

## Outreach Blog – June 2017

Rev. Doug Kallesen Executive Director of Outreach FLGA District

WAIT...I am not a patient person, how about you? Scripture tells us in numerous places to be patient or wait...I call it waiting with purpose. Ps 46:10 tells us, "be still and know that I am God..." or Abraham who at around 75 years of age was promised that he would be a father of many nations and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars of the sky or the sands of the earth. At 99 he still didn't have even one child with Sarah, he would wait one more year before Isaac would be born. Again, waiting or patience with purpose. Another time of waiting was when Jesus told to the disciples before His ascension, "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised..." Acts 1:8 God's purpose for having the disciples wait in Jerusalem some 40 days was that something very big was about to happen. The disciples needed these almost 40 days to be strengthened and prepared. They didn't know it yet but they were going to be involved in starting a worldwide movement. The Christian Church was about to be born on Pentecost with people who had come from all over the known world. The church got off to a great start, "that day over 3000 were baptized." It began with waiting.

What did the people of God do next, "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

I was told at a pastors gathering in Omaha. "Let God go to work in you before you go to work for the Lord." That saying stuck with me and I think it helped guide and direct me in life. As a follower of Jesus we need to develop the habits and spiritual disciplines of being a disciple. I believe the following list may be helpful for your walk with the Lord!

- Worship God regularly. Develop a personal relationship with Him.
  - Prayer – some people like to use A.C.T.S. where they Adore God, Confess unto God, Thank God and offer up Supplications or requests to God.
  - Baptism- recalling daily that I AM God's child!
  - Lord's Supper- "take and eat...take and drink this is My body...this is My blood given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins." Receive it regularly!
- Witness – share your faith in word and in deed with people you come across in your daily life.
- Word –God's Word is His power unto salvation... what does God's Word teach you and how are you going to apply these teachings to your life? I journal this and it helps give me a spiritual road map of where God has led me day by day.
- Fellowship with other Christians at church, in a small group, serving others and your community. Show them the love of Jesus.
- Stewardship live generously using your time, talents and treasures to honor and serve your Savior and to love others as Christ has loved you.

By waiting God did a BIG thing, He had a plan for His disciples at Pentecost. They were ordinary people like you and me. I remember the District Staff waiting for me to finish my conversation at a congregation. With engine running my ride started rolling away as I approached. President Walton, who was driving away had a big gospel grin. I also remember waiting at an elevator in TX I found a young man who wanted to talk and when he found out I was a pastor he wanted to

talk about his new faith in Jesus. Was my waiting for him to get on a coincidence or a God INCIDENT? I taught him the habits of being a disciple. As an ordinary person you can too!

We just celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July for the 241<sup>st</sup> time in our history. God did a very big thing here through ordinary people who came for religious freedom, to celebrate, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Later this year we will celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation where a simple monk named Luther shared his beliefs and concerns. These events changed the world even to this very day.

Are you God's ordinary man or woman? Wait for the power of Almighty God to work in you, develop and exercise your discipleship habits of worship, witness, Word, fellowship and stewardship. Why not let God go to work in you today even before you step out the door!