

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for June 5, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler

The Gifts and the Giver: First We Receive

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Are you allowing the grace of God to balance, moderate, and regulate the way that you see yourself?
- Is there another “member” of the Body of Christ with whom you feel a sense of distance, disconnection, or division? Bring that relationship before God, praying for yourself and the other person.
- What gifts have you received from God? Are you taking hold of opportunities to use them? When you exercise them, are you doing so well? Invite the Holy Spirit to help you grow in your gifts in the coming weeks.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Romans 3:21-24** | What does this passage teach us about the relationship between grace, faith and righteousness?
- **Matthew 8:5-10, 23-27** | What differences do you see in these short stories about “great faith” and “little faith?”
- **James 2:14-26** | How does this passage help us understand the importance of faith and function “working together (v. 22)” in our lives?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

June Practice: Steps into Worship | Presence & Practice

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 158, 170)

- 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.
- First, learn to practice the presence of God daily. Really try to follow Paul’s words, “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). Punctuate every moment with inward whisperings of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. Have personal times of inner worship and confession and Bible study and attentiveness to Christ, your present Teacher. All this will heighten your expectancy in public worship because the gathered experience of worship just becomes a continuation and an intensification of what you have been trying to do all week long.
- Second, have many different experiences of worship. Worship God when you are alone. Have home groups not just for Bible study, but for the very experience of worship itself. Gather little groups of two and three and learn to offer up a sacrifice of praise. Many things can happen in smaller groups that will empower and impact the larger gatherings.