



she loves

Devotional
January 18, 2010

WHO ARE YOU SERVING?

Dear Friends,

By now your New Year's resolutions may be filed away for next year. Oh how we start with big dreams and good intentions. Why are they so hard to follow through on? I think I might have an answer ...

In September I took some training for a new course I'm helping facilitate this winter called "Freedom Session". It's about letting Jesus heal our pain and hurts that keep us captive, freeing us to move forward. One thing the instructor said has stayed with me even months later: In order to move forward, you have to want something else more than staying where you are. In other words find out what will motivate you to change.

In regards to New Year's resolutions, I would say that most are self-serving. We want to quit a bad habit because of our health. We want to read through the whole Bible in one year because it's supposed to be good for us. We want to plan monthly date-nights because that will help make our marriage stronger. We want to take a couple of courses so we can learn and grow more.

Now all of these sound like good goals to have. We applaud such plans. But is the motivation of self-fulfillment enough to make us carry through on our plans? And even if we do follow through are we any more satisfied then before we started? I just don't think so. The writer of Ecclesiastes starts his book by saying in 1:2 (NLT) "Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!"

So what is the answer? What will motivate us to move forward this year? We find the answer at the end of Ecclesiastes where the writer says in 12:13-14 - That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

I suggest to you that the motivation that works for moving us forward is: wanting to love and serve God. Serving anything or anyone else is really serving ourselves and that keeps us stuck and stagnant.

Now go back to the New Year's resolutions I mentioned above and change the motivation from self-serving to God-serving.

- We want to serve God, so we ask God to help us stop serving our bad habits.

- We want to serve God, so we ask God help us read through the Bible.
- We want to serve God, so we ask God to help make our marriage strong.
- We want to serve God, so we ask God what we should be learning this year.

When our priority is to serve God in everything we do, then the results of that service are not our responsibility. They are God's. What a relief!!! When we serve ourselves, it's all up to us. How devastating!!!

Who or what are you serving today: the bathroom scale; your New Year's resolutions; your family or friends; your job or vacation plans; or your dreams for the future? None of these will compel lasting change if they aren't first based on serving God.

A good question to ask God multiple times during each day is, "Is what I'm doing or want to do serving you, God?"

- A new job opportunity is available. How is God asking me to serve him in this?
- My child wants to join the basketball team. How is God asking me to serve him in this?
- My pain from abuse keeps surfacing. How is God asking me to serve him in this?
- My friend's mother just died. How is God asking me to serve him in this?

Do you get the idea? Listen to God's answers and this year will be like none you have ever experienced before.

Blessings from Bev



Northview
COMMUNITY CHURCH

© 2010 Northview Community Church
32040 Downes Rd Abbotsford BC V4X 1X5
Phone: (604) 853-2931 Fax: (604) 853-9921
General Info E-mail: northview@northview.org

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