

LIVESTREAM

# LIFE CHANGING

## *Relationships*

Part 5: Protecting Our Church

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

WITH PASTOR MARK STERLACE



# Prayer Highlights



# *Pure Religion Sunday*

**James 1:27 NIV-** Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



**KRISTA**



**JAMES**

**JAHADD**



**FRANCES**



**MICAH**



**CRYSTAL**



**EMILY**



**TAI**



**BLAKE**



**TY**



**KAITLYN**



**LARRY**





**EVELYN**



**MADISON**



**ON HOLD**

**JOHNNY**



**PAYTON**



**AUTUMN**



**SIENNA**





**JESSIE**



**TYLER**



**DAKOTA**



**MIA**



**KYLEE**



**AIDEN**



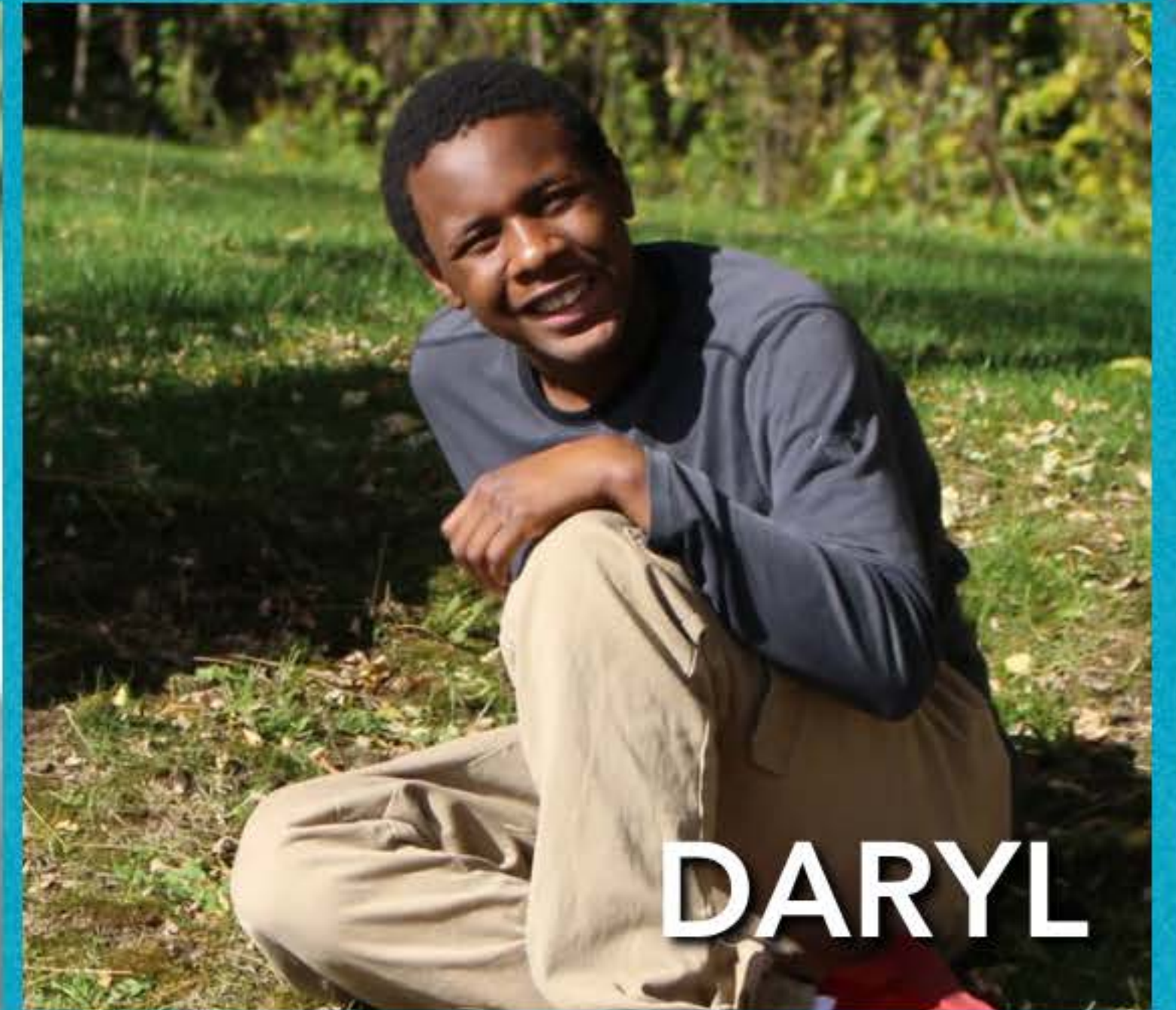


**JAMIE G.**



**DAVID W.**

**ON HOLD**



**DARYL**



- Approximately 400,000 children in foster care in America
- Approximately 400,000 evangelical churches in America
- Approximately 110,000 of those in care are waiting to be adopted



# FIND YOUR SOMETHING!!!

- \*Make them a meal
- \*Provide child care/babysitting
- \*Be a listening ear to the parents
- \*Mentor a foster/adoptive child
- \*Help with transportation to appointments
- \*Above all, PRAY for them!



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**LIFE CHANGING**

*Relationships*

*Part 1: Formed for God's Family*



## Part 2: "What Matters Most...?"

"No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love."

**1 Corinthians 13:3b (MSG)**



# Part 3: "A Place to Belong"

*"You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."*

**Ephesians 2:19b (LB)**



# Part 4: "Cultivating Community"

*"You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor."*

**James 3:18 (Msg)**



# Part 5: Protecting Your Church

*"You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way."*

**Ephesians 4:3 (NCV)**



*“Most of all, let love guide your life,  
for then the whole church  
will stay together in perfect harmony.”*

**Colossians 3:14 (LB)**



"Make every effort to keep  
the unity of the Spirit  
through the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:3



**#1] Focus on what we have  
in common, not our  
differences.**





**#2] Be realistic in your expectations.**





**Bonhoeffer said,**

*"He who loves his dream of community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter... If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even when there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith, and difficulty; if on the contrary, we keep complaining that everything is paltry and petty, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow."*



**#3] Choose to Encourage  
rather than criticize.**





## *Romans 14:13*

*“So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let’s not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this: not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s or sister’s way.”*



*Whenever I judge another believer, four things instantly happen:*

- 1. I lose fellowship with God,*
- 2. I expose my own pride and insecurity,*
- 3. I set myself up to be judged by God,*
- 4. And I harm the fellowship of the church.*



**#4] Refuse to listen to gossip.**



***Key Truth ~ People who  
gossip to you will also  
gossip about you.***



***Solomon pointed out, (Proverbs 26:20)***

***"Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and tensions disappear when gossip stops."***



**#5] Support your pastor  
and leaders.**



*"Be responsive to your pastoral leaders. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them?" Hebrews 13:17*



*“You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.” James 3:18 (Msg)*

