

WESTPORT WITNESS

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Septmeber, 2006

Revival September 17-20

Guest Evangelist
Dr. Terry Peer

Theme

The Life of Commitment

Sunday morning at 10:30

Sunday night 6:00

Monday-Wednesday 7:00

Mike's Message...

The other day I was talking to a man on the phone from another state. His comment about Indiana was "is everyone there crazy about basketball?" I told him not necessarily, but everyone here is crazy! (Just kidding)

A few days ago, I was listening to a message that was delivered by a preacher at a leadership conference. His message was very intriguing as I listened intently. Then he made a comment that I have thought about since. The comment that he made was, "*whatever we focus on, has our attention.*"

Now, if you're like Ron, you are probably wondering what in the world does basketball and a sermon have in common. Well, if you go to a basketball camp, what do you hear the coaches tell their players? *FOCUS and FOLLOW THROUGH!* What great advice for Christians and the church today. Focus and follow through. Lets think about that for just a moment.

It is true, "whatever we focus on has our attention." Let me give you an illustration. If you have to hammer in a nail while holding on to it, what happens if you don't focus on the nail? That's right, our attention will be on our thumb because of the pain!

Okay, maybe that's not a good illustration but, seriously, what happens when you focus on something? Well, if it's a problem, many times it seems as though the problem gets bigger. Take, for example, bills. The more we focus on the bills that we must pay, the more it affects our attitude. We get upset because we have to pay this bill and we don't have the money. So whatever we focus on, has our attention.

As a preacher, I feel that we all need to hear "focus and follow through." We need to focus on the things that are important and follow through. You may be asking, "What are they?"

The first is being obedient. Obedient to the things of God—Such as worshiping and the study of God's word.

Continued inside. . .

Mike's Message ...continued

Secondly is serving. I can hear some of you already, but coming to worship on Sunday morning is not serving, it's worship! Serving is what you do after you worship and study.

Thirdly is following through. I personally feel that more people drop this ball than any other. One thing that I have observed is the fact that those who do not do this soon stop doing the first two as well.

Jesus said in John 14:15 *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."* (NASU)

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, *Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."* (John 21:15-17)

Jesus was telling Peter to focus and follow through and I feel He is telling us as well.

Love,
Mike

CALLING ALL YOUTH

Well, school is back in session! Classes has begun, homework has started, assignments given out, well, you know what I mean. Some of you have expressed to me that you don't like school, others love it.

Now, for those of you who enjoy school I want to encourage you to continue to study hard. For those of you who have told me you didn't care for school, I want to encourage you to study hard. You see life in some areas is what you make of it. If you go around seeing everything as negative or people are out to get you, then what do you think is going to happen. That's right, your going to be miserable.

I truly believe that ones attitude affects everything around you. The way you think. How you treat other people and how other people treat you. I know, been there done that! Our attitudes affects our actions, moods, and even if we are successful in life or not.

So I want to ask each of you to check your attitude. There are very few things in life that one can change, but God has given to us the ability to change our attitude.

On Thursday night at youth group, I gave all of you a challenge. I shared with those that were there if they would collectively memorize 200 verses of scripture by the end of next month, we would have a pizza party! Here is the kicker. I am the one that is selecting the scripture to be memorized. Each person must at least get the verse assigned each week. Each week you will get eight new ones to work on for the following week. So the challenge is out. The pizza party is up to you! Buy the way, I like pepperoni!

Until next time,

Mike

Ladies,

“Consistency is more important than intensity.” This statement was a quote I spotted in a magazine article about exercise. Basically, the idea was that exercise done every day is better than an infrequent, high-energy workout.

This little sentence makes a lot of sense. Not only is exercise best done in a disciplined consistent way, but so is everything in your life. Disciplining your children? Be consistent. Learning to play a musical instrument? Practice every day. A famous artist once said “Not a day without a line.” An artist who wants to improve his craft must draw every day.

Our spiritual lives are like that, too. God wants us to share our lives with Him every day and He will share His life with us.

“Think about it. God will take time to let you know His will-for your future, your church, anything and everything. The problem is many people refuse to take time to listen.

God wants to speak directly to you...

...Desire is NOT about feeling: it is about conscious decision to know Christ more intimately...

Get around hungry people.

Take advantage of easy times. Hunger for God’s presence now-store up for a dry time.

Memorize scripture.

Avoid distractions...don’t let your day slip away without God-times.

Ask for hunger.

Discipline yourself. People who have a strategy for growing in Christ will be strong.

God give me a passion for You. I pray that You would become my overwhelming obsession. Begin a hunger in me that will never go out. God’ I will not wait for the feelings to come before I draw near to You, but I will discipline myself to spend time with You. Give me friends that are hungry for You, so that we can encourage each other in our walk. Help me to avoid distractions that dominate my times that I will not waste away the time that U should be using to be with You. You are more precious to me than anything else in the world.”

—Sean Dunn

I hope we all make this our prayer. Consistency-Ladies-consistency.

Secret Sister remember your sister.

Care teams... Shepherd His sheep.

From the Congregation **“I Make A Difference”**

One morning just before dawn, a man woke early so he could watch the sunrise over the ocean. As he walked along the beach he came across a young girl who seemed to be doing something peculiar. She was picking up starfish and throwing them into the sea-on after another. He asked her what she was doing.

“The tide washes up all these starfish and they can’t get back by themselves,” she said. “They will die in the sun if I don’t throw them back into the water.”

The man looked up and down the beach at the thousands of stranded starfish. He couldn’t help telling her, “But there are too many starfish to save before sunrise. Why bother? You won’t make much of a difference.”

She paused for a moment, then picked up another starfish and threw it as far as her slender arm could manage. With a satisfied grin, she turned to the man and simply said, “I made a difference to that one.”

The man stood in silence, considering the girl’s youthful wisdom. Then, with a smile of his own, he reached down for a starfish. . .and tossed it into the sea. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY!**

(Submitted by Sharon Pugh—*One person can make a difference-Positive Promotions*)

UP COMING EVENTS

5th Ladies meeting	7:00
12th Board meeting	7:00
13th Hour of Power prayer meeting	6:15
17th Revival begins—Pitch-In following morning worship	
24th Morning Breeze	2:30
25th Elders/Deacons meeting	7:00



Westport Christian Church

Biblical Ed class 9:30

Worship 10:30

Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00

Wednesday night 7:00

September

BIRTHDAYS 2nd Debbie Peele 3rd Michael Cann 19th Michael Garris
ANNIVERSARIES 6th John & Peggy Combs

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The times of our revival meeting will be; Sunday morning with a Pitch-In following worship Sunday night 6:00 Monday—Wednesday 7:00 Be in prayer for our meetings and start inviting now!					1	2
3 Family Sunday No Wee-Worship	4	5 Ladies Meeting 7:00	6 Bible Study 7:00	7 Jr-Sr. High Youth Group 7:00	8 Westport BBQ Blue Grass Gospel Oak Forest Boys	9 Woodsmen Quartet Southern Gospel
10	11	12 Board Meeting 7:00	13 Hour of POWER 6:15 Bible Study 7:00	14 Jr-Sr. High Youth Group 7:00	15	16
17	18	REVIVAL <i>The Life of Commitment</i>		21 Jr-Sr. High Youth Group 7:00	22	23
24 Morning Breeze 2:30	25 Elders/Deacons Meeting 7:00	26	27 Bible Study 7:00	28 Jr-Sr. High Youth Group 7:00	29	30