

*A practical guidebook to help us take God at His word
and live lives of freedom and power. —Jennie Allen*

Nicole Unice



The
Struggle
is
Real.

Getting better at life,
stronger in faith,
and free from the stuff
keeping you stuck

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
204 ODESSA AVENUE
PITTSBURG, CA 94565**

Fall Bible Study

**CHANGES MADE BECAUSE
OF THE STRUGGLE**

**PASTOR HENRY L. PERKINS,
INSTRUCTOR
December 5, 2018**

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REVIEW

MY PERSONAL JOURNEY

1. What characteristics do you have that can be viewed as marks?
2. What marks do you have that need to be struck out?

DEFINITION

Press:

To continue moving forward in a forceful and steady way.

Mark:

A sign, symbol or goal.

TODAY'S LESSON

CHANGES MADE BECAUSE OF THE STRUGGLE

TRANSITIONS

In every moment, between every line, may your new story point to Jesus, who holds every hardship and orchestrates every joy.

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TRANSITIONS TEST OUR CHARACTER (HOW?)

1. Name 3 transitions you've made in the last 3 months?

2. Who benefitted? _____

3. How? _____

4. How was Jesus glorified? _____

TRANSITION REQUIRES A DISTINCTION

There is a difference between guilt & grief! How do you process the two?

When grieving I _____

When feeling guilty, I _____

THE TESTING OF OUR FAITH REQUIRES TRANSITION

List the Apparent – What do you see (Instructions, Encouragement, or Correction?)

Matthew 11:1-3 _____

John 1:22-34 _____

John 6:67 _____

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**TRANSITION REQUIRES MAKING CHOICES
(Highlight areas you see where choices are required)**

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20
John 8:31-32**

**TRANSITION REQUIRES US TO BE TOLERANT
DURING THE STRUGGLE THAT LEADS TO...**

- Acceptance of Christian salvation (Hebrews 2:3-4)
- Acceptance of Christian death (Hebrews 2:14-15)
- Acceptance of God's experience (Hebrews 4:9-10)
- Acceptance of Christ's blood (Hebrews 9:14-15)

TRANSITION REQUIRES WORK

Life is a choice – choose wisely!

The struggle starts the(our) story.

At just the right time – Jesus...

The past impacts but does not define my future!

Wisdom takes work – and it's worth it.

TRANSITION RESULTS IN OUR MATURING IN CHRIST

1 Peter 1:6-9 (NIV)

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

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THE HOPEFUL STORY PRAYER

Gracious Father, just today: Give me the courage to face reality. Give me the grace to receive Your love in my failings and Your affection in my weaknesses. Give me the strength to choose life – the way You've made it.

Jesus Christ, I accept You as the Giver of Life. I receive You as the Author of my soul. And I choose You as my Lord.

Holy Spirit, dwell in me, speak to me, walk with me, that I may grow in wisdom, live in hope, and rejoice in freedom today.

AMEN!

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matthew 11:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus and John the Baptist

11 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

John 1:22-34 New International Version (NIV)

²² Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”^[a]

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent

²⁵ questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶ “I baptize with ^[b] water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know.

²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John Testifies About Jesus

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

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³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'

³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

³² Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

John 6:67 New International Version (NIV)

⁶⁷ "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

²⁰ and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

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Hebrews 2:3-4 (NIV)

³ how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;

¹⁰ for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works,^[a] just as God did from his.

Hebrews 9:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,^[a] so that we may serve the living God!

¹⁵ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

1 Peter 1:6-9 (NIV)

⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Trials and Temptations

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.