

A Lively Faith

...To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth and not I only, but also all who know the truth² because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: ³ Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. (2 John 1-3)

As we continue this month with rest and recreation, it might be wise to remember the last talk we heard on the Saturday night of our walk. I have a difficult time remembering that talk because of all of the activities of the night. During the Discipleship talk, we are told that our relationship with God should result in completely following Him. The key to disciple is the word discipline. Do we live a disciplined life with God, working day and night to please Him? I must confess that I fall short often, but I know what the goal is and each day I try to live the disciplined life in Christ.

Fortunately, I see many examples of discipleship in this community. As we pray for Rick and Rhonda, many are putting in applications to join the team that will bless the pilgrims of TW98 & TW99. Many are preparing through agape, prayers, and sponsorship. Sponsoring is so very important in making the walks possible. We must have 20 men who have agreed to walk by August 2 and 20 women by August 16. The reason for these dates is the deposit we must now pay to Wakefield and the fact that we want to be good stewards with the community's money. All of the activities associated with the walks are just more examples of the people of God living out a lively faith with humility, hope, and love.

Recently, a member of my church stopped my wife and me to praise us for what we do in sponsoring others. She has not been on the walk yet (she has been invited!) but she was taken aback when she discovered all we do as we sponsor a pilgrim. I never know how to take praise, so I humbly thanked her and reminded her she has an open invitation to walk. Deep in my heart all I could think while this woman talked was how can I not sponsor others after someone did so much for me? The great thing about grace is that it cannot be repaid; all we can do is pass it on to others.

Another form of discipleship I have been blessed to witness is the many prayers lifted up for my family during the tough time with my brother and father. At the June gathering I thanked the community for your prayers saying that they have sustained us over the last month. I continually praise God for this community of believers who step out in faith and do the many things our Lord would ask us to do. That takes true discipline and is exactly what He asked for when ¹⁸... Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20)

Blessings,

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