



The River

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER |
FEBRUARY 2020

Greetings,

South River has a purpose statement. It is listed in the bulletin each week.

It is:

Changing Lives

By helping people grow in faith

By bringing unbelievers to Jesus' love

By using our God – given gifts to meet all people's needs both in the church and through-out the world

All of this is for the glory of God

How often do you look at this? Do you ever think about what that means to you individually and as being a member of South River?

During the month of January my sermon series looked at growing faith and building a true community of faith. One of the things that I said several times is that it is not about you and it is also all about you! It's about building the Kingdom of God and Glorifying God – this is the first and foremost most important thing. But, God uses individuals in the here and now to accomplish this so in that it becomes all about you and your faith growth.

As Christians we are called to go out and make disciples teaching them all that we have witnessed. As Christians we are called to become as like Jesus as humanly possible. This means that we need to grow our faith each and every day. The concept is relatively easy to grasp and only becomes difficult when we continue to go out into the world and do what we have always done and doing the way that we have done. However we, as individuals, struggle with changing the way we think and act. It is fairly easy to go to church but becomes a little harder when we really make it a habit to be there every Sunday. Because we have to adjust our priorities as we put God first.

Reading the Bible for yourself sounds simple enough. But more time than not we develop a general consensus of what we think it says or we allow the preacher to read it to you on Sundays and some even go to a Bible Study –

where once again we let someone else read it to us. We need the first hand knowledge of what it says for ourselves. We gain discernment when we read it ourselves and then spend time in prayer and learning God's voice.

But in all of my observations and education, the real growth comes when we start to really put it in action. When we serve others out of the love and grace of Christ, we are putting our faith into action. It begins a real transformation where we put others needs ahead of our own. It is here that our faith becomes visible to those in the world. Our light shines brighter as we share the light of Christ to help brighten other's lives through a genuine witness.

But so often we approach the edge of where we can really start to make a difference when the world that we live in pulls us back. Satan is at work as seeds of fear or doubt creeps in and takes our focus off of God. In doing this we become lukewarm Christians. In Revelation 3: 15-17 it says:

15 I know your deeds; you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were one or the other! 16 So because you are lukewarm— neither hot nor cold—I am about to vomit you out of My mouth! 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have grown wealthy and need nothing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked....

What have you done to stretch you comfort zone in reaching others for Christ?

Can others see your faith reflecting the light of Christ?

To really grow in faith you need to become deliberate and bold in your pursuit of building the kingdom of God. Putting God first before all things and putting other's needs before yourself.

One tool that I use to increase my prayer life and track my thoughts and actions is Journaling. When you Journal: you note what scripture you read and you list specific prayer request (Who and the specific needs), you also note specific plans to serve others and build the Kingdom of God.

May your faith blossom.

Peace and Blessings

AJ Moore