

Sermon Title: Even If I'm Tired of the Grind

by: Pastor Elizabeth Daigle

Scripture: Philippians 2:12-18 - Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world of of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life, then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.

Pastor Elizabeth spoke about what to do when we feel stuck, like Phil Connery, from the movie, Groundhog Day. ***Here's the lesson for us in Phil's transformation (not Punxsutawney Phil, but the movie's character): Nothing changed in his life until he did. Our days will change when our hearts change.**

***Two action items revealed in verses 12-13:**

1. Work Hard
2. Obey God

***Quote from Dallas Willard: Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action. Grace is receiving a free gift that we do not deserve. God sent his son, Jesus, into the world to save us. There is nothing we did to deserve this.**

***God wants us to be completely His. To use us, to bless us, and build His kingdom through us-but we must do our part to follow closely. To obey Him and do as Jesus did. That's how we become more like Him.**

***Faith confronts fear. Faith doesn't make fear disappear; it means fear doesn't get the final word.**

*** it's easier to stick with something we know. But that's how you get stuck-but only by sticking with what you know instead of reaching out to Who you know.**

Life Group Discussion Questions

Sermon Philippians 2:12-18

WARM-UPS

1. Have you or someone you know celebrated Groundhog's Day morning at Gobbler's Knob? Or, have you seen Punxsutawney Phil "in person"?
2. Where are you felt "stuck" or in a rut recently?

DISCUSSION

1. Pastor Elizabeth posed several challenges for us. Choose one of the following and explain your answer.
 - A. What obedience have you delayed because of fear?
 - B. What has you stuck because the alternative to the "same old, same old" feels too risky?
 - C. What would it look like to let faith guide you to truly trust in a loving, sovereign, generous God and allow Him to lead the way?
2. "You don't get out of your rut by playing it safe." Reflect on a time when you were freed from your rut by taking a risk.
3. What is the correlation between earning and attitude? Between effort and action? Between grace and working out one's salvation?
4. How have you seen faith confront fear and have the final word?

IN THE WORD

Read aloud for the others in your group one of the following: Comments?

Philippians 1:6 God's ongoing work in you

Joshua's 1:9 Be strong and courageous..

Galatian 6:9 Let us not become weary in welldoing

Isaiah 40:29-31 strength for the weary

PRACTICE

If you're feeling sick and tired of the "same old, same old": fold a sheet of paper in half. List the frustrating situations on the left side of the page. Search for scriptures that address feelings like fear, stuck-ness and weariness, or behaviors like complaining, and write them out on the right side of your page, drawing arrows to the frustration(s) you've listed on the left. Across the bottom, write some risky actions that apply to your situation. Fold your paper into a small square and write, "I trust you, Lord" on it.