritis), **Frank Denzio** (John's brother, kidney & liver issues), **Tonya Dowell** (several health issues, undergoing tests), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's, & mourning the loss of her husband), **Robert Ewing (**GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer), **Gloria** (friend of Hagan's, kidney & heart issues), **Moe Handy** (shut-in, shoulder & back pain), **Rex Hembree** (Della's brother, lung issues), **Angie Hewitt** (looking for employment), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass & kidney transplant list), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Pam Lasiter** (Lougene's daughter, ongoing health issues), **Sharon Lasiter** (hospice), **Lynn** (aunt of Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law, breast & spine cancer), **Clayton Marrott** (intestinal issues), **Pat Martin** (Amy Wiwczaroski's dad, Parkinson's, testing upcoming), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Tim Scott** (Cindy Strope's brother, palsy), **Megan Setser** (Wanda's neighbor, recovering from brain tumor surgery), **Benny & Gayle Stephens** (Benny – oxygen, Gayle - cancer), **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor, palliative care), **Blanche Taylor** (shut-in), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew, COPD), **Mary Walton** (Regina Anderson's mom, shut-in), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer & recovering from pneumonia), **Wanda Weaver** (kidney disease & lupus), **Heather Wiwczaroski** (Eric's sister-in-law, recovering from spine surgery), **Jimmy Wooten** (Lougene's son, Parkinson's); **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Lougene's son & daughter-in-law, Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's).

How do I become a Christian?

Hear the Word (Romans 10:17) / Believe the Word (John 20:31, Acts 16:31) / Repent of your sins (Luke 13:5, 15:7) / Confess Jesus to others (Matthew 10:32-33) / Be Baptized in the name of Jesus for salvation (1Peter 3:21, Romans 6:4-5, Acts 2:37-38)

Upcoming Events

Celebrations This Week

Birthday
None to Report
Anniversary
George & Rachel Hewitt (27yrs)

Youth Activity

There is an all-youth Christmas Pajama Party with a movie, crafts, and plenty of fun planned for Friday, December 5th, here at the building from 6-9pm. there is a sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board.

Sisters' Holiday Pitch-in Brunch

Saturday, December 13th from 10am-12pm.
You are asked to bring a dish to share for brunch and 2 dozen cookies for an exchange. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the Involvement Board in the foyer. For more info, please see Cindy Strope.

Annual Whiteland Elephant Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party will be December 19th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided, and we need a head count. There is a sign-up sheet on the Involvement Board in the foyer. Each person wishing to partake in the gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift (up to a $10 value). This can be something recycled, funny, or serious.

Address Update

Della Turnbill has moved to 132 Arabian Ct.; New Whiteland, IN 46184. All other info is the same.

Cleaning Crew
December 1-6 (Team 3)

Finance Record

2025 Budget: $178,787.94 Weekly Budget: $3,438.23
Last Week's Offering: $3,583.00
To date, we are approximately $4,500 short of YTD Budget

Attendance

Sunday: AM Bible Study (23); Worship (63); PM Bible Study (12)
Tuesday (28)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, November 30	1Corinthians 9-11
Monday, December 1	1Corinthians 12-14
Tuesday, December 2	1Corinthians 15-16
Wednesday, December 3	2Corinthians 1-4
Thursday, December 4	2Corinthians 5-8
Friday, December 5	2Corinthians 9-13
Saturday, December 5	Galatians 1-6

Faith Applied: Where Scripture Meets Everyday Life

"Submit Yourselves: The Posture of Power"

Have you ever tried to open a door with the wrong key? You twist it, jiggle it, maybe even force it, but it won't open. That's what life feels like when we try to walk in spiritual authority without submission. We want breakthrough, peace, and victory, but we're using the wrong key.

James 4:7 gives us the "master key" for our breakthrough. It says, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*"

This verse is more than instruction – it's divine strategy. It shows us that submission is not a loss of control, but the alignment that unlocks heaven's power. Let's walk through this verse together and discover how submission positions us for clarity, peace, and victory.

Let's begin with the word submit. In the Greek, it's hypotassō, which means "*to arrange under, to yield to one's control.*" It's a military term, meaning to fall in line under a commanding officer.

But here's the beauty: God doesn't force us into submission. He invites us. Submission is a voluntary act of trust. It's saying, "God, I believe Your way is better than mine." Now, submission isn't passive. It's not about sitting back, but stepping forward in obedience. It's not weakness, it's wisdom.

Think of a mirror angled toward the sun. When it's aligned, it reflects light. Tilt it the wrong way, and the light scatters. Submission is the alignment that allows God's light to reflect through us.

Notice the order in James 4:7 - Submit to God; Resist the devil; and then the devil flees. Far too often we try to resist the devil without submitting to God. But resistance without submission is like swinging a sword with no armor. You might look brave, but you're exposed. When we submit to God, we come under His covering and gain legal authority in the spiritual realm. The enemy doesn't flee because of our volume; he flees because of our alignment.

Imagine a soldier on the battlefield. If he's under command, he has backup, strategy, and protection. But if he goes rogue, he's vulnerable. Submission places us under divine command.

So, what happens when we live a life of submission? We gain clarity: God orders our steps, and confusion lifts. We gain peace: The war between flesh and spirit quiets. We gain power: The devil flees, not because of our strength, but because of our surrender.

Let's see this in action. In Matthew 14, Peter walks on water. Why? Because he submitted to Jesus' call. But when he felt the wind and saw the ways, his submission gave way to fear, and he began to sink. His submission to God sustained the miracle; however, the distraction disrupted it.

This isn't just a Sunday message – it's a Monday lifestyle. How do we submit ourselves to God in the everyday? 1) Start with surrender. Begin each day with, "*Not my will, but Yours.*" Before the phone, before the to-do list, submit your heart. 2) Stay in Scripture. God's Word is the compass of submission. It keeps us aligned. 3) Submit your reactions. In conflict, pause. Ask, "God, how do You want me to respond?" Submission isn't just about big decisions; it's about small moments. 4) Submit your plans. Don't just ask God to bless your agenda; ask Him to write it.