

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"Small Steps" 10/5/22

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor, not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; (Rom 12:10-11)

We were created for God's good pleasure. God has numbered our steps. (Job 31:4) So we should make them count. God has established our footsteps in His word. (Ps 119:133) We need to pay attention to where they lead.

Walking, putting one foot in front of the other, is a natural occurrence. We're not even aware of our mind going, "Right Left Right Left." It just happens. Where are we going and what are we going to do when we get there?

God didn't create all of us to make headlines, but God did create each of us to do what He created us to do. As Mother Teresa so wisely said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." Small steps. Going in the right direction, along the path set by God.

We admire, respect, are envious of those who do incredible things. Bestselling authors, world leaders, actors, singers, sports figures. We see the great shot, the bright lights, the perfectly placed kick, the ovations. We don't see the hours of practice, the crumpled-up pages, the missed shots, the early mornings, the rejection slips, the missed cues, the failed auditions, the one more times.

I'm such a failure. I can't hit the broad side of a barn. I'm getting a little anxious staring at this blank sheet of white paper. How do they do it? How can we do it? Well, it's a mixture of inspiration and perspiration. God created us, called us, and gifted us, but we have to put some skin in the game.

Author, Steven Pressfield explained his process of creativity, "When I sit down to write in the morning," he says, "I literally have no expectations for myself or the day's work. My only goal is to put in three or four hours with my fingers punching the keys. I don't judge myself on quality. I don't hold myself accountable for quantity. The only questions I ask are, 'Did I show up? Did I try my best?'" Good words to live by.

This made me think, "What do I put into my call?" I listen to speakers and wonder how'd they come up with that? They hit the nail on the head, I can't even swing the hammer. But then they share how many hours they studied, the years in school, the lectures which failed. We fall short of our expectations, and we judge ourselves. We may be tempted to give up. But, as hockey Hall of Famer, Wayne Gretzky said, "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

We have to keep our eyes on who we are in God. What God called and gifted us to do, not judging ourselves because we can't do what someone else is gifted to do. We are to love one another. This is to be the basis of all of our actions. We need to honestly care.

When we allow others to take center stage, when we rehearse playing the supporting character, when we remember it's all about the play, not about being in the spotlight, we are accomplishing our goal, we are being who we were created to be. We do not toss in the towel, but are alive in and to Christ, serving others – cheerfully, from our heart.

When we pray, instead of quitting; when we give it one more try, thinking we don't have any more to give; when we set out to learn, to accomplish one new thing each day; when we don't dilly dally, but are fervent in spirit, serving the Lord - when we take that next small step - we do small things with great love.

Please pray with me. Great love God, may we be devoted to You and to one another, may we seek to put others before ourselves, may we be diligent, humbly serving others in Your Spirit. Help us to take small steps in great love, not thinking of ourselves, but of others. **Amen.**