

What Matters Most

Pastor Gregg Brenes &
UH Rainbow Warrior guests

Persevere when your faith is tested.

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. James 1:2-4 NLT

Remember the value and fragility of life.

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." James 4:13-15

Respond to God's intervention in your life with gratitude.

"I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." Luke 7:47 NLT

Fan into flame the gift of God in you.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6

Work at growing your relationship with God.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Use your unique, God-given platform to glorify God and reach others for Christ.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord... Jeremiah 29:11

Let's Connect

- Did you watch the game?

Let's Talk About It

What does it look like for a person to live in the Kingdom of God? As Christ followers, we are called to represent Jesus on earth. We honor God in our everyday lives as we seek Jesus, surrender to God, and serve others.

James 1:2-5; 4:13-15; Luke 7:47; 2 Timothy 1:6; Matthew 6:33; Jeremiah 29:11

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Ready to take the next step in your relationship with God? Water baptisms will be Sunday, February 26, following the 9am and 10:45am services. Talk to your Grace Group leader for more information!
- Read James 1:2-4. What setback have you experienced? How did you respond? How has your faith in Christ shaped your perspective during failure and disappointment and given you the strength to respond?
- Read James 4:13-15. What would it look like for you to live with greater intention and awareness of the fragility and value of human life – to look at life a little more carefully, listen a little more intently and relate to others more empathetically?
- Read Matthew 6:33. How does seeking Jesus as your first priority help align all the other things in your life? What adjustments do you need to make in your schedule and priorities to reflect that God has first place?
- Read 2 Timothy 1:6. People get to know who God is by watching our lives. What is your life saying about the God you serve? What does it look like to fan into flame the gift God has given you? How might God want to use the gifts and resources He has blessed you with to serve others?

Take a Step

- What step can you take this week to respond to your circumstances – failures, successes, and disappointments – with faith?

Here's My Prayer

- Lord, thank you for pursuing me and loving me. Help me to trust You more and be led by Your Spirit. May my life – my actions, my words and how I spend my time – reflect that You are my first priority. Heavenly Father, please work through me as I reach out to someone in my life with Your love. In Jesus' name, amen.