

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for June 19, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler

The Gifts and the Giver: A Worthy Life

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Are you living a life worthy of the calling you've received in Christ? Which component of a worthy life is most challenging for you: humility, gentleness, patience, or loving endurance?
- In what way might God be leading you to make an effort to maintain the large-scale unity of the Spirit that is intended for the Church?
- Which of the three dangers do you see most prevalent in the Church? In your own life? Pray that those in leadership within the Church would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to address that danger.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Colossians 1:9-12** | How is this description of a “worthy life” similar to the one in Ephesians 4? How is it different?
- **Proverbs 15:18** | In your life, have you found that being patient in this way brings calm to conflicts? Why, or why not?
- **Acts 20:25-31** | How does this passage make clear the need for the gifts of shepherding and teaching within the Church?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

June Practice: Steps into Worship | Presence & Practice

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 171-172)

- To worship is to experience Reality, to touch Life. It is to know, to feel, to experience the resurrected Christ in the midst of the gathered community. It is a breaking into the glory of God, or better yet, being invaded by the glory of God. The following are simple steps that can aide in the experience of worship.
- You need to cultivate a holy dependency. Holy dependency means that you are utterly and completely dependent on God for anything significant to happen. There is inward travail that the evil will weaken and that the good will rise up. You look forward to God acting and moving and teaching and wooing and winning. The work is God's and not yours.
- You should absorb distractions with gratitude. If there is noise or distraction, rather than fussing and fuming about it, learn to take it in and conquer it or even learn from it. Become willing to relax with distractions— they may be a message from the Lord. Learn simply to receive whatever happens in a gathered worship experience, rather than feeling that distractions somehow deter you from worshiping God.