



Today's Passage:
Pastor Tony will be speaking to us today from
Joshua 8:24-35

Sermon Notes:

Welcome to the Celebration!



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, October 11, 2015

Vol. 9, Issue 1

Discourage? Defeated? NOT HARDLY!

A few Sunday's ago, as Pastor Tony was preaching on Joshua 8:1-2, and showing us how YHWH was placing courage into Joshua's (and Israel's) heart to conquer the Promised Land, I was struck with feelings of despair and defeat I have been feeling among Christians lately.

We are seeing churches closing in huge numbers. Pastors are unusually discouraged, depressed and leaving the ministry. Worship services have become lifeless. Christians have allowed the world to squelch our witness. Etc. Etc.

What is wrong? God said to Joshua: "I have given you..." (Joshua 8:1b) Did you catch the awesome implications of this one Hebrew word ("nathatthi" from "nathan", for Bible students)?

"Nathan" is used over 2,000 times in the Old Testament. The New American Standard Bible uses 185 English words to give us its fullest meaning. I wonder if it would help us if we tried to translate it, every time with "give"! Would we gain a new understanding of YHWH's plan for His people? We would understand "not by might, nor by power, but *by my Spirit*", says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6)!

I find Henry Blackaby's statement appropriate: "Find out what God is doing and join Him!" He has *given* Israel the land. All they need to do is join Him.

As we spent time studying the Israelites in the wilderness (Christ in Exodus), we saw a visual illustration of YHWH's plan for restoring this world. The pillar of cloud *led them* during the day. The pillar of fire *led them* at night!

As I listened to Pastor Tony on this morning, I believe YHWH spoke to my heart. It was so strong! YHWH isn't defeated! He guarantees that He *is victorious*!

What are we doing, allowing politicians, teachers, business owners, neighbors, or even religions to quiet us and make us feel that we are defeated? That Christianity is no longer relevant? That YHWH is not the LORD!?!

I love history - especially the history of God's people - both Israel and the Church. Let's review some of it to see when His people were most successful.

1. Compare the Book of Joshua with the Book of Judges. When Israel found out God's plan first, they were victorious. When they went their own way, they were defeated.
2. Compare King David and the godly kings with King Saul and the ungodly kings. When they sought YHWH's leadership, they were victorious. When they took control themselves, they were defeated.
3. Study Acts and the Epistles. When the early Church heard from the Holy Spirit *before* they moved and followed His leading they confidently moved forward and accomplished His will. When they followed their own ideas, schemes, or human leaders, they had constant troubles and defeats.

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Visitor Card

We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- ☐ First-Time Visitor
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Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below then drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below:

- ☐ This may be added to our congregation prayer wall
- ☐ Share this only with the pastor and elders

Optional:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front of the church immediately following the service.

Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Checkout New Life Online newlifechristiancommunity.org

Our website is full of information about who we are, what we believe, and up-to-date information about what's going on at New Life.

Find Links to:

• Events • Sermons Online • Set Lists • The Table • & More

Sunday Nursery: (Infants - Preschool)

Oct 11	Faith G, Brittany S, Aisha G
Oct 18	Mackenzie & Alex Z, Haley A

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Oct 14	GriefShare Meeting 12:30-2:00 p.m. at NLCC building-Grn Rm
Oct 14	Immerse Family Grp. Studies Groups for Infant to Adult 6:30-7:45 p.m. at NLCC building
Oct 15	Men's Bible Study The Book of Acts 6:30 a.m. at NLCC building
Oct 15	Women's Bible Study Book of Hebrews 6:30 a.m. at NLCC building
Oct. 24	Train Ride Fund Raiser for FMSC, Osceola @ 11:00

October Memory Verse:

1 Peter 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (ESV)

Discourage? Defeated? NOT HARDLY! ...continued

4. Compare the effectiveness of the early Church. (You can see it in Revelation 2-3). When they trusted God *and God alone*, they moved forward powerfully, even when it looked like things were terrible. They were persecuted, imprisoned, killed - *but YHWH moved!* And untold millions came to faith in Christ.
5. In the 1900s, when Communism, Islam, Hinduism, war, persecution and even death tried to destroy God's Church, multitudes came to Christ. When the church tried to fit in with the surrounding culture, and tried to be liked, we were viewed as weak and the message of the cross appeared impotent!

What did YHWH say to me? "Be strong! Be courageous! I AM the conquering King of the Universe!"

So, why have I - along with so many others - been feeling and looking defeated? Paul said it the best: "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Corinthians 15:57)

So, how should "*hearing God and knowing what He wants me to do before I obey Him and move forward*" look?

1. I will spend time listening to Him, worshiping Him, talking to Him *at all times* (the Scriptures call this "meditation". However it must be "on His Word", not some nonsensical word or phrase).
2. I will stop complaining about how I am being mistreated by unbelievers. I will *expect* mistreatment. I won't look for persecution, but will use it as a reminder that I need to be listening to YHWH.
3. I will *enjoy* being His voice, hands, feet or eyes! I will *expect* God to put words in my mouth, or give me opportunities to represent Him ("ambassadors for Christ", 2 Corinthians 5:20).
4. I will desire to be with other believers to share what I see God doing; not to build myself up, but to keep giving Him the glory.
5. Etc. Etc.

May God continue to speak to His church and lead us in the way we should go.

Rod Wetzig

Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry - Jim Nelson 651.283.2132 his email: lynnjimmelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry - Cara Gilbertson: 715.755.3517 her email: cara.gilbertson@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry - Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799 her email: fugate.sara@gmail.com

Community Outreach - Phil and Pam Stratmoen: 715.491.5779 email: philstratmoen@gmail.com

Finance Administration - Cory Mattson (Finance Secretary): 715.417.0945 her email: cory79mattson@hotmail.com or Pete Manship (Treasurer): 715.755.3330 his email: pete@pbmpkmanSHIP.com

GriefShare Ministry - Connie Bayle: 715.557.1431 her email: conjoh1@gmail.com

Hospitality Ministry - Pam Stratmoen: 715.491.5779 her email: stratmoenp@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry - Julie Minell: 715.417.1981 her email: mrs.minell@yahoo.com

Missions Outreach - Lorraine Milner: 715.557.0661 her email: lrmlner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration - Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453 her email: djholm@lakeland.ws

Sunday Meal Services - Barb Manship: 612.804.9793 or 715.755.3330 her email: bmanship55@hotmail.com

Transportation Services - Eve Bjork: 715.497.6418 her email: sofiesydneY@yahoo.com or Art Behr: 715.220.6882 his email: behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry - Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172 his email: jmabee@centurytel.net

Youth Group Ministry - Pastor Chandler Wiley: 815.575.6122 his email: pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Events to take Note of:

IMMERSE FAMILY GROUP STUDIES

Come and join us Wednesday evenings at the building starting at 6:30 p.m. We have studies to fit every age group, nursery through adult. We conclude at approximately 7:45 p.m. so that adults can pick up their children before 8:00 p.m. The first Wednesday of each month is dedicated to Worship.



The Annual Train Ride will be Saturday, October 24th at 11:00! It was such a beautiful day last year to be on the train. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a 90 minute scenic ride from Osceola to the Marine and back! On board, treat your family to a lunch provided by Polk County Mobile Pack (free-will donation) for taco in a bag, hot dogs, bars, water, hot apple cider and veggies. All proceeds will go to the Polk County Mobile Pack Event. Tickets for Adults are \$15, Children 5-15 years are \$10, and under 5 are free.

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING THE HANDS AND FEET FOR JESUS FOR THIS EVENT!

Our Church has been requested to provide:

- 6 volunteers to be there to help load the train, or unload the train and go along on the ride if they want. You could ride with and help serve the food, or fill in where ever needed.
- Sell 40 tickets! See Sandy Erickson for tickets.
- Prepare 3 to 4 pans of bars; cut into 3" squares and individually wrapped
- 6 cases of bottled water

There's a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table if you want to donate bars or the water.



Fellowship follows our service every Sunday, along with a great meal.
Please stay and join us!