

Diving Deeper into Discipleship

January 31, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Faith Like a Child: Facing the Battle

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Are you facing a "giant-sized" battle right now? Or, do you know someone who is?
- Have you ever tried to be someone that you're not, out of fear or due to outside pressure? What did you learn from that experience?
- Thank God your past experiences that have, in retrospect, prepared you for future challenges.
- Invite God to make all situations in your life, and especially your battles, opportunities for His presence to be known and His salvation to be evident.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Exodus 14:1-14** | When you are faced with the fear of a great battle, is it easy for you to "be still?" Why or why not?
- **Galatians 1:6-10** | How heavily does the approval of other people weigh on your heart, and how does that make it more challenging to follow Christ?
- **Psalms 145:8-14** | As we seek to "make God known" in/with our lives, what kinds of characteristics of God should we focus on sharing in this effort, according to this passage?

Self-Care Discipline

January Discipline: Simplicity | Simplicity in Speech

(p. 79-80 of Celebration of Discipline)

- The Christian discipline of simplicity is an inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle. Both the inward and the outward aspects of simplicity are essential. We deceive ourselves if we believe we can possess the inward reality without it having a profound effect on how we live. To attempt to arrange an outward life-style of simplicity without the inward reality leads to deadly legalism. Experiencing the inward reality liberates us outwardly. Speech becomes truthful and honest. The lust for status and position is gone because we no longer need status and position. We cease from showy extravagance not on the grounds of being unable to afford it, but on the grounds of principle. Our goods become available to others.
- Some of the earliest Friends focused heavily on simplicity in the ways they spoke to one another. Instead of following the pattern in the world around them, they chose to use more "common language" in their everyday conversations, especially in the ways that they addressed one another. This was, in part, an effort to treat each person, regardless of his/her social standing, with the same level of respect and honor. Consider the conversations you've had in the past week. If you use social media, review the words you've used on those platforms. Are there ways that you can simplify your interactions with others in order to show care, concern, or honor to them? How can you take to heart the biblical command to be "quick to listen, and slow to speak" (James 1:19)?