

GOAHEAD, BE F.A.T.

A New Year often brings with it new goals and commitments. For most, these "New Year's resolutions" will be broken within a month. A personal goal and challenge for me is to maintain a healthy weight. Recognizing that fat is actually "stored energy," I have rationalized that I simply have a large amount of effervescent energy waiting the proper time and place to be useful. Leviticus 3:16 states, that in the Old Testament sacrificial system, "All fat is the Lord's." With that in mind, it appears to me that fat is not all that bad; there's just more of me for the Lord's use. God actually wants us to be F.A.T.

BE FAITHFUL

One of the greatest qualities a disciple of Christ can have is faithfulness. We live in a culture where dependability and authenticity are often forgotten qualities. Too often the love of power has overshadowed the power of love. Men have placed their own ambitions and desires above all else, crushing those who block their goals, using others to their own advantage. We have seen this in recent scandals of Hollywood elites and sadly in the very halls of our Congress.

As Christians, we are to live differently. We serve another Master. Our character should be modeled after the character of Christ. Do others know you to be a person of your word? Do they trust what you say? Are you a faithful spouse? Are you a faithful parent? Are you faithful with the resources God has entrusted to you? Are you faithful to His Word? Do others know that you are reliable, dependable, trustworthy, FAITHFUL? They should. 1 Samuel 12:24 "Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you." Matthew 25:21 "... 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much"



BE AVAILABLE

Availability is much more important than talent or ability. We may have all the talent in the world to accomplish a specific task, but if we are unwilling to do what God asks of us or too busy with other goals, it is of no use. God uses those who desire to be used by Him. Our abilities often blind us to the fact that God uses "the foolishness of this world to confound the wise." Professing ourselves to be the greatest, we can fail to see the One standing directly before us. Isaiah 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." Mark 1:17-18 "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him."

Imagine if the prophet Isaiah had said, "No, God, not now, I'm too busy." Or the disciples had said to Jesus, "Please, give us some time. We have to get these fish to market." (Continued on next page)

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BE TEACHABLE

Proverbs 1:5 "Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance," Proverbs 19:20 "Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future."

Ask Google, Cortana, Alexa or Siri about the meaning of life and you will get an answer like this - "the significance of living in general." Man cannot answer the important question as to life's real meaning without God. Without God's Word, we have no meaningful answers. In fact, without God, we cannot even ask meaningful questions.

As we read Proverbs, it is clear that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (science), wisdom and understanding. Do we have all the answers in ourselves? NO. Are we seeking to know more of who God is and how He desires to use us? We should.

The disciples were Faithful, Available and Teachable. That is why God used them in such a unique way. They had the privilege of spending three years with the Master Teacher, but they also had to have hearts and minds willing to learn at the feet of that Master. We too must be teachable. We must be willing to learn the way of the Master by studying and knowing what His Word teaches and applying the principles of the Book to our daily lives.

Are you F.A.T.? If not, work on it. I know you can.

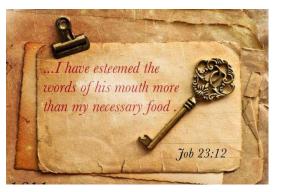


PRAISE & PRAYER

Diane's has been antibiotic free for four weeks. She has no symptoms of a lung infection. Her asthma, general pain and fatigue are constant challenges, but we are grateful for freedom from the bacteria that has plagued her. We were even able to visit our daughter, son-in-law and grandkids in Gresham, Oregon.

- Continue to pray for wisdom, strength and encouragement for our friends in ministry, Dan and Peggy Hayek, as they adjust to major changes in their lives.
- Pray also for our friends, Ray and Nancy Paulson, as they too are facing major changes in their lives after serving with Child Evangelism Fellowship for nearly forty years.
- Pray for Pastor Ralph Speer and his wife, serving at Elk Community Church, as they face the challenge of Pastor Ralph undergoing heart surgery following a mild heart attack. Pray with us for successful surgery and a speedy recovery. Pray for wisdom for the folks at Elk Church as well.
- Continue to pray for our son, George II, with ongoing health challenges. He is still in a great deal of pain and discomfort.
- Pray for new churches to consider partnering with ESM.
- Pray for ongoing strength and effectiveness in ministry.
- Pray with us regarding ESM financial growth and God's direction regarding a "Timothy" WIRELESS NETWORK to carry on our future ministry goals.







Thoughts from Diane . . . FIVE BIRDS?

Kindergarten was a good year for me. The only teacher's name I remember was Mrs. Stone. One of my favorite memories was that she played the piano for us children. I have no idea what she looked like, but I certainly remember that she was kind. I have pleasant memories of my kindergarten year . I have pleasant memories of my second grade teacher as well. She was the teacher who made me feel exceedingly special because I read with emotion before the class. I remember



being so excited that she pointed me out as a good example of reading well. The story was about the famous dog name Spot. "See Spot run." And boy how he did run!

School was a good place for me because I didn't get that kind of attention at home. Now, I'm not feeling sorry for myself here, because I believe that God uses these moments in our lives for us to look back on and to make us who He meant us to become as individuals. When I became so ill for so long between fourth and sixth grade I missed out on a lot and became very shy and withdrawn in school. I was belittled at home and in school for not being "the brightest bulb in the box."

This year, while reading Luke 12:6-7, I was shown a truth with such depth that it rather overwhelmed me. Luke quoted Jesus, "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."



What really struck me was, though God was talking about five sparrows, He said so much more to my heart. God created the entire universe. He created the first two sparrows. Those sparrows multiplied into untold numbers over thousands of years. He said those five sparrows were not forgotten by God but not just those five, every sparrow that has ever been created hasn't been forgotten by God. That was huge to me because it gave a worth to me that's more than I could ever fully comprehend. It said to me, in

verse seven, that the very hairs of my head are all numbered! I have nothing to fear, I am worth more than many sparrows. If that doesn't make each one of us who've come to know Jesus personally and been forgiven of our sins gasp for breath, I would say you're probably in need of spending more time reading God's Words. It's those very Words that tell us who God is, the depth and breadth of who He is and even then, we cannot possibly know Him fully now or ever. That makes eternity with Him so much to look forward to while we live for Him on this earth.

Do you long for someone to know you like that? There is no one on this earth who can know that much about you. It has to be Creator God, who sent His only Son, Jesus to redeem your life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him." John 3:16-17

If you have a Bible, I would encourage you to read the whole 3rd chapter of John. It's probably the first and most important chapter of God's Word that I read. I'll be praying for you. I Corinthians 15:58 Standing firm in HOPE, Diane



Our Continuing Mission Focuses On . . .

"Serving God's Servants"

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NEW FEDERAL MANDATE As of JANUARY 1ST

BE SURE TO SET YOUR SCALES BACK 10 LBS Just Kidding. Don't you wish it was that easy.

Where We've Been, What We've Been Up to & Where We're Headed Next . . .

November 11—ESM Board Meeting, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley, WA November 26—New Creation Fellowship, Blanchard, ID December 18/January 15—Leadership meeting, Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA January 7— Elk Community Church, Elk, WA (Assisting with long-term pulpit supply) February 13—AWANA Club, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley, WA February 24- ESM Board Meeting, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley, WA

We Are Available for Pulpit Supply, Even on Short Notice.

Need a speaker for a creative outreach program, AWANA or Kid's Clubs, Sunday School, Family Camp, Teen or Kid's camps or other special events? Contact us. We are here to serve. Executive Director: Rev. George Hippe 10817 E. 16TH AVENUE, SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99206

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