

07132025 **Reflections from 37 Years of Full-Time Ministry**  
**Some of the most important lessons I've learned are these:**  
**Thank them for letting us be their Pastor**

There is no point at which we arrive at complete spiritual maturity, and there is no retirement from serving God. While our roles may shift with the seasons of life, our calling to grow and serve remains constant.

**The most valuable truth I can share is this:**

Each of us is continually taking the next step on our personal journey of faith. Don't give up before reaching the goal of heaven. Growth and transformation aren't just part of the journey—they *are* the journey. **So keep pressing forward, Until that day comes, keep learning, keep growing, and keep serving**—however and wherever God leads you.

Here are some insights I can share to help you along the way.

**Tim post these**

- 1. Don't take everything personally
- 2. Everyone is a work in progress.
- 3. When motivation wanes, commitment must prevail.
- 4. God is with you and in control

**Tim put the up the four statements one at a time**

**1. Don't take everything personally is a principle of wisdom, objectivity, and discernment.**

*Ecclesiastes 7:21-22 (NIV) "Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—for you*

*know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others." Solomon*

- When we are insecure, we are overly sensitive often taking to heart every word others say—breaking down every word ... causing many vain imaginations...and know this not everyone thinks you're the greatest and neither do you.

*Proverbs 19:11 (NIV) "A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense."*

- This verse directly supports the idea of not taking offense personally, as an attack on your worth ...this patience and pause enables them to overlook minor offenses and process it to their honor or glory...

*Romans 12:18 (NIV) "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."*

- To live peacefully, one must often let things go and not internalize every slight or insult.

*James 1:19 (NIV) "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."*

- This verse emphasizes self-control and not reacting impulsively to perceived slights. Ever notice once you get angry...listening goes out the door.
- **So what do you do?**

*Matthew 5:39 (NIV) "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also." **Jesus teaches here not to retaliate or take offense personally, but to respond with grace.***

## 2. "Everyone is a work in progress"

*Philippians 1:6 (NIV) "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* **This verse directly affirms that God is still at work in us—we're all on a spiritual journey.**

*2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) "And we all... are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."*

- **Transformation is ongoing—we are being shaped more and more into Christ's likeness.**

*Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

- **God is actively working in and through us continually to bring about good works....plural ongoing**

## 3. "When motivation wanes, commitment must prevail."

*Galatians 6:9 (NIV) "Let us not become *weary* in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

- **Weary...is when your not motivated anymore...the newness is gone, the shine is off...the grind kicks in..**
- **Faithfulness, commitment is what outlasts fleeting motivation—**

- **There is no maturity without faithfulness as growth takes place in faithfulness...**

*Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) "...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*

- **The Christian journey is a long race, and commitment keeps us moving even when we're tired.**

*James 1:12 (NIV) "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life..."*

- **Reward comes not from brief bursts of motivation, but from sustained commitment even under trial.**

#### **4. "God is with you and in Control"**

*Proverbs 19:21 (NIV) "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."*

- **We may make plans as individuals but God's ultimately governs the outcomes in our lives. His will prevails over our plans... good or bad**

*Isaiah 46:9-10 (NIV) "...I am God, and there is no other... My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."*

- **And God declares His sovereign control over history and destiny**

*Psalms 31:24 (NIV) "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."*

- **Be strong-hearted Keep hope in God **Why?****

*Romans 8:28 (NIV)"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

- **Even when we can't see it, feel it or understand it God is actively working all things for the good. This plan will prevail and we will one day see it accomplished.**

*NLT Matt 28:20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

God is for you!! Rejoice in That!

A word for Chris and Tracey

I have spoken much to Chris ...and how this reminds me of the story of Moses and Joshua....explain...

Just as Joshua was tasked with leading the Israelites into the promise land...Though he had never led the Israelites before, though he was a leader in his tribe, and had spied out the promised land 38 years previously and gave a thumbs up to going after it...which is vastly different from actually go after it!

And you my brother like Joshua have been given the call to lead this church into the territory we have not been to so far. Though you have served as a Pastor along side me for many years and have given a thumbs up to going after it... it is vastly which is vastly different from actually going after it! But you have shown yourself prepared...and I whole heartedly endorse the call to you both.

**What Joshua needed to know when he was about to enter into the next level of commitment on the way to success..., is the same truths you need to embrace as our leader**

In the very first chapter we find Joshua was praying... communicating with God...he knew God and was talking to the Lord...and here is a truth...”you will walk with God if you talk with God”

Prayer puts us in contact with God and places us in the position to receive his perspective and guidance.... from the highest point of view

**God’s command to Joshua are also his word to you**

*NLT JOS 1: 1 ....The Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ assistant. He said, .... the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. 3 I promise you what I promised Moses: ‘Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you— 5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.*

**Then He tells Joshua how to lead**

*JOS 1:6 “Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. 8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you*

*prosper and succeed in all you do. 9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

*For Joshua to succeed this is what he must persevere in doing!...*

- **God's commands him given 3x to be strong and courageous...And Fear of criticism (people), fear of failure, fear of the past (our history), fear we cant do it, fear of succeeding in the future, these head the list of leadership killers... Fear is the father of missed opportunities and the grandfather of regret**
- **Believe The Lord would be with you like he was with Moses...Joshua saw this in action for forty years...that is his human example of God's faithfulness...God will be with him just like that....believe it because you have seen it! I am not asking you to believe on that which you have not seen and experience...**
- **You have been here Chris you have seen him move...he will continue to move mightily among this congregation.. hold on to that**
- **Obey God's commands Joshua is told to obey the word revealed to Moses and written down...meditate on it daily ...and he would be successful! and he will be successful You have much more than Moses Word's meditate on God's full revelation given us in the Bible...**
- **the promised result ...you will prosper and succeed**

- **Chris**, I have fought **the** good fight, I have finished **the race**, and I have remained faithful.

**I pass the baton to you to run the race marked out for you**

**Pray for Chris and Tracey**

**bles the people for the last time as their Lead Pastor**

**Number 6:24**

<sup>24</sup> ‘May the Lord bless you  
and protect you.

<sup>25</sup> May the Lord smile on you  
and be gracious to you.

<sup>26</sup> May the Lord show you his favor  
and give you his peace.’