







DECEMBER GOAL: \$480,000

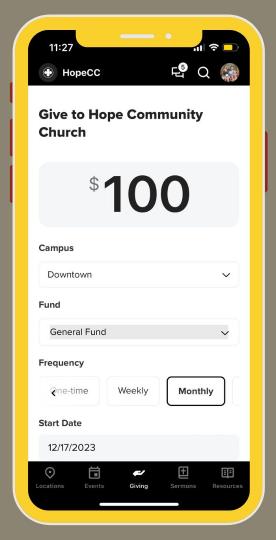
RECEIVED TO DATE: \$128,460 (26.76%)

Remaining: \$351,540



# GIVING

IN THE HOPECC APP or at HOPECC.COM/GIVE



Year-end gifts must be **postmarked** on or before December 31st to count towards your 2025 giving. Dating a check for December 31st is not sufficient.

Note that due to recent changes within the USPS, simply dropping your gift in a postbox on December 31st will likely not be sufficient for acquiring an appropriate postmark. To guarantee your gift's application to 2025, you will need to have it manually postmarked within your local post office.



A new survey from Forbes Health/OnePoll of 1,000 U.S. adults (conducted on Oct. 23, 2023) looked at Americans' attitudes surrounding resolution setting and what types of goals were prioritized.

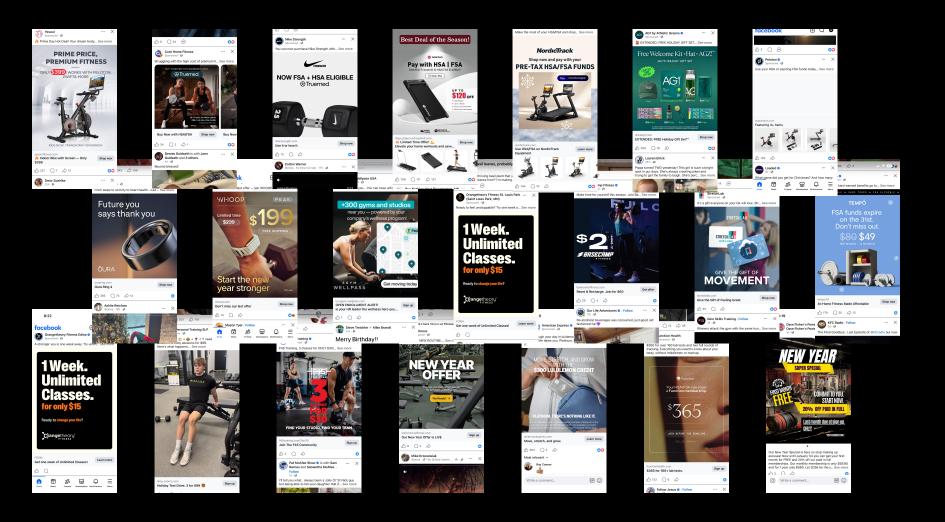
Interestingly, the survey highlighted a couple standout themes: The most commonly-selected new year's resolution for 2024 among respondents was fitness, which contrasts with findings from the previous year.

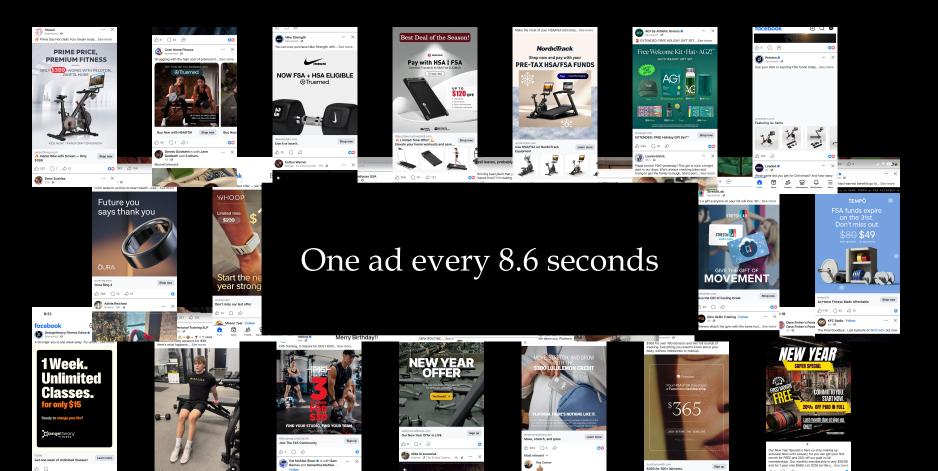
The previous Forbes Health/OnePoll survey in 2022 showed that many people were prioritizing their mental health, rather than their physical health, in their resolutions for 2023.

Specifically, the recently-conducted survey found:

62% say they feel pressured to set a new year's resolution.







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Interestingly, the survey highlighted a couple standout themes: The most commonly-selected new year's resolution for 2024 among respondents was fitness, which contrasts with findings from the previous year. The previous Forbes Health/OnePoll survey in 2022 showed that many people were prioritizing their mental health, rather than their physical health, in their resolutions for 2023.

Specifically, the recently-conducted survey found:

- 62% say they feel pressured to set a new year's resolution.
- 20% of respondents say they keep themselves accountable when it comes to sticking to their goals. This is a massive drop compared to last year's survey, for which 77% of respondents said they would keep themselves accountable.





Edmund Sears

It Came Upon A Midnight
Clear

## The Weariness of this World

The Heart of Christ for the Weary

Rest Because of Who Jesus Is

Our Response to an Invitation of Rest

### The Weariness of this World

The Heart of Christ for the Weary

Rest Because of Who Jesus Is

Our Response to an Invitation of Rest

#### The "Joyest Strain" Luke 2:10–14

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."



### The Weariness of this World

The Heart of Christ for the Weary

Rest Because of Who Jesus Is

Our Response to an Invitation of Rest

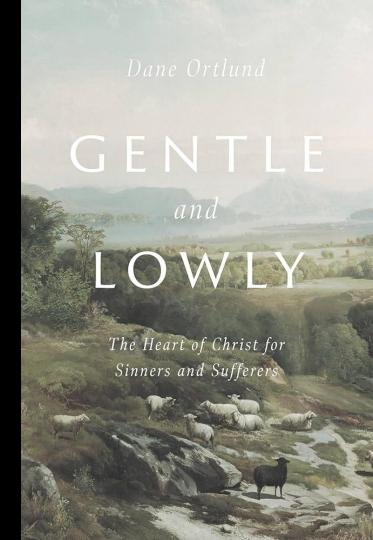
# The Heart of Christ for the Weary Matthew 11:28-30

<sup>28</sup> Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

# The Heart of Christ for the Weary Matthew 11:28-30

<sup>28</sup> Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

"The Greek word translated "gentle" here occurs just three other times in the New Testament: in the first beatitude, that "the *meek*" will inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5); in the prophesy in Matthew 21:5 (quoting Zech. 9:9) that Jesus is king "is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey."; and in Peter's encouragement to wives to nurture more than anything else "the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit" (1 Peter 3:4). Meek. Humble. Gentle. Jesus is not trigger-happy. Not harsh, reactionary, easily exasperated. He is the most understanding person in the universe. The posture most natural to him is not a pointed finger but open arms.



The meaning of the word "lowly" overlaps with that of "gentle," together communicating a single reality about Jesus's heart. This specific word lowly is generally translated "humble" in the New Testament, such as in James 4:6: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the *humble*." But typically throughout the New Testament this Greek word refers not only to humility as a virtue but to humility in the sense of destitution or being thrust downward by life circumstance...The point in saying that Jesus is lowly is that he's accessible. For all his resplendent glory and dazzling holiness, his supreme uniqueness and otherness, no one in human history has ever been more approachable than Jesus Christ. No prerequisites. No hoops to jump through.

GENTLE LOWLY The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers

Gentle & Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners & Sufferers by Dane Ortlund (Crossway, 2020). Page 19-20

# The Heart of Christ for the Weary Matthew 11:28-30

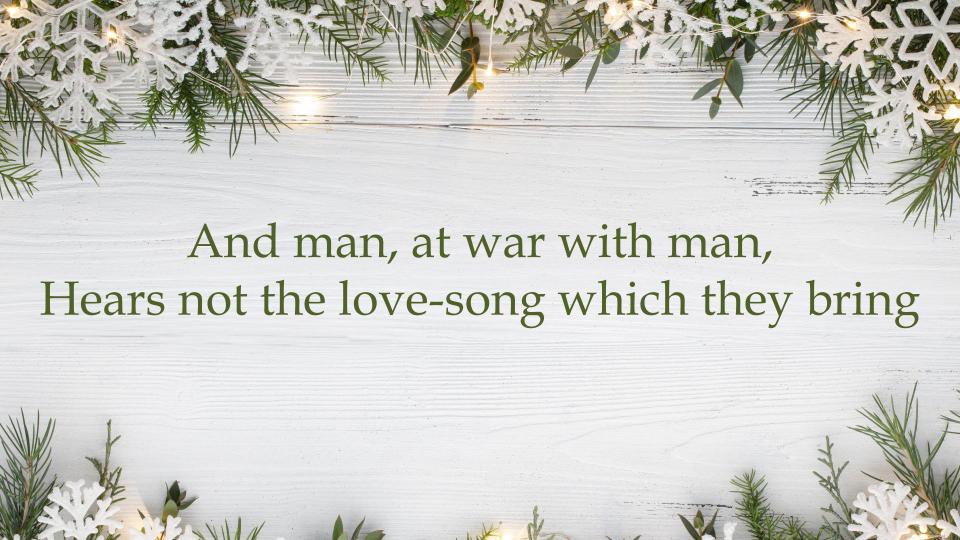
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But with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long;

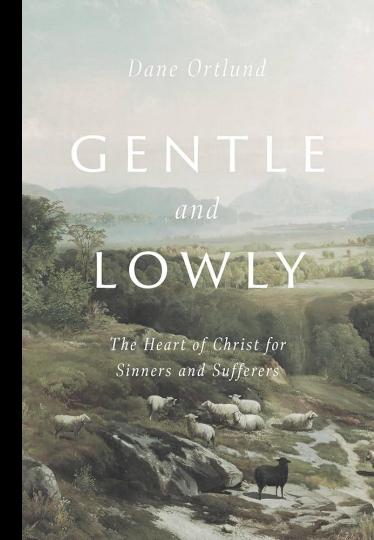
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong;

And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring;

Oh hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing!



"Jesus does not get flustered when we come to him for fresh forgiveness, for renewed pardon, with distress and need and emptiness. That's the whole point. It's what he came to heal. He went down into the horror of death and plunged out through the other side in order to provide a limitless supply of mercy and grace to his people."



### The Weariness of this World

The Heart of Christ for the Weary

Rest Because of Who Jesus Is

Our Response to an Invitation of Rest

# The Heart of Christ for the Weary Matthew 11:28-30

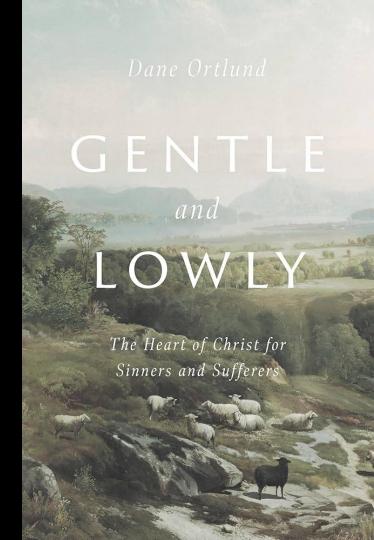
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# Rest Because of Who Jesus Is Hebrews 4:9-10

<sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.



"The reason that Jesus is in such close solidarity with us is that the difficult path we are on is not unique to us. He has journeyed on it himself. It is not only that Jesus can relieve us from our troubles, like a doctor prescribing medicine; it is also that, before any relief comes, he is with us in our troubles, like a doctor who has endured the same disease."





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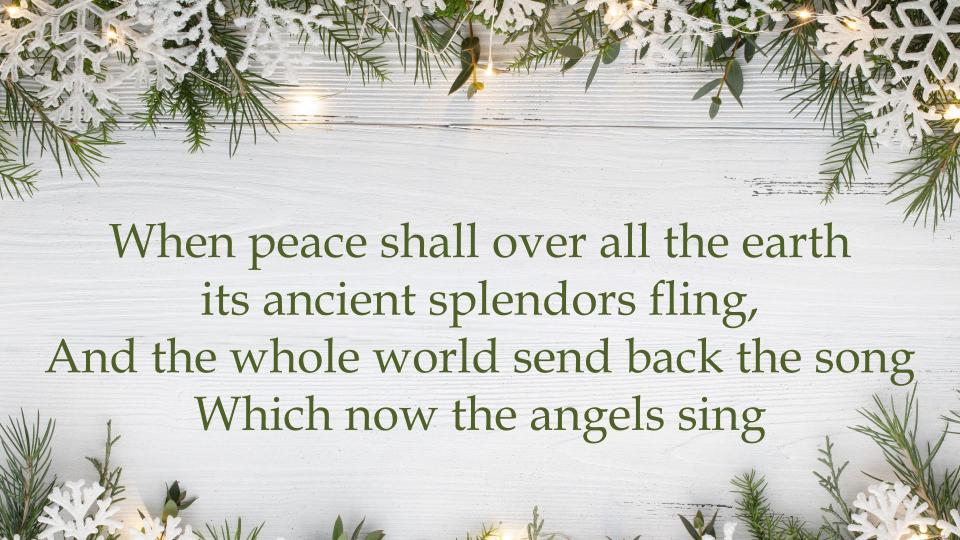
The Heart of Christ for the Weary

Rest Because of Who Jesus Is

Our Response to an Invitation of Rest

### Our Response to an Invitation of Rest Psalm 62:1-2 (NIV)

 <sup>1</sup> Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from Him.
 <sup>2</sup> Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken."



### Our Response to an Invitation of Rest

Receiving ≠ performing

#### Our Response to an Invitation of Rest

Receiving ≠ performing

Resisting the urge to earn what has already been given

#### Our Response to an Invitation of Rest

Receiving ≠ performing

Resisting the urge to earn what has already been given

Letting Jesus' voice carry more weight than the urgent voices telling us to hurry, achieve, and prove ourselves

#### **Gospel Application**

What burden am I carrying into the new year that Jesus has already offered to lift?

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What burden am I carrying into the new year that Jesus has already offered to lift?

What would it look like to "rest beside the weary road" this week?