



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Virtually every Christian says he/she “wants to be a better Christian”, or “wants to be more like Jesus”, or “wants to grow in Christ.” But we have to ask ourselves, “Do we really want to?”

It is easy to say, “I want to.” But, in doing so, we may be inadvertently lying to ourselves and others. Saying, “I want to _____” can be nothing more than cheap sentiment and empty words. People say, “I want to lose weight” or “I want to get into better shape”, and yet do virtually nothing to change our eating or exercise habits. It's common to say, “I want to make a difference in this world” but do very little (if anything) to impact the world. We can say, “I want to be a better person” and yet not change any of our bad habits or practices. It's easy to say, “I want to...”.

The same can be true for Christians. We can say we want to know the Bible better, and yet spend precious little time in God's Word or in a Bible study. We can say we want to be more like Jesus, and yet we continue to fill our minds with worldly entertainment and amusements. We can say we want a better marriage, but continue in the same unhealthy and ungodly patterns of behavior. We can say we want to be more involved in Christian ministry, but fail to commit to serving in any capacity for any length of time. We can say we want to be more devoted to prayer, and yet we do not pray.

Do we really want to, or do we simply want to want to? Perhaps it's more accurate (and more honest) to say “I want to _____, but not as much as I want _____.” For example, if you want to study your Bible but find yourself watching TV (sleeping in, surfing the web, perusing social media, etc.), say to yourself, “I want to read/study my Bible but not as much as I want to watch TV” (or whatever alternate activity fits). Or, if you say you want to lose weight, but continue to eat poorly or fail to exercise, say to yourself, “I want to lose weight, but not as much as I want to eat junk or be indolent.”

This level of honesty may be the key to unlocking self-discipline in your life, and may end the dangerous spiral of self-deception. James wrote, “... *be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves*” (Jms.1:22). There really is no such thing as a “non-practicing Christian.” While Christians are not perfect, they are at least wanting and trying to walk with Christ (see Jn.14:15; 15:41; 1Jn.2:4, 6). A true Christian doesn't merely profess to know Jesus Christ, they are striving to live in a way that portrays Christ and is pleasing to Christ.

Jesus once asked this provocative question: “*Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?*” (Lk.6:46). It is an important question for us to spend some time contemplating. Do you refer to Jesus as our Lord and Savior? If so, are you doing what the Lord has commanded you to do? If not, why not? These may be difficult, even heart-wrenching, questions to ask. But as we seek to grow in Christ – to be in the world but not of the world – questions like these are imperative (see 1Cor.11:28; 2Cor.13:5).

It is relatively easy to affirm Christian doctrine, and to falsely presume that doing so is tantamount to obedience. Likewise, we can read, study and memorize Scripture, and fail to remember that God's Word calls us to “*be doers of the word, and not hearers only*” (Jms.1:22). Simply saying, “I want to” is not enough. If you find yourself in the struggle between “wanting” and “doing”, pray for God to truly grant you the “want to.” Ask Him to keep you from any self-deception and hypocrisy, and to give you the wisdom and strength to do what He has commanded.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #18):

Exodus 17-20; 2 Samuel 5-9; Psalm 51-53; Job 35-36; Jeremiah 27-31; Mark 15-16; 2 Corinthians 4-5

Recommended Reading:

“*Taking God at His Word*” by Kevin DeYoung

Calendar of
Events:

Men's Retreat

May 4-6

Memorial Service for
Virginia Zimmerman

May 12, 3:00pm

SAM's Luncheon

May 17

Youth Garage Sale

May 26

Looking Ahead....

Family Camp

June 28-July 1st

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:

sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God" by D.A. Carson
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Jesus Among Secular Gods"
w/Pastor David

8:15-9:30pm "Zechariah"

w/Pastor Josh

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Christian Walk"
w/Pastor David

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Lord's Prayer"
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Not By Sight"
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Live Out His Love"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

1:00-2:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Experiencing God's Peace"
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)

6:30-8:00pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Connect & Encourage.....

Men's Retreat ~ May 4th to 6th

There is still time to register for a great weekend of growth and fellowship at our Men's Retreat from May 4th to 6th. Our speaker is Doug Hazen from WorldVenture. Register online at www.sbcnb.org, or grab a brochure off the News & Events bulletin board in the church foyer.

Memorial Service for Virginia Zimmerman ~ May 12th, 3:00pm

SAM's Potluck Luncheon ~ May 17th, Noon

For those ages 55 and up, please join us for our SAM's potluck luncheon in the Fireside Room. We don't want to miss you - if you need a ride, contact the church office at least 24 hours in advance and we will arrange a ride for you.

Youth Garage Sale ~ May 26th

We are accepting clean, reusable donation items for our May 26th fundraiser garage sale. Students are raising funds for the Mexico Mission Trip in August.

Children's Ministries.....

Save the date:

June 25 – 28 9am to Noon

Vacation Bible School

Open to children 3 years old (potty-trained) through 5th Grade

July 30 - August 3

Big G Summer Camp

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Summer Sunday School Teachers and Helpers (this is our greatest area of need)
- 2nd Service Nursery Helpers (once a month)
- 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School Teacher (twice a month during second service)
- Awana helpers (Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8 pm – Summers off)
- Vacation Bible School Pre-School Director and Co-Director and leaders and helpers for other areas of VBS.

See Loy for more information. Training available.



Youth Ministries.....

Youth Group ~

High School youth group ~ Sunday nights 6 to 8pm.

Junior High youth group ~ Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8pm.