

Spreading the **WORD** Ministry



THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

As July stretches into August and the sun blazes high in the sky, we find ourselves in what many call the “dog days of summer.” It’s a phrase we’ve all heard—often uttered with a sigh as we wipe sweat from our brows or seek relief in the shade. But have you ever wondered where this curious expression comes from? And more importantly, what might it teach us about endurance, faith, and the divine rhythms of life?

The term “dog days” doesn’t actually come from panting pups sprawled out on porches—though that image certainly fits. Its roots trace back to the stars, specifically to the ancient Greeks and Romans. In ancient times, the “dog days” referred to the period when Sirius, the Dog Star, rose and set with the sun. Sirius is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major—Latin for “Greater Dog.” The ancients believed that the combined heat of Sirius and the sun caused the sweltering weather typical of late July and early August.

However, in many ways, the dog days of summer can be compared to the spiritual trials we all face. Just as the earth endures the scorching sun, we too go through seasons of dryness, fatigue, and testing. The prophet Isaiah spoke of such times, writing:

“When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”
—Isaiah 43:2 (ESV)

The heat of life’s challenges can feel overwhelming. Whether it’s the weariness of daily responsibilities, the burden of grief, or the ache of unanswered prayers, we all know what it’s like to feel scorched by circumstance. But the Bible reminds us that these fiery trials are not meant to destroy us—they are meant to refine us.

The apostle Paul, no stranger to hardship, offers this encouragement:

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”
—Romans 5:3–4 (ESV)

Hope. That’s the gift hidden in the heat. Just as the dog days eventually give way to cooler breezes and golden leaves, our seasons of struggle are not eternal. They are part of a divine cycle—one that shapes us, strengthens us, and draws us closer to the heart of God.

Consider the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19. After a great victory over the prophets of Baal, Elijah flees into the wilderness, exhausted and afraid. He collapses under a broom tree and prays for death. But God does not rebuke him. Instead, He sends an angel with food and water, saying, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.”

In the heat of our own journeys, God meets us with sustenance. Sometimes it’s a word of encouragement, a friend’s kindness, or a moment of peace that reminds us we are not alone. The dog days may be long, but they are not without grace.

There’s another lesson in these dog days of summer—one that invites us to slow down, just like that dog lays on the porch we too must rest. In a society that prizes productivity and speed, the slower pace of summer can feel like a disruption. But perhaps it’s a divine invitation.

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

—Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

Stillness is not idleness. It is a sacred posture of trust. When the heat slows our steps and silences our striving, we are more able to hear the gentle whisper of God. Like the cicadas humming in the trees or the sunflowers turning their faces to the light, we are reminded that creation itself rests in the rhythm of our Creator.

So as we endure the dog days of summer, let us not merely count the days until cooler weather. Let us embrace this season as a time of spiritual renewal. Let us dive into the well of God’s Word, seek shade in His promises, and find rest in His presence.

Let us remember that even in the hottest, hardest days, the light of the Morning Star—Jesus Christ—shines brighter than Sirius ever could.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

—Revelation 22:16 (NIV)

May the dog days draw us not into despair, but into deeper dependence on the One who walks with us through every season.

Stay cool, stay faithful, and keep looking up.

**“So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing
by the **WORD** of God.” Romans 10:17**

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A Tragedy Christopher Kolker

He's gone. I can't believe it. One day he is here, and then the next thing I know, he is gone forever.

Unfortunately, death does not always spare the young. Dustin, a medical student whom I had tutored extensively over the course of three years, was on the cusp of graduation. The world was at his feet. He began applying to residencies, and after that, he would start his career in emergency medicine. His future was golden.

Except for that nagging cough. He couldn't shake it. At first, he didn't pay much attention to it. After all, he had bicycled across the US just last summer, nearly 3000 miles in total. It couldn't be anything serious, right?

But it just wouldn't go away. So, he finally went to his doctor and got an x-ray. Cancer!

However, he's young, so he will be fine. At least, that is what we told him. But in a blink of an eye, he knew he wouldn't be fine. He said his goodbyes to me and his friends and family, and now he's gone. At just 26 years old, it's over.

Why does God allow this? He has realm over life and death, does he not? Can't he swoop in and stop this? Why do such tragedies come about? Why would He not cure cancer in someone at the cusp of a brilliant future of helping people? Wouldn't Dustin be a positive force to the patients he would have served?

The truthful answer is that I don't know all the answers to these questions. I am supposed to say that God takes care of us in the end, and that death is here because of our sin and our broken world. Still, those seem like empty, hollow words when grieving Dustin's plight.

But I have faith. Truthfully, a great deal will happen in this world that I will never fully comprehend. I know that we cannot fathom the wisdom and judgment of God. I know I must trust in Him and that He does things for the greater good, even though we can only see this meager, earthly realm.

And so, I will pray for Dustin, his parents, his girlfriend, and those he left behind. We are better for knowing him. He will be missed. And I will ask that God leads us in wisdom to understand this tragedy and so many more that we see every day. Cling to the Lord; He is our comfort and shield.



Spreading the **WORD** is our Mission: Our prayer is to continue expanding the Reach of the Gospel to as many towns, states, cities and countries as possible

The call to spread the gospel is a mission that requires faith, commitment, and partnership. As we reflect on the progress made, we recognize the incredible support of our donors and partners who make this work possible. Their generosity fuels outreach efforts, supports ministry programs, and allows us to reach more hearts and lives with the message of God's love and salvation.

Each donation, whether large or small, plays a vital role in expanding the reach of the gospel. With continued support, we can. We invite individuals, churches, and businesses to partner with us in this mission. Whether through financial contributions, volunteer efforts, or simply spreading the **WORD**, every act of support brings us closer to touching more lives with the message of salvation.

If you're interested in joining hands with us to make a meaningful impact, we'd love to connect with you. You can reach us in many ways:

1. Email us at Spreadingthewordministry.org
2. Phone us 580-331-8644 or 580-331-9081
3. Mail us PO BOX 275
Clinton, OK 73601

Together, we can continue to spread hope, faith, and love to those in need..



Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, is a solemn occasion dedicated to honoring the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in service to the United States. Originally known as Decoration Day, the holiday emerged after the Civil War as a way to commemorate fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers. Over time, it evolved into a national day of remembrance for all military personnel who have died in service.

The origins of Memorial Day date back to the late 1860s, when communities across the country began holding tributes for fallen soldiers. In 1868, General John A. Logan officially proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day, a time to honor those who died in the Civil War. The tradition expanded after World War I to include all American military personnel who had lost their lives in battle. In 1971, Congress established Memorial Day as a federal holiday, ensuring its annual observance on the last Monday of May.

Americans commemorate Memorial Day in various ways, including visiting cemeteries and memorials, attending parades, and participating in ceremonies that pay tribute to fallen heroes. Many communities hold events that feature speeches, musical performances, and moments of silence to reflect on the sacrifices made by service members. Additionally, a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time, encouraging all citizens to pause and honor those who have given their lives for their country.

While Memorial Day is often associated with the unofficial start of summer, it is important to remember its true purpose: honoring the courage and dedication of those who served. Whether by attending a local ceremony, sharing stories of veterans, or simply taking a moment to reflect, Memorial Day serves as a powerful reminder of the cost of freedom and the bravery of those who defended it.
