



ON PURPOSE

"ON PURPOSE" WEEK 2 NOTES **AUGUST 13**

KEY THOUGHTS

- This walk with Jesus is a long marathon, not a sprint. Endurance athletes can't compete unless they do a host of things "on purpose." Us too.
- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 give us 5 things we need in order to walk the long walk with Jesus, but they won't be done unless we do them intentionally, on purpose.
- "Stand firm in the faith."
- "Stand firm..." Paul uses this word with an emphasis on being an active verb. The opposite is to sit, be passive. Like William Wallace and the Scottish clans standing against England, it means to "Hold! Hold! Hold!" I will not budge, and I will not back down!
- We tend to fail at this on two fronts:
 - 1) This is not a call to simply be stubborn (like political positions or our own methodologies), but 2) to stand firm in the faith. Faith is trusting belief.
 - But it's not simply to stand firm in A faith, but THE faith.
 - There was a faith battle in the first century between the Pharisees (who saw atonement was brought through meticulous obedience to the letter of the Law) and Jesus (whose Way taught that atonement was through the sacrificial death of Jesus on our behalf). We fix our eyes on Jesus, the author of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).
 - Our faith has beliefs, and each belief matters. Some of those beliefs, for example in the sacrificial death of Jesus on our behalf, are essentials. Other beliefs, for example our understanding of spiritual gifts or of the tribulation, while not essential are still important. Hold firmly to the essentials.
 - There are heroic men and women who stood firmly for the faith: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Daniel, Stephen, and Martin Luther. How did they stand firmly, and how can we? See below for some practical suggestions on building the ability to stand firm.

SCRIPTURES

- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
- Hebrews 12:2

Practical & Reflection

- Be immersed in the documents of faith. Spend time in Scripture. Learn and be reminded.
- Be surrounded by the people of faith. Who we surround ourselves with largely determines the type of follower of Jesus we will be. Make the effort and engage.
- Be obedient to the Anchor of faith. Follow hard after Jesus, especially in "the small things."