

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 10.11.24

PREACHER: KELLY BARNES

CALLED TO BE OVERCOMERS

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

*BEING, **THINKING** & DOING*

Conviction of a Disciple: God is Good! Disciples who are growing in Christlikeness are becoming more expectant and in awe of God, especially in areas that stretch our faith. This comes from the realisation that God is not limited to our understanding.

OVERVIEW

A reminder of God's faithfulness in the midst of struggle. Worship reframes our perspective, prayer strengthens our connection with God, and waiting on HIM grows our faith, empowering us to trust HIM through life's battles.

ACTION

Step 1: Reflect: When did you find yourself in a battle and how did you see God's faithfulness to you?

Step 2: Commit: How can you develop a daily rhythm of worship and prayer, especially during times of peace?

Step 3: Act: What can you do this week to practise waiting on God, rather than taking matters into your own hands?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 30:6-8; PSALMS 27:13-14;
LUKE 18:1-8; ROMANS 4:20-21; 1 PETER 3:12; 1 JOHN 5.

This week we had a powerful message of faith and testimony from one of our church Elders, Kelly Barnes. We heard the amazing story of how God's faithfulness was revealed to her in an incredible physical healing from two cancer diagnoses. Kelly shared with us the way she walked through this incredibly difficult season of her life.

Worship reframes our thinking

When we are in the midst of life's most difficult battles, when it feels like everything the enemy of our souls can throw at us has been thrown, when we intentionally enter into the Divine Presence, everything gets reframed. We no longer see life through the filter of our circumstances, but through the filter of faith in a God who is WITH US no matter what. The more we are resting in HIM the more we are transferring control from our hands to HIS. This may not always change WHAT we see in front of us, but it will change HOW we see everything.

Find our battle strategy

The reality is, *life stuff* is going to happen to us. It's what it means to live in a world that is yet to be made whole - yet to be fully reconciled in CHRIST. Still, we can take these hits lying down, or we can be prepared for them and face them head-on with boldness and courage, knowing WHO ultimately is holding the whole thing. Our number one strategy is to live a life SATURATED in PRAYER. While worship reshifts our focus onto God, prayer develops within us communion WITH God. This is the most important relationship we can foster in our lives. As we build rhythms of prayer in our daily lives we strengthen the spiritual muscles that carry us through the sufferings and disappointments in life. While it is easy to "press in" during challenging times, its when things are relatively good and peaceful that we need to really "pick up our pace". As a distance runner, Kelly reminded us it's in the flatlands or downhill places where we pick up our speed, which then carries over in the uphill climbs.

Wait on God

This is what faith is. Nothing in the world is easier than all of our auto-pilot reactions which help us to feel like we've got our lives firmly in our grip. The long journey of faith is the slow and steady work of loosening our grip and placing our life and the lives of those around us in the safe and loving hands of our generous and compassionate FATHER. This doesn't happen overnight. In fact, it takes our whole life. But when we live with our minds, hearts, and bodies in a posture of worship and prayer, trusting the whole of our lives to HIM grows to become our most natural response. Waiting is never easy. But when we do, as the psalmist reminds us, HE renews our strength and raises our spirits aloft as though we were riding on the wings of an eagle. HE, through the SPIRIT, empowers us to walk without growing tired and run without giving out.

DISCUSSION

1. How can worship change the way we view our struggles, even if the circumstances don't change?
2. What are practical ways we can build strong prayer habits during calm seasons, so we're prepared for more challenging times?
3. What does it look like to "wait on God," and how have you experienced His strength in seasons of waiting?

PRAYER

Lord,

Thank You for the strength You give in every season of life. Teach us to see our lives through the lens of Your faithfulness, to anchor ourselves in worship and prayer, and to trust in Your timing. Help us to wait on You, believing that You will renew our strength and lead us through every challenge.

Amen.