

Every decision you make ...is a decision about Who You Are.- Neale Donald Walsch

Neale Donald Walsch was an American author of the series “Conversations with God”. I don’t know much about his theology but this statement speaks to me. I have often said every decision either moves us closer to God or further away from God. And in that sense the direction we choose says something about who we believe ourselves to be, who we are and who we want to be.

I was pondering how I might have experienced this as a recipient in my life. I remember the white-haired elderly lady who taught our Sunday School class and *never missed a day*. She believed the Bible was worth teaching.

I remember the nurse who came and sat with me at my bedside, playing “Go Fish” while my broken jaw healed. I am sure she had many other things to do, but still she sat with me. She believed a simple gift of presence could make a difference in someone’s life.

I remember the pastor that introduced us to long time members that lead to a long-term friendship. So well matched were we that I knew he had spent valuable time making the selection. He believed that church members were meant to be in relationship with one another.

This morning a friend sent me a website article “You Need to Be Inconvenienced for Your Church,” by Tyler Greene. In the article he talks about a revival taking place in Scotland’s rural churches in the 1800’s. From homes and farms located in the middle of nowhere in the middle of winter they would travel long distances to gather at the church. Here are a few words from the article:

“It was often a stirring sight to witness the multitudes assembling during the dark winter evenings – to trace their progress as they came in all directions across moors and mountains by the blazing torches which they carried to light their way to the places of meeting. The Word of the Lord was precious in those days; and personal inconvenience was little thought of when the hungering soul sought to be satisfied.”

This afternoon I have spent several hours taking individuals around our town, talking about the need for decks to be built outside several trailer homes that have recently been placed where tornado ravaged homes once stood. They, and 25 or so of their fellow employees, will come to Franklin July 17th and 18th to meet that need. Why would they want to inconvenience themselves in this way? I asked that of a friend of mine and she returned with “I don’t know, why did you go muck out houses after the flood?”

The truth is that I believe we are called to wear ourselves out for the sake of the Gospel. And while you can’t always preach the message, you can choose to be an example of the message. Grace is a gift given freely. When disaster strikes, people are in a place to receive a free gift, and I hope in doing so I have shown them a glimpse of the love and grace that God has so freely given toward them.

What do you believe? How are you willing to inconvenience yourself for your Heavenly Father? Maybe you will sacrifice a little sleep on Sunday morning and make it to Sunday school, because you believe the Bible is the Word of God and worth knowing. Maybe you will work VBS because you believe every child should know about our God in whose image they were created. Maybe you will help with meals when the work teams come in because you believe that feeding their bodies will also feed their souls. Maybe you will make it a habit to bring canned goods or a donation to the communion rail on the first Sunday of each month because you believe giving to missions is being the hands of God to our community. Maybe you will teach Sunday school, join a committee, help the Trustees on Wednesday’s, join the choir, give more generously, help with the sound board or visual screens, maybe you will keep the van’s clean and in good repair, maybe you will help with Youth or Children’s ministries, maybe you will participate in an Emmaus group, maybe you will visit at the nursing home, or call members to check up on them. There are as many opportunities as there are individuals. And I know whatever you choose it will say something about what you believe and the extent you are willing to inconvenience yourself for the sake of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 8:3-4

For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints...

Pastor Polly