Week 1: Continuing in Faithfulness

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**:Ephesians 2:19-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

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**Day 2:** 1 Corinthians 3:11

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

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**Day 3:** Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

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**Day 4:** Galatians 6:7-9

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

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**Day 5:** Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:10-12 that the Church’s foundation is Jesus, and others are called to continuously build upon that foundation. With this in mind, how would you define “succession” in terms of church leadership?

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2.  Why do you think 80% of succession plans fail?

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3. Eventually, Central will need to select a new senior pastor. Considering Paul’s warning that “each one should build with care” (1 Corinthians 3:10), in what unique ways do you think a church’s pastor is accountable before God?

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4. Pastor Bob said that he desires to serve as Central’s senior pastor for the next four years, though God’s will may be different, and that the church is working to cultivate a new generation of leaders. Considering Paul’s struggle to persuade the Corinthian church to lean on Jesus as its foundation rather than Paul or Apollos, how can we support our church in raising new leaders to position Central for the future of its ministry?

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5. What changes can we expect to see over the next few years? Share specific examples.

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6. The success and succession at Central is not only about Pastor Bob. We are all a part of being faithful to the mission and future of our church. In what specific ways can we pray for Central and invite the Holy Spirit to influence the next few years?

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