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DAYS

As head of the prayer support team for the stewardship campaign I have been experiencing a “season of growth!” While growth is an exciting idea, it is rarely—if ever—painless. “Stretching” is the term I’ve heard used a lot among believers. Now, I really want to grow—but without pain. I love to exercise. It’s exhilarating and energizing. But I hate to stretch—it’s a boring waste of time.

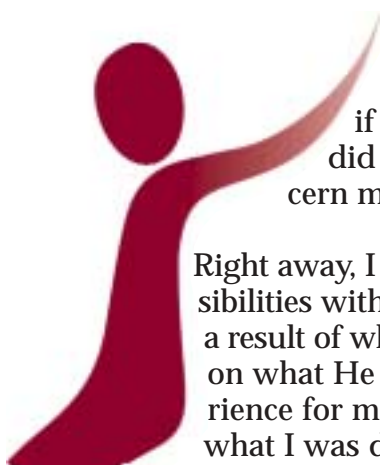
When I first became a believer my favorite scripture verse was Proverbs 3:5-7, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.” As a new believer I took comfort in the idea that I didn’t have to understand everything that God was asking or directing me to do.

That was 15 years ago. Today my favorite scripture verse is still Proverbs 3:5-7. And while I still take the same comfort in that verse, I sometimes forget and “lean” on my own understanding or experience. In other words, I sometimes forget to “trust” God. When that happens, God allows me to enter into a “season of growth,” along with the “required” pain.

Growth as head of the prayer support team came quickly. Because I had no experience heading up a committee, I began looking for help from everywhere and everyone except God! My husband, Tim, and I have chosen to do our praying and fasting together. We are reading and studying scripture together during our times of fasting. He has been a great source of help for me during this campaign and has patiently and lovingly listened to “the good, the bad and the ugly” sides of my experiences. One morning, about two weeks ago, God convicted me about my frustration concerning a very specific aspect of my responsibility as prayer support leader. God spoke clearly and asked me for whom was I working. He gently but firmly spoke to my spirit, and told me that

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PRAY



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if not one person showed up to pray on March 22nd that my instructions did not change. I was to do what I believed He expected of me and not concern myself with the outcome.

Right away, I realized that my attitude was way off! I had been carrying out my responsibilities with the expectation that “this thing” or “that thing” was going to happen as a result of what I was doing. In that moment He taught me that I was to keep my focus on what He wanted me to do and not on the result. This was a very profound experience for me. I had not been asking the Lord to intervene and tell me what to do or what I was doing wrong. I had simply been praying and fasting with my husband. God in His amazing faithfulness saw the correction that was necessary and gave me the opportunity to align myself with His ways and stop trying to make my own.

The body of Christ at FBC is also in a “season of growth”. As we “fix our eyes on Jesus” and not on the “required” pain, it is exciting to anticipate His faithfulness manifesting itself in and through us.

— *Carolyn W. Lee*

I have found it amazing how God can bring a verse to our attention that we have seen before, but may not have understood (or may not have been ready to receive it's message). Pastor has done a wonderful job in helping us understand that we have a God who is both loving and just. He has helped me understand that we are just stewards of what God has given us here on earth. In America, we have been blessed with material things beyond what many other parts of the world.

In Sunday School, we studied I Chronicles 29. Fletcher helped us understand that David was called to bring the leaders together and set the stage for the building of the temple, but that David would never see the building of the temple. David was faithful and coordinated the gathering of the gifts for the temple. David's prayer helps us understand how we need to praise God for everything. He is everlasting. Everything comes from God and belongs to God. “Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.” Our hearts need to be overflowing with praise to God for how he meets our every need and is our constant companion, even when we think we are alone.

The verse that challenged me the most was I Chronicles 29:17. “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.” My prayer is that I can say this as to my part of the campaign. Each of us must make sure our heart is in the right place and that we have given willingly and with honest intent, that the kingdom of God may grow by many, due to the opportunity for us to reach our community for Christ and set it ablaze with a passion for Christ.

— *Jim Gilbert*

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From the Pastor

The excitement is mounting! The anticipation is growing! Soon we will be participating in our **Celebration Sunday** on April 7. On that day we will take a giant step towards building the ROC (Recreation and Outreach Center). As we join together to build this outreach center we display a unity of purpose and effort that characterizes the First Baptist Church of Rockville.

Over the past several weeks my excitement level has grown as I have seen and heard from others who have caught the vision of what God can do in and through each of us. Some have told me about their journey to find the level of giving that God has for them. To several it has been an eye opening experience as once again they have felt the hand of God on their lives. How wonderful it is to sense God's presence as He leads us.

I have felt a sense of anticipation as I have spoken with others about the new ministries that this facility will open up for us. Each one of them dreams of what the ROC will be used for. One sees the day when our gym will be filled with children playing *Upward Basketball*. Not only will the children have a good time of recreation but at each practice and at each game they will hear about the one and only Savior who died for them. In that same facility others see programs for mothers with preschool children, while others look forward to a walking ministry for adults, and still others see summer long day camps for children. The fact is we will only be limited by our imagination when it comes to what we can do to reach people for Christ through the ROC!

Are you excited? I am. I can't wait to take this journey—a journey we cannot possibly accomplish on our own—but a journey that God will accomplish for us as we step out by faith and walk with Him.



Important Dates to Remember

EASTER SUNDAY—*Sunday, March 31*

Celebration Sunday—*Sunday, April 7 (**NEW** Date)*

One Worship Service

Victory Sunday—*Sunday, April 21*



First Baptist Church
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