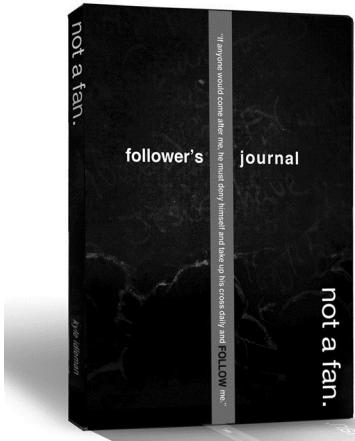


not a fan.

Twenty times in the New Testament, Jesus issued a compelling and challenging invitation to Follow Him. He's not interested in mere fans. He doesn't want enthusiastic admirers. He wants Completely Committed Followers.



This 6 week video study by Kyle Idleman utilizes a 42 day devotional journal.

A limited number is available for just \$5 each.
(more can be ordered, but the price cannot be guaranteed)
Sign up at the Welcome Center early for the best price!

A limited number of the book on which the study is based is also available for \$5 each. The book is an optional supplement to our study.



Contact Pastor Mike with questions
mike@flushingcommunity.org

Boost

Wednesdays | 6:30-8:00pm
April 23-May 28



I am the WAY / March 23, 2014

Where does this path begin?

"In the beginning, God ... "

The path of Jesus ...

"He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross." (Phil 2:7-8 NIV)

Where are you going?

"Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:5-6 NIV)

How does the PATH of JESUS look different than OUR PATH?

How do I get on and stay on the right path?

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understand; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)



Miss Something? That's okay!!
You can download this sermon at flushingcommunity.org

Lenten Devotionals

A Spiritual Journey to Easter | Flushing Community Church



What is Lent? *The 40 day period of preparation before the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. The 40 days goes along with Jesus' 40 day temptation!*

Day #17: March 24 - Monday

PATIENCE ... *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, PATIENCE, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* – Galatians 5:22-23

Patience is the ability to suppress annoyance when things aren't going the way you'd like them to. Patience can also be the ability to wait for something without becoming anxious or agitated.

Patience is not one of those virtues that Christ just gives us. BAM! You've got patience now! It would be so much easier that way, wouldn't it?! Christ blesses us with joy or peace, but patience has to be learned, developed and exercised.

When it comes to our relationships, godly patience is really just "extending grace" to another... giving them space to NOT be "perfect." As we mature spiritually, we can grow beyond just "suppressing" our inner annoyance, to being less annoyed!

READ: Proverbs 19:11; Ecclesiastes 7:8-9; Colossians 3:12-14; I Peter 4:8

Think About It: Is patience something you struggle with? How does it help to think about it as "extending grace"? Maybe you're good at keeping your mouth shut (suppressing), but are you still seething on the inside? Will you ask Christ to help you see others as He does?

Day #18: March 25 - Tuesday

KINDNESS ... *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, KINDNESS, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* – Galatians 5:22-23

Kindness: benevolence, consideration, tenderness, tolerance.

Isn't it interesting how one piece of "rotten fruit" (like impatience) can produce more rotten fruit? Impatience is usually expressed in unkindness: harsh words, a callous attitude. Kind isn't something you "do," it's something you "are." If what's going on inside you is ugly, what comes out of you will be ugly. When we begin to mature spiritually, when Christ cleans out the "rotten fruit," the natural by-product will be kindness.

READ: Eph. 4:29-32; Luke 6:45; Phil. 1:27; II Timothy 2:23-24; I Thess. 5:14-15

Think About It: Do you have to "fake" kindness, or is it something that comes naturally to you? It's easy to be kind to people who are kind to you, but how do you respond to someone who's been unkind to you?

Is there "rotten fruit" in your life that is producing other "rotten fruit?"

How do you respond as you witness someone being unkind to someone else?

Day #19: March 26 - Wednesday

GOODNESS ... *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, GOODNESS, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* – Galatians 5:22-23

Being vs. Doing: When we receive the Spirit of Christ, the "fruit" we produce is not in "being good," but in doing good. If we are only focused on our own "moral cleanliness," while ignoring the needs of those we encounter, we have missed the point entirely.

When Christ conforms us to His Image, it's not just for us, but also for the benefit of those we encounter. Christ's transforming activity in our lives will always lead us toward acts of compassion: doing good. Sometimes doing good means getting dirty.

READ: Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 6:7-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:14-17, 3:13, 4:17

Think About It: Do you neglect doing good because you don't want to get dirty? Do you convince yourself that someone else will do it?

Will you ask God to help you see the "good works He's prepared in advance" for you today? Ask Him for the strength & the courage to act. How does it change your outlook to understand that Christ is transforming you for the benefit of others, as well as yourself?

Day #20: March 27 - Thursday

FAITHFULNESS ... *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, FAITHFULNESS, gentleness and self-control.* – Galatians 5:22-23

Faithfulness is the quality of being true to your word, keeping your promises, being reliable and loyal, proving trustworthy and believable.

It's easy to think of faithfulness in terms of marriage or our relationship to God, but proving faithful plays out in every area of our life: work responsibilities, volunteer assignments, and relationships with family & friends.

"Pie crust promises" are promises that are "easily made, but easily broken" (thank you, Mary Poppins). Being faithful means we won't make promises we don't intend to keep. It means we keep trying, even when things prove difficult. Being and staying faithful is a choice. We can be faithful because HE is faithful to help us.

READ: Deut. 7:9; Psalm 100; Prov. 3:3-4, 20:6; Col. 3:23-24; Heb. 10:23-25, 12:1-3

Think About It: How good is your word? Do people believe you when you say you'll do something? Do your actions match your words? Do keep your promises? Is there an area of your life where you are having difficulty proving faithful? Have you asked the Lord to help you with this?

Day #21: March 28 - Friday

GENTLENESS ... *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, GENTLENESS and self-control.* – Galatians 5:22-23

Gentleness might be another misunderstood virtue. For many people, "gentleness" = wimpy & spineless. In scripture, godly gentleness is most often associated with our verbal responses to others. Are your words harsh or gentle? Rough or polite? Cutting or healing?

There's nothing wimpy about a gentle reply. Which takes more strength? Ripping someone's head off when they've hurt or offended you? Or giving a gentle, self-controlled reply? God's gentleness is expressed in/through us when we respond with the Truth, tempered by His love.

READ: Proverbs 15:1; James 3:5-12; Titus 3:1-5; I Peter 2:13-17, 3:8-17

Think About It: What is your reaction to the term "gentle?" Do your verbal responses need some softening? Are you driven by your need to be right? Or by Christ's Spirit?

Day #22: March 29 - Saturday

SELF-CONTROL ... *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and SELF-CONTROL.* – Galatians 5:22-23

Self-control is... well, obviously, the ability to control one's self!

Beginner level: controlling your body (children, adolescents)

Intermediate level: controlling what comes out of your mouth

Advanced level: controlling what you think about

Self-control is like a guard rail installed along the highway. The guard rail helps keep us on the road, out of the ditch, and away from on-coming traffic. When we exercise self-control, we stay safe and "on the road." Guard rails can be unmaintained, rotted and flimsy or they can be constructed of concrete. How solid is your self-control guard rail?

As we mature, we learn how to control what comes out of our mouth (hopefully). The most difficult area of self-control is what happens in our mind. No one sees what we think about, but evidence of what's in our heart/mind will eventually slip out. Jesus said, "Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks." Christ wants to clean up the source (our heart & our mind) so that our thoughts, actions and words are self-controlled.

READ: II Tim. 1:7; Titus 2:11-12; Prov. 17:27-28, 25:28; James 1:19-20, 3:5-12; Psalm 141:1-4; Phil. 4:8

Think About It: Have you been diligent to maintain your self-control guard rails? Or have you let them get weak & flimsy by compromising?

Have you observed the connection between your heart & mind and your mouth?? In what situation is self-control most difficult? Does it need to be avoided? Or do you need to be strengthened?