

## “Life Changing” Moments

Like for all of us, my life can get a bit hectic sometimes, especially with a young family and a job that requires me to spend quite a bit of time overseas. I’m blessed to have a loving and supportive wife who keeps everything running like clockwork while I’m gone, but it’s never easy for any of us when I’m away for extended periods of time. Whether I’m traveling or not, I try to keep my priorities straight between God, family and work through a daily regimen of Bible Study and prayer. While I often fall short, I am trying and hopefully getting better, with God’s help.

A key to whatever progress I have made so far is in my regular quiet time reading God’s Word and writing in my prayer journal. Ephesians 6 tells us to put on the full armor of God, which I think is best accomplished by reading scripture, God’s revelation to us, and through prayer, where we can bring whatever is on our hearts, however large or small, directly to our Father in Heaven who loves us. The best part is it works, as I’ve seen many times in my own experience and in the lives of those around me since I became a Christian. It’s an amazing thing to experience God’s peace that passes all understanding, especially when one of life’s inevitable tempests is raging around us.

Having this kind of direct access to the creator of the universe is pretty amazing, but what’s more amazing is how many Christian’s don’t take advantage of it. That’s why I was so encouraged to see our church run the Life Changing Challenge last year as part of our annual stewardship campaign, as it covered a comprehensive program of daily Bible study, prayer, and worship for the entire congregation. Although I was asked to write a personal testimony by the Stewardship Committee, I really didn’t know what the LCC was all about and how it could potentially impact St. John the Divine.

Work obligations required me to spend much of the fall in London and I went through most of the LCC materials as part of my daily quiet time away from home. I enjoyed reading the testimonials, the weekly commentary and daily scripture readings, but I especially liked the structure for daily worship that was at the back of the booklet. The LCC’s personalized worship service allowed me to go to church every day regardless of my geographical location. I knew that anyone else doing this program would be strengthened by it, as it involves all the key elements in a simple format for anyone to follow and implement. I was encouraged knowing that our Church was doing the LCC together and exposing many of us to a daily worship regimen outside of church on Sunday that can only bring us closer to God and each other.

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