



# the fellowship message

"Proclaiming freedom for the captives." ISAIAH 61

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## The Power of Prayer by Teresa Fairchild

*I remember the moment my 18-year-old son stood in our kitchen, the day after Easter 2019, and told me that he thought he was bi-sexual. It cut me to the core, and I stood in disbelief. I was silent as I gazed upon this boy, whom I loved with all my heart, telling me something I believed was a choice ultimately leading him on a path to death, if not physically, then spiritually.*

I remember screaming on the inside, "No, you are not!" while silently crying to the Lord to give me words to say—words that would convey my steadfast love for my son, but also words that would convey the truth of the convictions I held. God answered my prayer, and my heart poured out to my son. I told him I loved him with all my heart. I also told him I could not stand by watching him choose death without speaking truth to him.

Having grown up in a Christian home—attending Sunday school and church weekly, going to a Christian school through his elementary years, being involved in youth group—we knew our son had heard the truth. He heard he was created in God's image, that God created male and female, that homosexuality was wrong and contrary to God's plan. I asked him frankly, "Do you believe the Bible to be the true, inerrant Word of God?" He responded that indeed, he did. I implored him to get off the internet, put away any extra books and turn directly to the Bible, to let the Truth of Scripture be his guide. Praise be to God, he did.

As our son began to search the Scriptures, my husband and I hit our knees. We confided in one other Christian couple. They hit their knees with us, and we cried out day and night that Jesus would save our son and reveal His Truth to him. We begged God to bind Satan and his demons, to silence them in the mind of our son. We prayed God would close the mouths of his non-Christian friends who were advising him with the ways of the world. We cried God would speak to our son and reveal Himself to him. I found myself on my knees in my bedroom, in the kitchen, in our horse barn, in the middle of our driveway. I was overwhelmed, and dropping to my knees was almost involuntary as I poured out my heart to the Lord.

My mother's heart was broken. I felt as if I were watching my son *choose* death. I was devastated and quickly became depressed. I was angry with his friends who had supported this decision. I cried a lot! I even found myself wishing I had never had children, because watching him choose a path of death was too hard. My husband and I questioned all our parenting: *What could we have done differently? Should we not have given him a doll as a toddler? Should we have*



Teresa and Jeff are  
a part of PF's Hope  
Group ministry

have prevented him from playing with so many girls? He had always been close to me, should I have not allowed that? Should we have made him participate in more “boy” activities? We were sure we had done everything wrong. The thought even crossed my mind that maybe if I took my own life, it would prove to my son how much this choice affected me, and maybe my death would save his life. This thought was clearly wrong, yet it was still there. In the following weeks, I never stopped praying or seeking God in His Word. I ultimately realized when I shifted my focus off myself and back onto my Creator, my entire perspective changed. I found myself praising God in my darkest hours: praising Him for who He is, praising Him for not abandoning myself or my son, praising Him for His goodness and trustworthiness and praising Him for loving us more than we could imagine.

God began to work in my life. He reminded me He loved my son even more than I did, which was nearly unimaginable to me. He reminded me what Satan intends for evil, God intends for good (Genesis 50:20). I remembered dedicating my son to the Lord as a baby, and that none of this was a surprise to God. The Lord graciously led me to truths in His Word confirming the fact that He is in control. I clung to Scriptures such as Mark 5:36, where Jesus is speaking to Jarius, whose daughter had just died: “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” Psalm 56:3-4 says, “When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid.” God revealed to my husband and I two things in particular: first, God’s Word is alive and well. It is sharper than a two-edged sword and it will still pierce the hearts of those who allow it. Second, the power of prayer is real and life changing! I think the devil underestimated the power of my praying friends and family who never hesitated to hit their knees and cry out to God with us.

Within a week of asking my son to examine the Scriptures for himself and come to his own conclusions, he came back to me saying he was choosing life! God answers prayer! He showed me his Bible highlighted and marked from Genesis to Revelation and said he knew that God considered homosexuality a sin. He also began sharing more about his journey. All this was new for me, but he had been struggling for years. He felt God was far away

as he would lay in bed, crying and begging God to take this away from him. My mother’s heart broke, realizing this was happening just on the other side of my bedroom wall. Knowing he was wrestling with demons, as I slept, ate me alive. He told his father and I that he had his bags packed the afternoon he told us about his struggle; he thought we would kick him out. My son also said that the best thing his father and I had done when he revealed his homosexuality was not trying to prove the Scripture to him, but rather asking him seek truth out on his own. He said he was prepared with many defenses and justifications, but never used them because we never challenged him on them. I asked my son if he wanted help. He responded he would get back to me. Again, we prayed.



The same emotions and prayers continued over the coming weeks, but this time there was a sense of hope. He was still struggling, and we were still praying! There was a major spiritual battle going on for the heart of our son. Sometimes, the phrase, “all we can do is pray” is used. I am here to tell you that is HUGE. James 5:16 says, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” This was certainly our experience! God was convicting and changing my son’s heart. He told me he had cried out to God, repented, and yes, was willing to accept help. God led me to Portland Fellowship, and I reached out to them. They immediately responded to my cries for help. He began the online Reach Truth program for youth and attended a summer session of Taking Back Ground before heading off to college. Feeling called to minister to others, he is currently majoring in Biblical Counseling and Biblical Studies. He is a powerful public speaker, and we look forward with hope at what the Lord is doing in his life.

All praise to God as we continue to watch Him graciously lead our family. Is our journey complete? No. Do we still wage war against the evil one and his temptations? Yes. Do doubts and fears still rear their ugly heads? Yes. But, God *does* heal and he *does* offer a way out to all those who seek him. He *does* indeed use the ugliness of our lives for His glory and to lead others to Him. His Word is faithful and true. We are making a conscious effort to direct our eyes to Him and off of ourselves. To God be the Glory forever!

## Beyond the Walls of PF: Parents Ministering to Parents by PF Staff

*This year, we are offering a series of interviews with Christians who are responding to SSA and transgenderism from a redemptive perspective. This month, we talk with David and Jeanne Fisher, who help lead a parents ministry called “Faith | Hope | Love”.*

### David and Jeanne, what led you to this type of ministry?

*Jeanne:* Well, about twenty-five years ago, we found out about our son’s homosexuality, and that was the beginning of our journey. We were devastated, and about a year later we said, “We need some kind of a support group.” We had a pastor that introduced us to someone who was formerly gay, and that’s where Hope Group was born.

As we were looking for a name for our group, the Lord woke me up at three in the morning and said, “Hope.” I woke Dave up and he says, “Oh, that’s a great name, but what do you think it means? Something to help other parents?” The next night, God woke me up again and said, “**Holding On, Praying Expectantly.**” And so I knew that’s what “HOPE” stood for. Eventually, the Lord started bringing families to our group, which is the way it still is. We don’t go out and advertise—God just brings people in, sometimes from hours away.

### Every ministry has its joys and challenges. What have been some of those for you and your group?

*Jeanne:* I remember during one meeting a dad shared, “I’m so scared my son’s going to do something and get thrown in jail.” And our speaker, a former lesbian, said, “Jail’s not all bad! That’s where I found Jesus!” We were overjoyed seeing people coming out of the LGBTQ lifestyle.

*David:* As for challenges, a huge one was when our former pastor told us they had decided to officially end our Hope Group ministry, and they took down our website that day. When I asked him if the church was no longer in column four (“Restore”) of Portland Fellowship’s “Differing Views” document, he said, “Yeah, we’re moving to column two (“Resist”).” It was heartbreaking.

But one of the principles we’ve seen is that every time we are broken and knocked down, the Lord grows our ministry. When we outgrew meeting in people’s homes, God led five different churches to offer to support our ministry. It’s all His doing!

### How have you guys benefitted from partnering with discipleship ministries like Portland Fellowship?

*Jeanne:* Oh gosh, it’s been incredible. It gives the parents so much hope to see someone that no longer identifies as LGBTQ and they are so, so encouraged. That’s why we have a speaker for every single meeting, so that the parents will always hear

a testimony. For the parents in our ministry, it’s really helped them to see the homosexual struggle through the eyes of someone that’s been saved and redeemed. Hearing other people’s stories gives them tremendous insight, and they can ask hard questions that they’d be terrified to ask their own children.



*David and Jeanne Fisher*

We’ve also been blessed by resources like the “Differing Views” document from PF, which has been an amazing tool. We had a mom come to us, deeply broken because her son was transgender, and they hadn’t talked for several years. Dave shared the “Differing Views” chart with her, but when he got to the idea of Jesus transforming lives, it became obvious that she didn’t know Jesus or His power to save and heal.

*David:* Yeah, I perceived that she knew about the Gospel, but didn’t really understand it. So I stopped explaining the document, and led her into a relationship with the Lord.

*Jeanne:* It was so wonderful to hear her say, “I just asked Jesus into my heart! And I’ve got peace—I didn’t know this kind of peace was possible!” After that, she started coming to church and growing in her faith, and she’s fully entrusted her son to Jesus.

### As parents who minister to other parents, what specific encouragement could you share with our readers?

*Jeanne:* I’m thinking of a mom I know who recently had her teen daughter come out as gay, and this was just totally rocking the mom’s world. So I pointed her to Jesus, into God’s Word, and got her to look for Scriptures as well. And now about six months later, I’ve seen a person that was so broken learn to trust the Lord. He’s healing her heart, and healing her relationship with her daughter. And that’s what we see parents discover: that it’s the Lord who changes a person’s heart and works within them. We don’t tell Him what to do, how to do it or when to do it—we just pray and partner with Him.

*\*To view Portland Fellowship’s “Differing Views” document:*  
[www.portlandfellowship.com/clarity.php](http://www.portlandfellowship.com/clarity.php)

## march - april calendar & services

march 12 & april 9

### hope group

For friends and family of gay or trans-identifying loved ones. Join us for a time of prayer, support and encouragement.  
7:00 p.m.

To RSVP for Hope Group, go to:  
[portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php](http://portlandfellowship.com/rsvp.php)

march 16, 18

### jason speaking

Executive Director Jason Thompson will be sharing with Portland Bible College's Advanced Counseling class.

march 2

### kathygrace speaking

Women's Ministry Leader KathyGrace Duncan will be sharing with Bethel Church's Advanced Ministry Training class.

march 19

### kathygrace speaking

KathyGrace will be sharing with The Ambassador's Forum.

<https://theambassadorsforum.com>

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## additional updates

[www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com)

Please take advantage of your online profile. If you don't have a username, please email or call.

## speakers, counseling and support for youth

can be set up through the office.

## Online Opportunity: Zoom Group Sharing

If you are in a current Zoom group or would like to reconnect with others in your church to learn more about the work of Portland Fellowship (and hear powerful testimonies of God's transforming and freeing men and women from unwanted SSA and gender confusion), we welcome you to connect with us to schedule someone from our ministry to share with your group.



We recognize that Zoom does have its limitations, but there are some great benefits to using this technology.

Whereas before COVID-19, inviting someone from PF to come speak meant travel, expenses and facility preparations, now we are able to meet and dialogue with people face-to-face at the click of a button—no travel necessary! We have been enjoying using Zoom to connect with people from all over the United States and even other countries, and we are prayerfully considering hosting online Zoom seminars in the future.

We welcome your invitation to share with you and your group. For more information on this opportunity, email us at [office@portlandfellowship.com](mailto:office@portlandfellowship.com) or call us at 503-235-6364.

## Conference Opportunity: Path of Life

One of PF's ministry partners, Path of Life, is hosting a *Transformational Truth Education Conference*, March 12 & 13 in Spokane, WA. Speakers will include Josh McDowell, Dr. Michael Brown, Laura Perry, Jennifer Thorne, Katy Faust and Dr. Katherine Rafferty. For information on registration, visit <https://www.pathoflifespokane.org/events>



**PORTLAND**  
fellowship

The Fellowship Message is a monthly publication of Portland Fellowship, a ministry proclaiming freedom from homosexuality through the power of Jesus Christ.

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