



# ACORN

## Seeds For Growth

### *Fight Sin*

"Be killing sin, or it will be killing you." John Owen

"For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live." Romans 8:13

We must not take a passive posture in relation to our sin. Scripture exhorts us to "Put off your old self which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds" (Eph. 4:22-23).

Since we have been united with Christ by faith, we are free from the penalty of sin (Rom. 8:1) and from its controlling power (Rom. 8:2). "Sin is still your enemy, but it is no longer your master" (Colin Smith). We are free in Christ, but we are not free to continue in sin or to presume upon the grace of God. No! We are free to walk in the new life of the Spirit; free to love God with all of our hearts; free to pursue holiness and increasingly reflect the image of Christ our Lord.

***The key to battling sin and temptation is to replace our old desires and loves with new and better ones in the Lord.*** While we must be proactive in our fight with sin, we must not become preoccupied with a focus on sin. Rather, we need to stoke the flames of worship in our hearts and constantly direct our thoughts to the glory and majesty of our God. And as we see His greatness and experience His goodness, "the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

"For every look at sin, take ten looks at Jesus." Robert Murray-M'Cheyne

***The secret to a life of holiness is a heart of godliness.*** To be godly is to give God weight in your life - to make Him central and exalt Him as Lord. A godly person thinks much of God and little of himself. A godly person considers God's will in all things and constantly surrenders her own desires. "He must become greater, I must become less."

So the first battle in the war against sin is making ***a firm commitment to worship*** - both corporately and personally. We have become very influenced by our culture of rampant self-indulgence and this has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the importance of Sunday worship. Nearly every whim of ours can be an excuse to skip church - the slightest cold, plans that ran late Saturday night, the need to catch up on work, a desire to extend a weekend getaway, a little trouble getting the kids ready... the list goes on.



We must reclaim the sanctity and priority of Sunday as the Lord's Day and re-elevate the importance of gathering as God's people to worship Him together. Our daily lighting of a candle unites each Sunday in the bonfire of public worship.

Similarly, in our great concern to prevent legalism, we have nearly lost sight of ***the importance of spiritual disciplines***. Many of us give lip service to the need for daily prayer and Bible reading but the reality is that we place almost every other task ahead of these in terms of priority so that our "quiet time" becomes a "if I get around to it" reality.

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Oakwood Community Church  
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Tampa FL 33618-5306  
813.969.2303  
www.oakwoodfl.org

The mission of  
Oakwood is to...

Transform ordinary people  
into fully devoted followers  
of Jesus Christ.

Oakwood is a member of  
the Evangelical Free  
Church of America.



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## The Art of Marriage - presented by FamilyLife

Coming again to Oakwood February 9-10, 2018



**The Art of Marriage** brings together some of the most respected and influential pastors and experts on marriage and family all in one setting. It also brings a fresh approach to a video event by weaving together some of the following elements to help couples fully experience God's design for marriage:

- engaging stories
- real-life testimonies
- man-on-the-street interviews
- humorous vignettes

**The Art of Marriage** consists of six video sessions and an accompanying manual that provides couples with projects to help apply the principles taught during each session. The manual is also designed for couples to use after the event by offering articles, date night ideas, and useful tips for continuing to strengthen their marriage.

### Topics Covered

- Session 1: Love happens (purpose of marriage)**
- Session 2: Love fades (drift to isolation)**
- Session 3: Love dances (roles)**
- Session 4: Love interrupted (communication)**
- Session 5: Love sizzles (romance and sex)**
- Session 6: Love always (legacy)**

The cost is \$50 per couple. Registration includes two seminar manuals, snacks and continental breakfast on Saturday.

**February 4** is the final day to register. Register at the table in the lobby or contact the Church Office to register @ office@oakwoodfl.org or 813-969-2303.

### Who should come?

- Singles contemplating marriage
- Engaged couples
- Newly married couples
- Not so newly married couples

### Why should I come?

Every relationship can use encouragement, a tune-up, or an overhaul

### What can I expect at the seminar?

- Engaging stories
- Real-life testimonies
- Man-on-the-street interviews
- Humorous vignettes

### What can I learn at the seminar?

- Poetry isn't so bad
- How to catch a football pass

### Seminar Schedule:

#### Friday

7:00 - 9:30 PM - Session 1 & 2

#### Saturday

8:30 AM - Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Sessions 3 & 4

12:00 - 1:45 PM - Lunch Break (on your own)

1:45 - 4:00 PM - Sessions 5 & 6

*In our 45 years of marriage "The Art of Marriage" seminar is one of the very best that we have attended - and we've participated in many! It is very engaging and perfect for couples at any stage of marriage. We highly recommend it.*

Dan and Arlene Williams

Childcare can be made available at an additional charge if there are enough requests. Our teens will be providing childcare to help raise funds for their summer conference. Please contact the Church Office by February 2 to request childcare.

## Blood Pressure checks

Blood pressure checks on February 4 the kitchen following the Worship Service. Don't miss this important health screening.



## Congregational Meeting

There is an important Congregational Meeting following the Worship Service on Sunday, February 18. We will be receiving new members and voting on some changes to Oakwood's Constitution and By-Laws—including changing our Fiscal Year from January through December to July through June.

Members should have received an email about these changes. If you did not receive an email or have any questions about any of these changes, please contact one of the elders.

## Prayer Chain

The purpose of Oakwood's **E-Prayer Connection** is to communicate prayer requests for our fellow Oakwood members, our families, friends, others personally known to us, and the ministries of our church.



If you would like to partner in prayer for the needs of our church family, send your full name and email address to [ekrex@verizon.net](mailto:ekrex@verizon.net) with Prayer Chain Ministry in the subject line. You can also send items to be published for prayer at this same email address.

## Online Giving

Did you know that you can make financial contributions to Oakwood through our website? You can give one time or set up for recurring donations. Visit [www.oakwoodfl.org](http://www.oakwoodfl.org) and click "Give Online" on the right side of the menu on the home page.

## Gal's Social

Ladies—Please join the women of Oakwood for a fun afternoon at The Hen House on Saturday, March 3rd from 2:00-4:00 PM. Please RSVP at the Info Desk in the lobby with \$10 for materials to create your own stretch bracelet



## Women's Bible Study

*Just For Joy* meets on Tuesdays at 10:15 AM in the Education Building. We are doing the *Momentum* study. Come join us.

## Work As Worship seminar



God has a purpose for us on this earth. That calling is to be on mission for God where He has placed us. And since many people spend the majority of their waking hours on the job, we have to stop compartmentalizing life into "spiritual activities" and "work activities." How are we living examples of the gospel while we work?

You're invited to the 2018 Work as Worship Retreat, where eleven influential business leaders and pastors will discuss what it looks like to connect faith and work. Taking place as a 1-Day Local Church Retreat on February 23, 2018, the live event in Dallas will be web-streamed to over 2,000 churches around the world, **including Oakwood Church.**

Click here - [www.workasworshipretreat.org](http://www.workasworshipretreat.org) - to learn more or register for the Retreat.

## Women's Group Study

# CHANGES THAT HEAL

14 week small group study for women

**Mondays, February 19 – May 21**  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Church Library

Dr. Henry Cloud presents biblical solutions for struggles with depression, anxiety, panic, addictions and guilt. These struggles can be resolved as we focus on four basic tasks of growing up and into the “likeness” of God who created us:

- Bonding to others
- Separating from others
- Sorting out good and bad in ourselves and others
- Becoming an adult

Dr. Cloud identifies the problems that result when we fail to accomplish these tasks and shows us what changes to make in our lives in order to bring about healing.

**Workbook (required) is \$6.99**

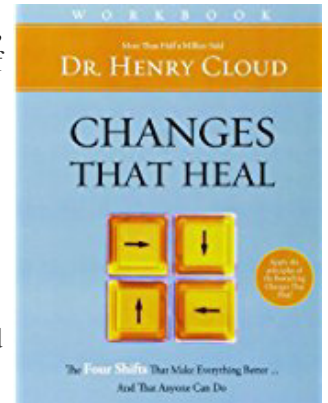
**Textbook (recommended) is \$9.99**

### Facilitators:

Kathy Long 813-610-1815

Terri Johnson 813-675-7608

**Register at the Information Desk in the Oakwood lobby or call Kathy or Terri.**



## Opportunity to Serve the World

**Naomi's Daughters** is a ministry for single moms that provides clothing and food to the moms and their children. The Oakwood family, along with others in the community, provides donations of clothing, food and money to keep this ministry moving forward.



**Current needs** –Clothing and shoes for infants to adults; school supplies

**Pantry needs:** cereal, canned goods, rice, pasta, paper goods, personal care items, etc.



**FOOD DRIVE**

Donations can be left on the back porch of the gray house at the front of our property. Tax Deductible receipts are available.

Please pray that we can continue to reach people in this ministry and show the hands and feet of the Lord to those who come through our doors.



## Seeds For Growth—continued

So the first battle in the war against sin is making *a firm commitment to worship* - both corporately and personally. We have become very influenced by our culture of rampant self-indulgence and this has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the importance of Sunday worship. Nearly every whim of ours can be an excuse to skip church - the slightest cold, plans that ran late Saturday night, the need to catch up on work, a desire to extend a weekend getaway, a little trouble getting the kids ready... the list goes on. We must reclaim the sanctity and priority of Sunday as the Lord's Day and re-elevate the importance of gathering as God's people to worship Him together. Our daily lighting of a candle unites each Sunday in the bonfire of public worship.

Similarly, in our great concern to prevent legalism, we have nearly lost sight of *the importance of spiritual disciplines*. Many of us give lip service to the need for daily prayer and Bible reading but the reality is that we place almost every other task ahead of these in terms of priority so that our "quiet time" becomes a "if I get around to it" reality.

"I ought to pray before seeing any one. Often when I sleep long, or meet with others early, it is eleven or twelve o'clock before I begin secret prayer. This is a wretched system. It is unscriptural. Christ arose before day and went into a solitary place. David says: 'Early will I seek thee'; 'Thou shalt early hear my voice.' Family prayer loses much of its power and sweetness, and I can do no good to those who come to seek from me. The conscience feels guilty, the soul unfed, the lamp not trimmed. Then when in secret prayer the soul is often out of tune, I feel it is far better to begin with God—to see his face first, to get my soul near him before it is near another." Robert Murray M'Cheyne

We need discipline, but within that discipline there must be devotion:

"You read your Bible regularly, of course; but do try and understand it, and still more, to *feel it*. Read more parts than one at a time. For example, if you are reading Genesis, read a psalm also; or, if you are reading Matthew, read a small bit of an epistle also. *Turn the Bible into prayer*. Thus, if you were reading the 1st Psalm, spread the Bible on the chair before you, and kneel, and pray, 'O Lord, give me the blessedness of the man,' etc. 'Let me not stand in the counsel of the ungodly,' etc. This is the best way of knowing the meaning of the Bible, and of learning to pray." Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Finally, the other side of the battle with sin is to actively confront and attack the remaining sin in your life. **"Know your sin. Stalk your sin. Kill your sin"** (Colin Smith)

"We need to be intimately acquainted with the ways, wiles, methods, advantages, and occasions which give sin (lust) its success.

This is how men deal with their enemies. They search out their plans, ponder their goals, and consider how, and by what means they have prevailed over them *in the past*. Then they can be defeated... We need to... trace this serpent in all of its turning and windings, and to bring its most secret tricks out into the open. We must learn to say – 'this is your usual method; I know what you are up to.'" John Owen

"[Sin] will not die except by being gradually and constantly weakened: Spare it and it heals its wounds, and recover its strength. Everything will do its utmost to preserve its life and being. So will sin do also; and if it be not constantly pursued with diligence and holy violence, it will escape our assaults. Let no man think to kill sin with a few easy or gentle strokes. He who has once smitten a serpent, if he follow not on his blow until he be slain, may repent that ever he began the quarrel. And so he who undertakes to deal with sin, and pursues it not constantly to death." John Owen

"The first thing in mortification is the *weakening* of this habit.

This is called 'crucifying the flesh and the lusts thereof (Gal 5:24); that is, taking away its blood and spirits that give it strength and power.

As a man nailed to the a cross he first struggles and strives and cries out with great strength and might, but, as his blood and spirits waste, his strivings are faint and seldom, his cries low and hoarse, scarce to be heard; when a man first sets on a lust or distemper, to deal with it, it struggles with great violence to break loose; it cries with earnestness and impatience to be satisfied and relieved; but when by mortification the blood and spirits of it are let out, it moves seldom and faintly, cries sparingly and is scarce heard in the heart. Sin ...is fastened to the cross... that... the power of sin [be] weakened and abolished by little and little." John Owen

Every time you say "yes" to a sin you increase its power in your life. Every time you say "no" to a sin you decrease its power in you. We will not reach perfection in this life, but perfection must still be our aim lest we compromise with the deceitfulness of sin. We will not become perfect, but we will make progress. We will grow. We will gain victories in the mortification of sin for the Spirit of Jesus Christ dwells in us and His power is at work in us to "bear the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God" (Php. 1:11).



## PowerHouse Schedule

- Feb 4—Superbowl Party @ Bustamante home
- Feb 9—Food Bag Ministry Shopping
- Feb 11—Food Bag Ministry & Regular Evening Meeting
- Feb 18—Regular Evening Meeting
- Feb 25—Regular Evening Meeting

## Superbowl Party



**February 4**

**Bustamante home  
9827 Tree Tops Lake Rd**

**GUY BRING DRINKS  
GIRLS BRING DESSERT OR  
CHIPS  
PIZZA SERVED**

**DOORS OPEN 5:30  
MUST BE PICKED UP BY END OF  
GAME**

## PowerHouse Talent Show

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4  
5:00 PM**

Mark your calendar and bring the family to the 10th Annual Powerhouse Talent Show.

Please bring your favorite dessert and drop it off in the kitchen at 5:00. The show begins at 5:30. Dessert will be served at the 6:15 intermission.

Highlighted talents will include visual art work, video entries and a variety of live acts, including: comedy, music and the spoken work.

The youth worship team will close the night around 7:00.

## Food Bag Ministry

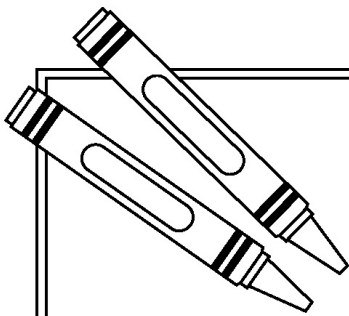
Our PowerHouse students have a monthly fundraiser assembling food bags that are distributed to medical clinics in Tampa, Lakeland, Haines City and Winter Haven and Jacksonville. These bags are distributed to indigent patients at the clinic to provide some basic food needs of the patients and their family.

PowerHouse teens can raise money for summer mission/conference trips by participating in our monthly Food Bag Ministry, typically on the second Sunday of each month. Our next Food Bag prep day is **Sunday, February 11** right after the Worship Service.



Teens can raise extra funds by helping shop for the food and/or helping with delivery of the food bags to the medical clinics. Shopping for the next fundraiser will be Friday, February 9. Meet at Aldi at Bearss & Florida Ave. at 5:00 PM (or contact Cam Whipple—813.265.9895) if you want to help. For more details on deliveries, contact Cindy Giannone at (813) 969-4136.

Kids Corner



# Just for KIDS

## *But the Greatest of These Is LOVE!*

God shows love to us every day and in many ways. Fill in the blanks below with the missing letters to see how God loves us perfectly!

“For God so lo \_ \_ ed the world,

that he g \_ \_ ve

his on \_ \_ y

begott \_ \_ n

So \_ \_ ,

\_ \_ hat whosoever

believeth \_ \_ n Him

should \_ \_ ot perish,

but have \_ \_ verlasting life.

—John 3:16, KJV

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Oakwood Community Church  
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**Our Vocation & Volunteer Staff**

Lead Pastor—Darin Anderson  
Director of Ministries & Coordinator of Children’s  
Ministry—Dave Dorsey  
Director of PowerHouse Ministry—Cam Whipple  
Office Manager—Martha Dorsey

**Our Elder Team**

Darin Anderson  
Mark Beale  
Edson Bustamante  
John Schneider  
Rob Weyand

**Our Deacon Team**

David Conner  
Dave DePagter  
David Fowle  
Larry Giannone  
Brian Johnson  
Mike Wyatt

**Office hours:**

Monday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Education Classes :**

Sundays - 9:15 AM

**Worship:**

Sundays—10:30 AM

**Calendar at a Glance**



Feb 4—Communion  
Blood Pressure checks following Worship  
Feb 9-10—The Art of Marriage  
Feb 11—Deacon Team Meeting  
Oakwood Cares Team Meeting  
PowerHouse Food Bag Ministry  
Feb 12—Elder Team Meeting

Feb 18—Compassion Offering  
Missions Team Meeting  
Congregational Meeting  
Feb 19—Elder/Deacon Teams meet  
Feb 23—Work as Worship seminar  
Feb 26—Elder Team meets

The Oakwood *ACORN* is a monthly E-newsletter from Oakwood Community Church, published to keep our church family and friends informed about events and people at Oakwood. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to [Office@oakwoodfl.org](mailto:Office@oakwoodfl.org). Article deadlines and publication schedule is:

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>For events during...</b>
Feb 20	March 2018
Mar 20	April 2018

**Missed a Sunday message? Listen online @ [www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/](http://www.oakwoodfl.org/messages/)**