SERMON: PERSEVERANCE

PASTOR Derek Sanford

April 10, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Human strength at its best inevitably fails. How then, according to God’s word, can human perseverance be sustained? [Only the promises of God can sustain human perseverance. God’s promises empower his people.] Discuss, then read **Isaiah 40:30-31** to go deeper.
3. Read **Numbers 14:6-10** for the positive report on Canaan (the land God had promised to his people, the Israelites) from two of the 12 spies – Joshua and Caleb.
* Discuss how the Israelite people responded to their report.
* Read **verse 11** for God’s point of view and discuss.
* For God’s response to the people’s unbelief, read **verses 29 and 30**.
1. Joshua – one of the two spies who trusted in God’s promises and power – became the leader of the Israelite nation after Moses died. Read **Numbers 14:24** for God’s provision for the other spy – Caleb. Read **Joshua 14:6-14** to find out how Caleb describes himself after 40 years of wandering in the desert with the Israelites, then his entrance into Canaan.
2. Like the Israelite people, we too have to go through desert experiences in life -- times of hurt or loss, weariness, disappointment.
* Why does perseverance best describe what God calls us to do during these times (rather than simply endurance, for example)?
* How can we get to know God better when we are in the desert than when we are in a place where everything seems to be going great for us?
* Why is it not possible that God has forgotten you – even when you are feeling most abandoned, lost, confused? [God never changes. He never takes back his promises. He created you, he loves you, and his plans for you are only good.]
1. Describe a personal desert experience you have gone through, that afterwards you realized had made your faith in God stronger, your trust in his promises more secure.

**Next Steps:**

 - In **Matthew 28:20** Jesus says, “…I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Practice sensing Jesus with you by talking to him briefly, on-the-spot, as you go through your day.

 -In **John 14: 6** Jesus says, “…I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” Look into God’s written

 word every day to find the truth you need for the situations you are in.

**Verse to Remember**: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.” **Ephesians 6:10**.