

- Digging Deeper -

For personal and small group study

Week of October 11, 2009

1 Corinthians 1:27 “Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.”

• What type of people does Jesus want?

- People he can count on to “**be there**”.
- Do you have the Nerve2Serve?

Mark 10:43 “Whoever wants to be great among you... must be your servant.”

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served, but to give his life ...”

Ephesians 6:7 “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men...”

Ephesians 6:8 “for you know the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does.”

1 Peter 4:10 “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.”

• Our example is Jesus.

Philippians 2:5-11 “You must have the same attitude that Christ had. Though he was God, he did not think equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges, he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

- You have been called to be His **minister**/His **servant** to others.
- God made plans for you long ago, use your new strength (or your old weakness) for His greatest good.
- Be His Hands!

KEEP PERSEVERING!!

Break into smaller groups for your prayer time. It is time to get below the surface where real life-change happens. **Make your prayers personal, not about, or for, someone else you know** ... praying that we will actually begin applying the disciplines and bearing the fruit we have been discussing. Remember, our ultimate purpose and desire is to gain more passion for God and to draw closer to Him by becoming more Christ-centered.

1. What is a working definition of *perseverance* ... of *service*? How does practicing the spiritual discipline of service to God and others help in developing perseverance in your life? [See Energy Pack Cards 26, 27, 36; Galatians 6:9-10; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 3:8-9]
2. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “*Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.*” Do you like to serve ... or to be served? How does this affect the way you live? What is it like to be loved by someone as they love themselves? [Galatians 5:13; Philemon 1:4-5, 7; Matthew 20:26-28; Ephesians 6:7-8]

Divide a paper into three columns. Entitle column 1- “For me”; column 2 – “For others”; Column 3 – “For God”. Now jot down in each column the things you have bought and/or done for yourself, others, and God in the past week or month. What does this reveal about your life? Now come up with a plan that will help you move more to the *others* and *God* side.

3. What are some ways in which you can practice service in your daily work-a-day life? What are some God-given fruit that comes from service? **Sample fruit** ... *walking your talk or seeing your neighbors as real and important.* [Matthew 22:37-39; John 12:25; Isaiah 58:6-7]
4. Read Romans 5:3-4 and James 1:2-4, 12. How is character built through perseverance? What kind of character is Paul referring to in Romans 5? What do we need to persevere through to gain character? How does perseverance offer us the strength to face life’s struggles head on? What do you see as the real value in cultivating perseverance in your life?
5. What does it mean “*when you stop struggling, you stop strengthening?*” Without perseverance what happens to us, and how does it affect our relationship with God? [James 1:3; Luke 21:19; Hebrews 5:8; 10:35-36]
6. What insights have impacted you concerning *perseverance* and *service* in this study? How do you plan to apply these insights in your desire to become more like Christ?

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Eric Rozean

October 11, 2009

Fuel for the Journey - 5
"Grit, Pluck, and the Nerve2Serve"
Ephesians 2:10; James 1:2-4, 12

- Are you getting stronger in the Lord after these few weeks of focus on spiritual disciplines?
- Have you started a new spiritual exercise program that involves daily and weekly discipline?

Keep persevering!

✓ WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's **masterpiece**. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things **he planned for us** long ago."

- **Perseverance**: To keep **on going** in the face of opposition or discouragement
- **Endurance**: Strength to continue in spite of difficult circumstances
- **Grit**: Firmness of character, strong in one's beliefs
- **Pluck**: Courage in the face of difficulties

✓ STRENGTH TRAINING REQUIRES RESISTANCE

James 1:12 "God blesses those who patiently endure (persevere) testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

- When you stop **struggling**, you stop strengthening.

James 1:2 "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy."

When struggles cease, so do we. Keep growing!

James 1:3 "for you know when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow."

✓ IT ISN'T HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE

- Jesus taught it isn't about position or power; it's about your ability to **serve others**.

Mark 10:43 "Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant."

- God deliberately doesn't choose the powerful to do His will.