

Every Day God Enables

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

I remember reading a book of letters from children to their pastor. One of them read: "Dear Preacher, I'd like to bring my dog to church on Sunday. She is only a mutt, but she is a good Christian. Love, Sissy. PS I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the offering plate on Sunday, but my Daddy won't give me a raise in my allowance. Maybe you could give a sermon about a raise in my allowance. It would help the church get more money."

God is an Everyday God who helps us keep our Christian Edge, God helps us keep sharp in living out this Called and Sent life of Discipleship and making Disciples.

God empowers our lives through the Holy Spirit, reminding us that we are the beloved sons and daughters of God in whom God is well pleased. We are a Called and Sent people, called into a relationship with God through Christ and Sent to share the Good News.

It is God who Enables us to live as Disciples. Obviously being a Disciple is a full-time job and to say that I'm going to teach you everything there is to know about being a Disciple would be a little ludicrous, but there are a couple of tools which God has for us to use. Maybe these are more like blueprints.

This passage reminds us that while our message might seem foolish to some, it is the wisdom of God and Every Day God is the source of our life in Christ Jesus. As the source of our life, everyday God Enables us to live as Disciples.

God Enables Us To Practice our faith. Now I'm not talking about kicking the tires, checking the shocks, starting the engine and let's go for a test drive kind of practice. I'm talking about the kind of practice that athletes do to get ready for the big game; the kind of practice that accomplished musicians do to hone and strengthen their skills. The kind of practice that conditions us, heart, soul, mind and strength, as we seek to serve God every day. The kind of practice that Enables us to live in this world but not of this world. And that's hard to do without the help of God.

It's hard to live in this world and not be a part of it. We're surrounded by it. I struggle with it all the time. But what God helps us remember is that this is all temporary. That sounds foolish to some, but we're only here for a short time compared to spending eternity with God. Scripture says that Christ has prepared a place for us, so that where Christ is we can be also.

That's God's desire for us. So, Every day, God Enables us to Practice our faith so that we can live in this world but not of it.

Every day God Enables Us To Persevere. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I've overcome the world." Jesus knew that we would face adversity in life. It's a part of life. There are times when adversity strikes all of us.

But during those troubles we can't listen to the outside opinion of the world. We must call on the one who overcame the world. We must listen to the guiding of the Holy Spirit.

And when we do, our Every Day God Enables Us to Persevere and walk with the One who has overcome every kind of adversity, Jesus.

Our Every Day God Enables Us To Praise. When we are strengthened and enabled to Practice our Faith, when we're strengthened and enabled to Persevere and overcome adversity our hearts want to sing, they want to give thanks, they want to rejoice. And we do that by Praising God. Our Every Day God enables us to Praise.

There's a great African American spiritual titled "Ain't Got Time To Die." It was written by Hall Johnson, and the words are filled with so much joy:

"Been so busy praising my Jesus, Been so busy working for the Kingdom, Been so busy serving my Master
Ain't got time to die. If I don't praise him, If I don't serve him, The rocks gonna cry out Glory and honor,
glory and honor Ain't got time to die."

I love those words, "I'm so busy praising and serving Jesus that I ain't got time to die." That's exactly how we feel about what we are called to do when we've overcome adversity. Our Every Day God enables us to offer Praise.

Once we Practice our faith, Persevere through the adversities of life and begin sing Praise to God. Our Every Day God enables us to proclaim. That's our first Call, to Go and Tell and make Disciples. And when God has walked with us and strengthened us every day, we not only want to Praise God, but we also want to share the good things that have been happening in our lives because of God.

Rev. Wayne Brouwer says when he was pastor in his first congregation he sat in the home of one of his members and the husband said to him, "You're more evangelical than we are." Rev. Brouwer was stunned for a moment, wondering what the man could mean. So, he asked. Well, said the man, "we like to keep our faith to ourselves."

The way I understand Scripture that's not an option. We are a called and sent people. It's not something we can keep to ourselves. Jesus didn't die on the cross so we could keep it a secret. The message that changed our lives, never would have survived into the 21st century if someone back then hadn't been willing to Proclaim it.

Besides, when you've got good news, you want to share it. It should be no different in our daily discipleship. When you've got good news and God has gotten you through a tough time, you just naturally want to share that good news with somebody. And our Every Day God enables us to proclaim that Good News.

Our everyday God enables us to practice our faith; Persevere in hard time; Praise God for God's care and strength. And our everyday God enables us to proclaim the Good News.

Our message might seem foolish to some, but it is the wisdom of God and everyday God is the source of our life in Christ Jesus. As the source of our life, everyday God Enables us to live as God's Disciples. All we must do, once again, is let ourselves be used by God.