

“Persistence!”

A Personal or Small Group Experience

In the message we talked a little about “persistence” in the acts of faith as having a cleansing affect on our faith. It seems that we can even take the good things God has given us and twist them into ways to try to “control God”. I think most of us don’t think about “I am going to go out and control God today!” But in subtle ways we can try to control God usually by trying to be God or having a limit on our trust in God. Maybe we have thought things like, “OK God I am giving this or that over to You—but if You don’t work things out—quickly—I am taking over again!”

Persistence in doing the things of God—acts of faith—can have a rather cleansing affect on our motives, our heart, the center of our being. The place we struggle to “let God be God”.

Persistence in prayer is a good example. If we “ask” and we “get” immediately every time our heart could very easily begin using prayer to actually keep “me” in charge of my life and use “God” to serve my agenda! Persistence in prayer—surrender in prayer—gives me opportunity to be “cleansed a little” from my attempts to be God and little by little be transformed into “trusting” God as God!

Take a look at these verses that encourage us in “persisting” whether the word is used in the text or not. Some of the texts refer to prayer but “persisting” is part of God’s transforming work in us in every aspect of faith. Persisting in faith is vital in the life of the “Deployed”!

James 1:2-18

2 Peter 1:3-11

Luke 11:5-13

“ACTS : Part III”

Deployed into Chains...as Kingdoms Collide!

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - August 7-11

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart and offloading your heart of stifling, burdens, guilt, worry etc.!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention. As you read and reread keep asking God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?” “How are You inviting me to respond?” Keep talking it over with Him—chew!
- 4) Pray (and journal) everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!
Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: Psalm 17

Tuesday: Hebrews 11:1-20

Wednesday: 2 Peter 1:3-11

Thursday: James 1:2-18

Friday: Psalm 27

Saturday: Psalm 100