



Pastor Sue's September Message

Nowadays, it seems like everyone is on a diet. Why not? I'd also love to lose some extra pounds that I have gained for the last ten years so that I can wear my favorite jeans again — that would be awesome! The problem is, however, we want to lose weight in a very short period of time, and that's why the diet business never fails. The commercials say something like "Lose 10 pounds in three days or a week!" to get our attention. However, we all know that losing weight and staying fit will take some time, regular exercise, and strict discipline regarding what kind of foods we eat. Yet the invitation to losing 10 pounds in a week sounds so appealing!

Sometimes that mind-set goes to our spiritual life too. One of the spiritual leaders today, Eugene Peterson wrote, "Religion in our time has been captured by the tourist mindset. Religion is understood as a visit to an attractive site to be made when we have adequate leisure. For some it is a weekly jaunt to church; for others, occasional visits to special services. Some, with a bent for religious entertainment and sacred diversion, plan their lives around special events like retreats rallies and conferences... They are impatient for results. They have adopted the lifestyle of a tourist and only want the high points. Christian life cannot mature under such conditions and in such ways." (*A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*)

Friends, the spiritual growth we are longing to have is only possible when we truly become serious about learning from Jesus and how to prioritize our lives. He *is* our Lord after all, not a tour guide. So, this fall, let us press on to know and love God more as we worship the Lord with other believers *weekly*, read the Word of God *daily*, and invest our time, mind and heart to participate small / growth group study *regularly* to experience the transformation the Gospel has promised. Let's develop a heart for God this fall as we worship, pray, and study together.

***In Christ,
Sue***