

"From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you."

Philippians 4:8-9

Good morning and Malo e lelei,

Several years ago I was listening to the podcast when the pastor turned author Rob Bell stated "Whatever you give your attention to is shaping you in all sorts of ways, conscious and unconscious." Have you ever had a moment when someone is speaking something so true that it just stops you in your tracks? As the days pass the quote just stays with you, and you can't let it go. That's what happened to me when I heard that those words. It's a truth that we know because it just makes sense intuitively, but we rarely hear spoken.

What we give our attention to shapes us. Whatever we focus our attention on transforms us. Since this is true, what we give our attention to really matters. Paul knew this when he said that we are to focus on all that is admirable, and excellent; all that is holy, true, just pure and lovely. When we focus on these things, we are formed into becoming the disciples God created us to be.

The truth is that our world is better equipped than ever to distract our focus, occupy our time and pull us away from who we were created to be. That's why we're starting a new series this Sunday called Wholly Shift in which we explore four shifts in practice and focus that will help us grow in our faith and be formed into the disciples Christ made us to be.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Daniel



WHOLLY shift

R 1 3 5
2 4 6

"Teddy Talk"

Prayers in the face of Peace and Tumult in Christ Presence

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

John 14:27 (NRSV)

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone.

1 Timothy 2:1

"You Silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the people."

Psalm 65.7 (NRSV)

The passages selected for this Talk comes from both the New Testament with direct quotes from Jesus and St. Paul, and the Old Testament. The Psalmist is writing directly to God about the Deity's ability to bring about peace in the elements and calm the "tumult of the people." These passages were selected because the words in each brings about serenity in my mind in a time when uprisings in our nation and nations throughout the world are rampant.

There is chaos is in the air today just as it has been throughout world history. My Kingsmill Community Church teaching instilled a need to pray for others more than we pray for ourselves. Based on the current worldwide "tumult", I believe now is the time to pray in union. Think of it this way, if all Christians collectively prayed for other people, encouraging them to pray for ones they know, and encouraging the cycle to continue, at least one of the entreaties to God is likely reach someone who mentions our names and our needs in their prayers.

Focus on day-to-day life and you may lose sight of our ability to truly contribute to world peace. Most people think, "I'm just one person. How can I possibly affect the whole wide world." We must believe that praying for people we know and pleading for them to pray for others will bring change.

Some of you have heard me say "Jesus was like an Amway Distributor." (Please remain calm and stay with me on this thought. Ask God to give you peace and understanding before ceasing reading.). Here is my thinking. Jesus recruited, taught, and dispersed 12 disciples. When he sent them out, he gave them the challenge to repeat what he taught them. If each of the twelve, recruited twelve and sent their twelve out with the same directive to teach and empower twelve more, and each of those did the same we can see the results just as Jesus would have expected it to occur.

Think of it as beginning with the original 12 and expanding to the 10th power. The base number "12" coupled with the exponent "10" would equal 619,173,642,224. Say these words aloud: "Six hundred and nineteen billion, one hundred and seventy-three million, six hundred and forty-two thousand, and two hundred and twenty-four people reached." It was Jesus' formula for reaching "all the world" with the "Love your neighbor" message, and "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and spirit" that puts it within our power to achieve.

There is enormous power in cultivating a consciousness of peace and how many people it can touch. We must feel certain that our words and actions create a ripple effect that reaches far beyond what we feel is possible. Perhaps setting aside worries, wishes, and wants for others will help us relax, release our fears, and open our hearts and minds to focus on the peace and perfection of God. We spread the word by envisioning serenity, asking God to provide global Peace and Grace, and make active prayer cycles priority.

Pray for World Peace!

Peace always, Ted

This Talk ends this series and allows me to take some time to be on the road with my bride.

Sandy and I plan to be away a large portion of September with a plan to return renewed and empowered. We ask your prayers for us just as we will continue to pray for you.