

WHAT IT TAKES

SERMON COMPANION | PERSONAL STUDY & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Sunday, October 18, 2026 • Pastor Recognition Day

Sermon by Pastor Anthony J. Shetley

“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.” — Hebrews 10:36 (NASB95)

The Call Before Us

What does it take to follow Jesus Christ faithfully and fulfill His purpose together? This message moves from our personal walk with Christ to our shared calling as His church. We must believe, follow, and finish. The same faith that shapes our private lives must shape our commitment to the body of Christ. As we recognize our pastor, we also remember the mutual love and faithfulness through which God builds His church.

1 | We Must Believe

Belief is more than acknowledging facts about Jesus. We must be convinced of who He is, confident in His promises, and assured of His love. Such belief produces conviction: reverence for God, a life set apart to Him, and dependence on the Holy Spirit. It calls for wholehearted surrender rather than a divided allegiance. Jesus calls His disciples to deny themselves and take up the cross.

Further Scripture: Romans 10:14; Matthew 16:16; 1 John 4:16; Romans 8:35–39; Matthew 10:28; Luke 9:23–24.

Pause & Reflect

- Am I merely familiar with Jesus, or am I convinced of who He is?
- Where is the Lord calling me to surrender more fully?

2 | We Must Follow

Following Christ is a continuing way of life, not simply a decision we once made. The message calls us to be doers of the Word, to walk in the light one step at a time, and to remain faithful in everyday choices. Our commitment to Him extends beyond Sunday worship into every part of the week.

Further Scripture: James 1:22; John 8:12; Luke 9:23; Proverbs 4:25–27.

Pause & Reflect

- Where does my daily conduct reflect genuine discipleship?
- What one step of obedience can I take this week?

3 | We Must Finish

The Christian life calls for endurance. Hebrews warns us not to throw away our confidence; Jesus speaks of enduring to the end; Revelation holds out the promise of inheritance to the one who

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overcomes. Peter reminds us that the outcome of faith is the salvation of our souls. We do not finish through self-reliance, but through steadfast trust and obedience to Christ.

Further Scripture: Hebrews 10:35–37; Matthew 10:22; Revelation 21:7; 1 Peter 1:9.

Pause & Reflect

- What has tested my endurance or confidence?
- What would it look like to remain faithful through this season?

4 | We Must Believe in Our Shared Calling

The message then turns from the individual believer to the church. We must believe God has brought this body together, seek the leading of Christ's Spirit, make His kingdom work a priority, and faithfully do our part. The church is not sustained by a few people carrying every responsibility. Each member contributes to the body's growth as Christ supplies its life.

Further Scripture: Ephesians 4:13–16; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Matthew 6:33.

Pause & Reflect

- Do I see myself as a necessary, contributing part of this church?
- How can I make the work of Christ a greater priority?

5 | Growing Together Toward Maturity

Ephesians describes the purpose of the church's ministry: unity in faith, knowledge of the Son of God, spiritual maturity, stability in truth, and growth in love. As each part works properly, the body builds itself up. Our shared goal is not simply activity or attendance, but becoming more like Christ and accomplishing His purpose together.

Further Scripture: Ephesians 4:13–16; Colossians 1:28–29.

Pause & Reflect

- Where do we need to grow in unity, truth, or love?
- What gift, service, or responsibility can I offer to strengthen others?

6 | A Pastor's Heart for the Church

On Pastor Recognition Day, the sermon expresses a commitment rooted in calling, faithfulness to the Lord, and affection for His people. Paul told the Thessalonians that he was pleased to share not only the gospel but his own life, because they had become dear to him. In Philippians, he spoke of holding the church in his heart and trusting God to complete the work He began. Pastoral ministry is more than a vocation: it is a giving of oneself in love and service to Christ's people.

Further Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:8; Philippians 1:6–8.

Pause & Reflect

- How can we encourage and pray for those who shepherd us?
- How can pastor and congregation faithfully pursue God's purpose together?

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Our Response | Believe • Follow • Finish

Personal commitment: Name one area where you need to believe more deeply, follow more faithfully, or persevere with renewed confidence.

Church commitment: Identify one specific way you will serve, encourage, or strengthen Point of Life Church in the coming weeks.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, deepen our faith, guide our steps, and give us endurance to finish what You have called us to do. Make us one body, growing in truth and love. Help each of us give ourselves faithfully to Your work. Amen.