

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR WORLD

PART 6: STAYING MOTIVATED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Cor. 15:58

How Paul stayed motivated to make a difference:

1. A vision of _____

“As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’” Acts 9:3,4

“I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged. . . I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge --that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

Eph. 3:13-17

2. A vision of _____

“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’” Acts 16:9

“... I am compelled to preach . . . I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.” 1 Cor 9:16,22

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Matt. 9:36

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.” Mark 6:34

3. A vision of _____

“... I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who . . . was caught up to the third heaven. . . .” 2 Cor. 12:1,2

“The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded. . . .” 1 Cor. 3:8

“Therefore we do not lose heart. . . For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Cor. 4:16-18

“... Well done good and faithful servant!...” Matt. 25:21

DAILY MEDITATIONS

Brief daily Bible studies based on this week’s message

This week’s memory verse:

“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Cor. 15:58

Monday

In what situation have you been struggling to persevere?

How did last weekend’s sermon encourage you?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. Take some time to soak in the meaning of this verse. How does this verse challenge you? How does it give you courage?

Thank God today that He never leaves you to stand alone. Thank Him for the courage

He gives you. Talk to Him about the area where you’re struggling to persevere. Ask Him to give you the strength and courage to continue on and make a difference.

Tuesday

Read Acts 9:1-31 & Ephesians 3:13-17. Summarize Paul's conversion story from Acts 9. What strikes you most about Paul's conversion?

Not many of us have a conversion story like Paul's. Write down what your journey to God was like.

How do you think Paul's vision of God impacted his ministry?

Write down the three ways learning who God is has impacted your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How can having a vision of who God is help you persevere?

Thank God today for the many things He has taught you about Himself. Thank Him for the personal relationship you have with Him. Ask Him to continually grow your love for Him and your knowledge of Him. Pray that you'll apply what you learn and persevere.

Wednesday

Read Matthew 9:35-38, Mark 6:30-34, Acts 16:6-10 & 1 Corinthians 9:15-23. What do these verses tell you about Jesus' concern for those in need?

How did Paul respond to reaching those in need?

How does a clear vision of the need help you persevere? How can you apply this to your life?

Thank God today for Jesus' example of reaching out to those in need. Ask Him for opportunities to follow His example and pray that your obedience will also give you perseverance.

Thursday

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-8, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 & 12:1-10. What do these verses tell you about the rewards of serving God?

How does a vision of the rewards help you persevere and desire to make a difference?

Thank God today that He does reward you, if not in this life in the life to come. Ask Him to use these verses to encourage you to stay the course and pursue a life that makes a difference.

Friday

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Meditate on these verses as you prepare for the new sermon series. How do these verses encourage you to persevere? How can you apply them to your life today?

Thank God today for the hope you have in Him. Thank Him for the encouragement He gives you along the way. Ask Him to use you to make a difference in your world.

Saturday

Today polish up that memory verse. Please pray also for services this weekend and the new sermon series, that God's presence would be sensed in a powerful way.