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I. The Power of God For Salvation – June 25, 2017 Senior Pastor Randy Bezet

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,[e] just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”[f] (Rom 1:16-17 NIV)

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:1-8 NIV)

- **Have you noticed that trying to stop sinning on your own is frustrating and fruitless?**
- **What is the grace of God that we have access to through our faith?**
- **What is the difference between relying on our strength vs. relying upon God’s grace to live free from persistent sin?**

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:1-4)

- **What does it mean to die to sin and selfishness?**

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. (Romans 8:26 NIV)

- **How can we surrender to the power and help of the Holy Spirit to help us live beyond sin, and step into the freedom of Christ?**

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II. Knowing God's Will July 2, 2017 Pastor Joe Mateer

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2 NLT)

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10 NLT)

- **What happens when we begin to really trust that God has made us a masterpiece in Christ?**

9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection,[a] and take delight in honoring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.[b] 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! (Romans 12:9-16 NLT)

- **What has God called you to do individually helping to reach people for Christ, raise them to follow Christ, and release them into your God-given purpose?**
- **How can God use your story of how He has changed your life to 'make disciples of all nations'?**

28 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matt 20:28 NLT)

- **How did Jesus show love to us, and how can we show this kind of love to others in a way that reflects Him?**

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III. The Presence of Hope July 9, 2017 Pastor Burnard Scott

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NIV)

1. Expectation expects certain things or outcomes, expectancy has hope and faith that good will come but releases the expectation of how it will come about.

- In what ways do we try to control the outcome when we want something in life to change?
- How does a sense of entitlement and control impact our attitude and relationships?
- How can serving others delete the emotional power of expecting everything to turn out how we wanted it to?
- When we give our expectations to the Lord, how does this impact our heart and attitude?

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IV. God in the Hood July 15, 2017 Pastor Burnard Scott

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23 MSG)

- Does your life feel like you are influencing the culture around you, or like you are being influenced by the culture around you?
- In what ways can we live as light-bearers in the world around us?
- What does it look like when we begin to live in a way that shines God's light in the dark places around us?

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V. The Sum of All Parts July 22, 2017 Pastor Matt Moore

13 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;[a] but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. (1 Corinthians 13:1-8 NLT)

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'[a] 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'[b] There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30,31 NIV)

- **When we have an encounter with God's love, how does it change the way we treat people around us?**
- **Do you find yourself drifting into a viewpoint of God that is only based on rules and regulations?**
- **What would happen in our lives and the world if we experience God's love, returned it to Him, and began to love those around us with God's love?**

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VI. Mediocre Mission July 30, 2017 Pastor David Payne (Guest Speaker)

9-10 But neither exile nor homecoming is the main thing. Cheerfully pleasing God is the main thing, and that's what we aim to do, regardless of our conditions. Sooner or later we'll all have to face God, regardless of our conditions. We will appear before Christ and take what's coming to us as a result of our actions, either good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:9 MSG)

- **Why do we default to a mediocre walk with God?**
- **How can we shift the way we see our life and calling to see our potential in Christ?**
- **Have you ever experienced a time when your attention shifted to your role and you forgot that God values relationship over role?**
- **When we remember that we are ambassadors for Christ, leading people to Him, how does this impact our motivation to excel in our walk with God?**

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VII. The Purpose of Pain August 5, 2017 Senior Pastor Randy Bezet

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33 NIV)

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10 NIV)

- **Where does pain come from according to these verses in the Bible?**
- **Have you ever experienced growth in your walk with God as a result of pain?**
- **How is God’s power made perfect in our weaknesses?**
- **What effect does pain have on our pride?**

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VIII. How To Let Freedom Be Formed In You August 13, 2017 Senior Pastor Randy Bezet

5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1 NIV)

- **What does it mean to live in the freedom of Christ and to not allow ourselves to be burdened by another yoke of slavery in Galatians 5:1?**

13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [a] (Galatians 5:13-14 NLT)

- **How can Serving others guard us against living to satisfy our sinful nature?**

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30 NIV)

- **What are some things that we can do to partner with the Holy Spirit and so that He can produce the fruit of Christ in us?**

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! (Galatians 5:22-23 NLT)



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IX. Dress for Success August 20, 2017 Pastor David Murphy

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NASB) 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.

- **Why are we often distracted to think that people (flesh and blood) are the problem in our spiritual battle?**
- **Who is the enemy that this passage in Ephesians 6 describes?**
- **How can 'locking our shields' together in Small Groups help us defeat the enemy's attacks more effectively?**

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X. Contentment August 27, 2017 Senior Pastor Randy Bezet

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. (Philippians 4:11 NIV)

• **How can the choice to accept that we are on a journey in Christ empower contentment in our hearts?**

18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV)

• **What does the apostle Paul mean when he says that he learned the secret of being content while imprisoned for his faith?**

12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. (Philippians 4:12 NIV)

• **How do we tap into the power of Christ to enter into peace and contentment when circumstances have not gone according to our plan?**

13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13 NIV)

6-7 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. (Philippians 4:6,7 MSG)