

LIGHT THE WAY

SHINE BRIGHT FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

October 1, 2017
Pastor Eric Wakeling

JOY, PASSION AND CHALLENGE

“Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10

JOY AND PASSION

The joy of the Lord is my strength - not just “the Lord is my strength” but the joy of the Lord. Is that evident in my life?

First, we receive our strength from joy in the Lord and then we live out our God-given passions out of that strength using our spiritual gifts.

- **Our personal passions:**
My family, friends, U2, adventurous sports, travel, books and fantasy football
- **Our passion for ministry: What does that look like and what does it require?**
 - I see a church that passionately worships in song and in deed.
 - I see a church that lovingly engages our neighbors with the gospel and warmly welcomes all to be a core part of our community.
 - We have to grow in our passion. Luke 18:9-17
 - Passion requires freedom.
 - Passion includes emotion. Romans 12:9-15
 - Passion requires love. Galatians 6:9; John 13:35
- **Our passion for Jesus**

CHALLENGE

- **We must learn to challenge without being a challenging person to be around.**
- **A ministry leader of any kind must challenge the status quo in a spirit of love and grace, but also without fear to talk about hard topics and do hard things. This helps us all grow.**
 - Ezekiel 33:7-9

COMMUNION: As we consider passion, we must also remember the passion of Jesus who was willing to suffer and die for the atonement of sin to reconcile us to a holy God.

NEXT STEPS

1. Respond to the challenge to grow in your faith. Check out these new classes coming up in October:
 - **ADOPTION 'PARENTING CLASS'** : *October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29* · 9:00 am · *Fireside Room*
Explore what the Bible has to say about adoption and God's love for the orphan and discover what your unique calling and role will be in caring for the orphan. Learn more at calvarylife.org/parenting
 - **STORIES OF CHANGE** : *October 4, 11, 18, 25* · 7:00 pm · *Fellowship Hall*
Around the world, and in our own neighborhoods, God is drawing people into relationship. Hear firsthand stories of those who have walked away from other religions into the arms of a loving God. Be inspired to pray for those who have yet to meet God.
 - **DISCOVER JESUS TOGETHER** : *October 4, 11, 18, 25* · *November 1, 8, 15, 29* · 7:00 pm · *S-5*
Discover how to love and live like Jesus through round-table mentoring and weekly discussion. If you are a new follower of Jesus or want to be better grounded in the basics of Christianity, join us! Workbook Cost: \$12.
 - **NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCES** : *October 4, 11, 18, 25* · *November 1, 8, 15, 29* · *December 6* · 7:00 pm · *W-209*
The Bible has over 2000 verses about money! Take an in-depth look at what It says about work, saving, debt, giving, investing and training our children. Apply what you learn through weekly exercises. Materials Cost: Ind. \$40/ Couple \$50.
2. Spend some time praying and/or journaling through whether or not “the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Are you a person that is strengthened by God’s joy or are you serving God out of duty and obligation? Read Nehemiah 8:1-10 and ask God to have His Word impact you the way that it did the people of Israel.
3. Look for a way that you can serve in Calvary or in our community to be a light for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS

1. Are you a person who is strengthened by God’s joy or are you serving God out of duty and obligation? When can “duty” be good and when can “duty” be harmful?
2. Who has challenged you in good ways in your life? How did that help you grow? How can you consider offering challenges to people whom you have earned the right to challenge in a spirit of love and grace?
3. Explain what it would look like for you to serve God in a passionate way that uses the gifts that He has given you. Would this include any changes in your life? What help would you need from others?