

Weekly Newsletter: 12th September 2023

Reflection: Serving With God's Strength

By A Johnson

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
Galatians 6:9-10 ESV

Serving has been on my heart these past weeks. In our culture here, in North Africa, serving others is very normal in some respects but in other ways, people's needs are completely ignored. When someone comes to your home for a meal, it is expected that you serve them in every way, because it's the highest honour to have them in your home. You pour their drink at the table and then you serve their plates. However, the streets are full of needy people, hungry children, and the locals will just say, "inshallah" (as God wills) meaning 'God made them poor or handicap, so I'm not obligated to serve them or help them.' With these mind-sets, we can very clearly see the issues that arise. To serve out of love and not duty, or to serve not expecting to be served are all traits of Jesus Christ, which is drastically missing here.

When Paul wrote this letter to the Galatians, they were struggling with issues in their church, particularly false teaching that had come in, and this new idea was being accepted by some and not others. They were distracted by what really mattered. When we land in chapter 6 of this letter, Paul is calling on them to bear one another's burdens. In the focused verse, "let us not grow weary of doing good," Paul was recognizing that they were growing weary. Weariness is fatigue and exhaustion from doing something that you may have grown tired of doing. Maybe today, you feel weary? What I love is that in this reminder from Paul, he tells us why we shouldn't grow weary; that if we don't give up, we will reap! How exciting is that? We will see the harvest of our labour! The Galatian church was a family and Paul was desiring them to love each other in such a way that they were displaying the very heart of the gospel. Does this reflect your desire? This past week we've seen this on display with our new brother. He told us that his wife stayed up all night questioning him about why he is different now. One of the things that she has noticed, was how he served her now and cared for her. This is what Paul wanted the church to see and recognize, that people will know we are the family of God, by how we love and serve one another. (John 13:34-35; Acts 2:47)

It is true that life is busy! We have much to do in a day, and by the time we get to bed, we just collapse. With jobs, school, sports, activities, cooking or cleaning, we find it hard to do anything else. While we are doing good things, even serving our families, we can allow things to creep into our hearts, that distracts us from seeking His kingdom first. Being a part of the family of God, goes beyond Sundays or Wednesdays at church. (Heb. 10:24-25). This involves our whole lives, not just on those days only. For us to serve and bear

the weight of each other's burdens, we need be aware of what others are facing, on a personal level. We seek to live out this life together, daily, with the difficulties, and the joys. This takes a high priority because when we love and serve each other as scripture calls us too, we display the gospel to a lost and dying world. The advancement of God's kingdom is what He commands us to participate in (Matt. 28:19-20), more than the advancement of our own lives. God is asking us to seek first His kingdom (Matt. 6:32-33) and in doing so, He will give us the strength to serve others in love.

What are some practical ways that we can invest in each other's lives?

1. Break bread together. (Acts 2:46)
2. Be intentional. Relationships take time, so plan well. Desire to see them bear fruit. (1Cor. 15:58)
3. Stir one another up. Seek to recognize giftings and encourage others in those. (Heb. 10:24-25)
4. Be devoted to praying together. (Acts. 1:14)

In our time with God this week, let's ask ourselves these questions and then cover them in prayer.

1. Am I seeking to serve others, or have I grown weary?
2. Have I been devoted to my own desires more than seeking the kingdom first?
3. Am I seeking to know others well and be known by others?

Praise God that His mercies are new each morning! Be encouraged!

Ladies' Bible Studies

We're looking forward to getting together **tonight on Zoom at 7pm**. We're going through Session 2 of Rebecca McLaughlin's 'Navigating Gospel Truth' and are meeting for five weeks (from Tuesday 12th September to Tuesday 10th October) on Zoom. Hopefully this will allow those who live at a distance or are working to attend. There is no pre-reading, homework or book to buy – just come as you are!

Contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you would like the Zoom codes and haven't received them.

Mission Prayer Meeting – Saturday 23rd September

We're meeting in person in the church for our next Mission Prayer Meeting at 9am on Saturday 23rd September. Please come along as we hear from and pray for our missionaries and those serving overseas. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards.

Mission Week 2024 - Put the Dates on Your Calendar!

A team from 1st Baptist Tulsa (in the USA) will be joining HEC for a week of local mission Jan 21-28th of 2024. The basic idea will be that we will have a full week of outreach events targeting different groups in the Montgomery Street area. Each day the church will be open for a Warm Space during the day. In the evenings, there will be a broad menu of special events. The aim of the week will be to boost our missional

presence in the local community around the building. The volunteers from Oklahoma will be providing extra hands to make all of this possible.

Our Mission Team is still finalising the details for the week. For now, put the dates on your calendar and begin to pray for the Mission Team as they lead us in this effort.

Men's Discipleship 2023

By Joe Barnard

Does your spiritual life need a reboot? Are you eager to make closer friendships with other guys in the church? If so, men's discipleship will be starting back up in September. Our focus this Autumn will be deepening our understanding of basic truth by studying the Gospel Coalition Statement of Faith. Also, see the note below about a special men's event on Sept. 16th.

In-Person Option

- Time: Thursdays, 10:30am at Holyrood
- Topic: Gospel Coalition Statement of Faith
- Start Date: Sept 14th

Zoom Option

- Time: Tuesdays at 6:30am
- Topic: Gospel Coalition Statement of Faith
- Start Date: Sept. 12th
- Sign Up: Contact Joe to be added to the WhatsApp group

Special Men's Event- Saturday Sept 16th

Andrew Moore is organising a "Hilltop Experience" for guys in the church. This will be a hillwalk followed by a take-away dinner on route home. There are two options depending on the weather-

- If it's great weather, we'll leave around 10am, drive up to Glenshee Ski Centre car park. Walk up to Munro Glas Maol (3-4hrs round trip). Then back to Blairgowrie for fish and chips on our way home.
- If it's not so great weather, start at 1pm and drive down to Tinto Hill near Biggar. 2-3hr walk to top. Then back to Biggar for take away on our way home.

Let Andrew or I know if you are interested, friends are welcome and we'll confirm plans once we know what the weather will be like.

Summer Appeal – Thank You

Ruth McCaig, Regional Manager for Scotland for Wycliffe Bible Translators has written 'Thank you again – your gift of £6, 028.47 for Hannu and Hazel Sorsamo will make a real difference.'

Ladies' Breakfast – Save the date!

Our next Ladies' Breakfast will take place on **Saturday 7th October**. Eleanor Dickson will be our speaker as well as hearing interviews with some of the women in the church family.

Please join us for a time of fellowship, teaching and prayer (as well as having our breakfast together!) More details to follow. Any questions, please contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org)



Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Monday: Baby & Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
- Tuesday:
 - Men's Discipleship at 6.30am on Zoom
 - Pickleball and Table Tennis at 7pm
 - Ladies' Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
- Thursday: Men's Discipleship at 10.30am in person in the church
- Saturday: Men's event – Hilltop experience. Contact Joe or Andrew Moore for more details.
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Equip at 6pm (and live streamed). Joe Barnard leading.



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