

# “Unleashing The Power”

Learning To Live Life More Abundantly



# The Good Shepherd

“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Although Jesus used this figure of speech, they did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

# The Good Shepherd

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

**John 10:1–16 (NABRE)**

# The Correct Image of God

- Loving Father (“Adam, where are you?”)
- Healer of our souls
- Wants what is best for us
- Permissive will allows hardships for a greater benefit

# Spiritual Warfare

- We are not spectators but active participants and we make choices everyday either in accordance with God's will or against it.
- Don't develop a victim spirit. Be bold and proactive.
- Discover the power of intercessory prayer
- No Fear Just Faith!

# Life Is Messy

- God is at work in the midst of the brokenness. (“Through the brokenness of the world, the imperfections of other people and situations, and even our own limited humanity, God wishes to speak to us. His thoughts and words will encourage and challenge us, guide and warn us, inspire and energize us.” Resisting Happiness p.102)

# Power In Weakness

Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

**2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (NABRE)**

# Patience

- Conversion is a process.
- Forgiveness is a process.  
(It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession.  
#2843)
- “Be patient with everyone...especially yourself.”  
St. Francis de Sales



# Encourage Each Other

But we are sure in your regard, beloved, of better things related to salvation, even though we speak in this way. For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love you have demonstrated for his name by having served and continuing to serve the holy ones. We earnestly desire each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of hope until the end, so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who, through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises.

**Hebrews 6:9–12 (NABRE)**

# A Few Final Thoughts

- Don't lose your sense of humor.
- Celebrate the victories in your life. (Deer hunting experience)
- Ask for more joy and a "faith" perspective on life. Death & Resurrection are always linked together in the Paschal Mystery.
- The saints and spiritual friendships.
- Prayer & Adoration (Ephesians 3:14-21)

# My Prayer For Us

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 3:14–21 (NABRE)**