



Pastor Dave Patterson
Part 4: "Called to Become"
(More Like Jesus)
Sermon Small Group Notes

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

WEEK 3 MEMORY VERSE [1 Corinthians 12.19, MSG]

For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of.

[1 John 3.2]

Dear friends, now we are the children of God, and it **has not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

[Hebrews 12.1-3, VCE]

So since we stand surrounded by all those who have gone before, an enormous cloud of witnesses, let us drop every extra weight, every sin that clings to us and slackens our pace, and let us run with endurance the long race set before us.

FIVE KEYS TO RUNNING YOUR MARATHON TO MATURITY

In order to run the race to win, I must...

1. Have a long distance runners mindset.

[2 Corinthians 3.18b, MSG]

...our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.

[Philippians 3.15]

***All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things.** And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.*

2. I must simplify my life.

[Hebrews 12.1]

Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.

3. Spend time focusing on Jesus everyday.

[Hebrews 12.2, NLT]

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish.

[2 Corinthians 3.18, NLT]

All of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of The Lord. And as the Spirit of The Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his even more.

**BEHOLD (GET IN PROXIMITY) + BECOME (CHANGE)
= REFLECT (SHINE WITH HIS GLORY)**

4. I must gather a team to run with me.

[Hebrews 10.24-25]

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--as you see the Day approaching.

To run fast, run by yourself; to run long, run with others.

- African Proverb

[Galatians 6.2]

Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

5. When life gets hard, stay focused on the reward.

[Hebrews 12.2-3]

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

[1 Peter 5.10]

After you suffer for a short time, God, who gives all grace, will make everything right. He will make you strong and support you and keep you from falling. He called you to share in his glory in Christ, a glory that will continue forever.

CONCLUSION: IT'S GONNA BE WORTH IT!

[2 Timothy 4.7-8, NIV]

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which The Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is it so significant to have people cheering you on in life, in faith, through decisions, and through trials?**
- 2. How have you seen that God's work in our lives is progressive? How does that compete with our culture, or "age of instant?" How is that advantageous for us?**
- 3. What do you need to forget, intentionally forget to let go of the past? (sins, weights, & expectations) (maybe some of these things were even right in past seasons)**
- 4. What do you need to press toward, or run after, in your future? What are some particular pieces of your call?**
- 5. Who are people that you are running with, that will help you go the distance in your calling? How are they tangibly supporting you?**