

BFF362 Conference Report and Crimson Chords

Scott: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I am well. How are you?

Scott: Good. It was fun to catch up this past weekend.

Steve: I don't know if you know, but there were people there looking for you Scott. You have a following out there, you didn't even realize. They were asking me about how Henry was doing, which was nice. How is Henry doing today?

Scott: Doing really well. He's finally gaining weight quickly. He gained 100 grams the other night and gained another 50 grams yesterday. He's packing on the weight, which is an awesome thing. They're still fussing about the whole PDA thing, but I think it's going to be up to Abby and William to decide what to do pretty soon. I think they're getting more information and getting more peaceful about the options. It looks like he's in pretty good shape at the moment. Thank you all for praying. That blesses my socks off to know how many people are praying.

Steve: May God continue to bless that little guy. It was lovely being in Cincinnati this weekend. I'm still processing. I have notes I need to journal about because I forget so much. I remember one man, who I talked to the first night, he said, "I heard you speak a year ago. You remember when you had to run out and get to the airport right away? You talked about abiding in His love." I've been thinking about that ever since.

Scott: Wow.

Steve: Wow. Yeah, exactly. That really goes deep.

Scott: I'll make you careful of what you say.

Steve: Let's pray.

Father, thank you for connecting us face-to-face in Cincinnati. Thank you for all the different ones that we were able to meet with. We're all about the Body of Christ, and more and more, I'm realizing the body of Christ takes different shapes than just a church. Thank you for that wonderful gathering that we had for the last weekend. Thank you for the progress in Henry's case. Bless us now as we seek you together this morning. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: One of the things that we did was meet together for worship early Saturday morning. I was there before 7:00, setting up and putting chairs in a circle and praying and different things. At some point God made me know, "This is fellowship, this is true fellowship.

When I go to these homeschool events, I know this is going to sound a little sacrilegious, but to me, this is my church. These are people that are kindred spirits that love God, that are earnest about their family, that are being intentional about teaching their children and their own walk with God. They're careful about what they watch and what they join.

We have so much in common that when we really start spending some time with each other, we found out we even have more in common than we think. Anyway, this to me is more than a homeschool event or an education experience. This to me is true koinonia, true fellowship.

The first talk that I did the very first night was communication you see. What we did was, instead of just me jabbering for 60 minutes, I said I'm going to talk for maybe a third of the time and then outline some principles and give my testimony of how I learned these principles. Then we're going to break up into groups of three. I tell them this right away so that the introverts can have 15 or 20 minutes to get their mind around it.

I said, "Look, it'll be OK. I'll give you some ideas what to say. You can let the extroverts go first in your group." Everybody's laughing, but I do know this much. Not that I am an introvert, but I married to one and I have a couple in my family that they need preparation. They need time to plan. They start running through their mind what they're going to have to say.

Scott: It's actually really comforting.

Steve: We got together and we broke up into groups of 3. If there are any children there, they come up to the front with me and are part of my group because I want the parents to experience this first and without having the children there. I also break up spouses.

Then I start off by saying, "You have six minutes to tell your story." One of the caveats is try not to say anything about your spouse, your family, where you live or what your work job ministry is. Just talk about you.

If you need something specific to talk about, perhaps share an experience that has had a significant impact on your life. You've got six minutes. And so, the person starts off by saying, "Hi, my name is Steve," and everybody says, "Hi, Steve." Now, we're in AA mode.

There's something powerful about doing this. Then they share their story, after which I holler from the microphone. "The other two people have two minutes to ask questions." What did you mean by this when you said this, etc.? Then the next person goes, etc.

Everybody has a chance to talk and amazingly, in just that little bit of time, they connect. As one person said, when we got back together to debrief, they said, "Boy, we went deep because we didn't have the normal superficial stuff to talk about." Generally, we talk about our spouse, our kids, where we live, what we do, all that. It was just powerful.

It was hard for me to get everyone back together because they were connecting with each other. Once you get to these conferences, you find out that there are kindred spirits from all over the country. Different states are represented and once they start talking there's a heart connection and it's beautiful to watch.

Then during the family worship talk, which is Saturday morning, I do the same thing. I said, "I'm only going to talk for a portion and we're going to break up into families of six or seven." I have a one-page script. It is John 10 broken up into three verse segments. I said, "Somebody is going to be the head of the household. Somebody is going to be the child." I gave them some colored pencils.

I also gave them note cards. I said, "Somebody is going to write a picture of this and draw this. You're going to play a game." So we scripted it. The same thing happened when I left. One of the men followed me out and he said, "You see what's going on back there? One of the women in our group needed some help and some prayer and the other ladies administering to her."

I thought, "Wow, this is wonderful." I really like this idea of connection, as opposed to just communication, just hearing me jabber, but actually getting to connect with the other people and apply these principles.

Saturday morning we met for worship, and that was wonderful. It was an awesome conference, every part of it. One of the workshops that I didn't get to do, was called a do-over.

Unfortunately, the incorrect title was put in the program. We get together in the room. It was a pretty full room. In fact, it was probably the most attended workshop I did. I said, "I hate to tell you, but you're here for the wrong workshop."

Steve: I said, "Here's what I'm planning on doing. The handouts that I passed out reflect that. If this is of interest to you, you can stay. If you want to go out, I totally understand. Catch another workshop, but this is what I'm going to talk about."

That workshop went really deep. We went right off the script pretty fast. I felt led to stop pretty early. I said, "Ask me questions." Boy, this is where it even got deeper. At one point, things were wrapping up. I was collecting my stuff. I was walking out.

I could tell people who were really tracking in this one poor lady. I could see she was struggling. I looked at, I said, "You're doing OK?" Then she started to cry. There were some other ladies around her. I said, "Look, I don't know what to do here. Can you help her?"

They did. They said, "Yeah, we'll take care of this." They made a circle. They started talking and praying. This to me is so heart-satisfying, to see people connecting with God and with each other. There it is. In a nutshell, what do you think?

Scott: Sounds like you did a good job of being sensitive to the spirit. I don't know how else you do this if you're not tuned in. I'd be afraid of doing it.

Steve: Well, thanks. That was a good observation. In fact, that particular talk, because I have only given it once, I wanted to get up a little early and work on it. I walked up the two flights of escalators.

When I was getting off, there was a couple sitting there. These are the volunteer police, if you know what I mean. They're there to help run the conference, but also to make sure that everybody there who's supposed to be there has name tags and stuff, so we don't have people coming in from the outside.

Usually, it's just one person. When I saw this couple, I commented, "Hey, it's nice that you have backup." Then I added, "Are you guys almost done with your shift?" She says, "Well, we're here till 12:00, but my husband said I could go get a workshop at 11:30 I really want to go to, and he'll take the last half hour by himself." I said, "That's nice of him."

She says, "Are you a speaker?" I said, "I am." She opened up the brochure and I told her what I was going to be doing. She ended up coming to my workshop instead of the one she wanted to. She had a real breakthrough there. In fact, I spent a good bit of time with her and her husband at the booth afterwards.

Then I went over and I found this little couch in the corner where there were some families and I thought, I'll read through my notes. One lady had the notes from the family worship session sitting in the back of her stroller.

I said, "Hey, did you go this morning? How'd you like it?" She said, "Well, actually, I couldn't go because my baby in the stroller was making noise, so I was only there for the very first part and then I left." I said, "Do you want an abbreviated version?" She said, "Sure."

She sat down next to me. I pulled out the handout. I went through all the points, and then I went in and did the workshop. It was like God was arranging things for me. It was very precious.

Scott: Awesome how He shows up when you have those events. I still have notes in my phone from one of the events I went to. That's probably 7 or 8 years ago now. That was really impactful, some of the talks that I went to and people I met with.

Steve: Surprisingly, the last talk I did was from 4:00 to 5:00, and the conference stops at 5:30 on Saturday night. I go into the room and it's a math talk, an overview. There was only, I'm going to say, 15, 20 people there.

I thought, "Well, this is such a small group. I might not even use my whiteboard. I might just have them come up here, sit around the desk. The next thing I knew people started filing in, just like church. We had a pretty good crowd.

This one lady and her daughter were sitting upright in the front. I started to pass out the handouts and she says, "Well, I'm not sure I'm going to stay." I said, "What are you here for?" She goes, "I'm just too tired to move from the last workshop."

Steve: After two and a half days listening to workshops, these people are tired. I said, "Well, stay as long as you want. Here's the handout that." They end up staying the whole time. When she was leaving, she told me, "That was the best workshop I was at the whole weekend."

Scott: Wow. That's great.

Steve: Yeah, that's what I thought too. I thought, "Who knows?" God is definitely the one that's directing people's paths and putting people in touch with different ones and connections.

I looked over the whole big convention with all these vendors and all these people, I observed that there are connections being made, and people are ministering to each other. You can't do that on a Zoom call.

An online talk is better than no talk, but it's nice to get together with God's people and rub shoulders with them and share meals with them.

I was walking across the street one night and I was making jokes to a kid with wolf ears about eating the bunnies. My son, John, kept FaceTiming me while I was there. I was still on the phone with them. They said, "Here, give him the bunny ears."

I saw them again the next day, and we ended up having a long conversation out on the sidewalk. Her name was Lindsay. These divine appointments were all over the place, really special.

Steve: Well, let me give you a little scripture today instead of just talking about the conference. I'm still meeting with God twice a day. I even carved out time during the conference. I got there Thursday, opened up my laptop in my hotel room, and began was singing, reading scriptures, and praying.

Sometime ago, God put it on my heart that I need to be binding the strong man. There's a couple of times this is mentioned in the Bible, Matthew 16:19 says, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

I've been putting together studies, as you know. I have 13 of them that I read through. This morning, I read through number two. What came to my mind is, because of my Bible reading in Joshua, is the scarlet cord.

Joshua 2, "Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down. And you shall gather into your house, your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household."

Steve: I remember reading a Bible storybooks to our kids when they were really young. The kind that you get in the dentist office. They're blue, with a mylar cover. There's like seven volumes.

They talked about this rope being a red cord. I said, "That cord wasn't red. That was just a piece of rope." But I got out my Bible and opened it up. Sure enough, it's a scarlet cord.

I was thinking about that. I was thinking, "You have to bind the strong man with something. You just don't bind him." If I say, "Go bind somebody," you're going to go get a piece of rope or something, and you're going to wrap it around them, right? These thoughts came to me. It's like the spirit was leading me. I followed up on it. I looked up the word scarlet. The first time I found it was Zerah.

Z-E-R-A-H. It's in Genesis 38. You probably know this. When a woman was in labor, one put out a hand and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand saying, "This one came out first."

Then he went back in and then they came out again and they knew which one was first, which is very important for the firstborn. It was Zerah, Z-E-R-A-H, scarlet thread on his hand. Isn't that fascinating?

Scarlet thread. Then I continued to dig a little bit and I found in Leviticus 14:49, this is the leprosy chapter. Here's a nugget right in the leprosy chapter, which I have to confess I'm not always looking forward to reading every year.

"He shall take two small birds with cedar wood and scarlet yarn and hyssop." I read hyssop and I thought of Psalm 51. "Cleanse me, David said, in scarlet." And then Isaiah 1:18. "Come now, let us reason together, says Jehovah. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

In two more places. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. Speaking of Jesus. And then Hebrews 9:19, "When every commandment of the law have been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats with water and scarlet, wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself in all the people."

I began praying a week or so ago that God would bind the devil in the scarlet cords. I'm thinking about the blood of Jesus. These cords soaked in the blood of Jesus, because scripture says that we overcome him by the blood of the lamb. This is in Revelation. I thought, OK, I'm going to pray. Now that is a whole new thought. I don't think I've ever heard that before, but it just brings together in light of Christ.

It's not me binding him. It's what Jesus did on the cross. I'm applying it and I'm binding the devil in the blood-soaked scarlet cords of faith. It's added something to my prayers since I've been doing that. I've been digging a little bit and...how much time we have, we're probably over but let me just share a little bit more of this, because this to me was fascinating.

As I started digging in the Hebrew and I found out that there's another word that's used for crimson, and it is based on a worm. I thought, what does a worm have to do with red? Then I find out that this is a crimson worm. It's called a shield louse which ties itself to a tree.

It lives for three days before it dies and gives all of its color to its children. That's the source of this red color, this crimson. Do you remember Psalm 22:6, "I am a worm and no man," Jesus speaks of that.

This word Tola is the Hebrew word that's used 43 times in the Old Testament. It's usually used as a color, but sometimes it's also used as a worm. I think there's a connection between Jesus who was tied to a tree and He was there for three days, etc. Isn't that awesome?

Scott: Wow. Yeah.

Steve: I'm still working on it. Yeah. Maybe we'll talk about it more when I've done a little bit more homework. This is the idea. Here's what Charles Spurgeon says and we'll close with his comments.

"There is a little red worm, which seems to be nothing but blood when it is crushed. It seems all gone except a blood stain. And the savior in the deep humiliation of a spirit compares himself to that little red worm. How true it is that he made himself of no reputation for our sake. He emptied himself of all his glory."

"And if there is any glory natural to manhood, he emptied himself even of that. Not only the glories of his Godhead but also the honors of his manhood. He laid aside that he might be seen that though he was rich, yet for our sakes, he became poor." By the way, this worm attaches itself to a tree and it won't come off. Jesus attached himself by hanging on a tree.

Man, I'm starting to tear up to tell you this, but this is what Jesus does for us He becomes red. It's in that red, crimson power of God in Jesus that we bind the strong man. I've been doing this now for several, whatever it is, a year, months, but pretty much every day I seek to bind the strong man. Now, I'm binding Him in the blood-soaked chords of Christ's sacrifice. Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: Thank You, Father for attaching Your son to the tree. Thank You for Jesus attaching Himself and choosing to be attached to that tree. Thank You that blood that He stained that tree, and now it makes us white, though our sins are that color.

Now, they're white as snow. They're red, light crimson. They're just like wool now. Thank You that we are white today. Thank You for the power of the blood not only to cleanse us, but to bind the strong man and in Jesus' name.

Thank you for this wonderful event that we shared in Cincinnati. Thank you for kindred spirits. Thank you for the fellowship of the spirit, true koinonia we worship you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for The Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scottunsocializedmedia.com Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.