

Campus Chronicles

October 3, 2011

Faith Like a Weed by Sonia Kotko

Oh, those things are so stubborn. No matter how many times I pick them, they keep coming back. When they do come back, they are stronger and thicker than before. I can spend hours in my yard picking those pesky weeds, yet I can find them growing back again in a few days. It seems like their roots grab ahold of anything they can, and if you don't get all of the roots they keep growing. They struggle and fight to make sure they survive.



We, as Christians, need to be as stubborn as these weeds. We need to strive daily to constantly walk in the footsteps of our Christ. When the world is picking or pulling at us, we need to fight back like weeds. Let us have roots that grow and attach to the Word of God, and may those roots never be severed. By being grounded in the Word, we will grow and become stronger in our relationship with Christ. So let our roots (our faith) grab ahold of every single word of the Lord; may it become a strong foundation for further growth.

As stated in 1 Corinthians 16:13, we need to "Be on guard. Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong." "Because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance," is stated in James 1:3. So, don't let the world pull you the wrong way; be grounded in the word of God and increase your faith.

What are your roots going to be wrapped around: the word of God or the world? The things of this world are temporary while the things of God are eternal.



Dates to Remember:

Oct. 10-14 – Returning Students' Chapel Registration. Plus, yearbook portraits will be taken.

Oct. 14 Friends & Alumni Celebration Banquet

Oct 17 – Open Registration.

Oct. 21- Field Ministry Reports are due.

Oct. 28 - Evening CL&M Live Session.

Nov. 1-7- Finals week – No chapel during Finals!



Reflection on the Discipline of Solitude by Stephalyn Cherry

Excerpts taken from *Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard J. Foster

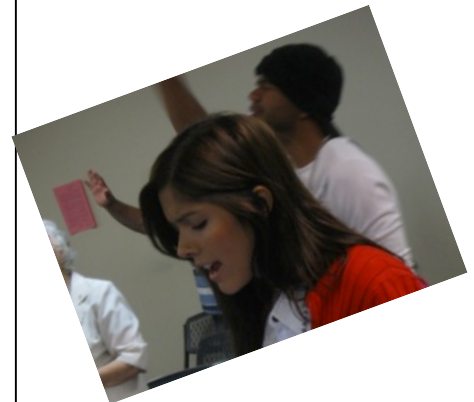
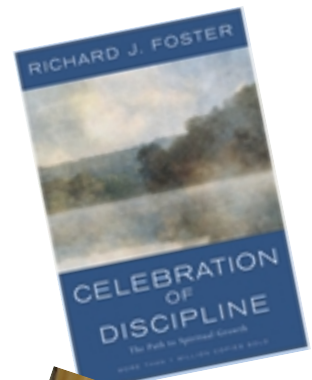
Wow! This chapter on solitude was a revelation! First, I did not know that solitude was more than getting away from people and things. Second, I did not know that it is “more a state of mind and heart than it is a place” (96). Third, there are steps to show you how to achieve this discipline. Wow!

I have been trying to achieve what I thought was solitude for years. Taking time off from everyday life; getting in the car on Saturday morning and driving; getting on a plane to visit family for the weekend; staying at a nice hotel; or just coming in from work on a Friday and not leaving the house until Monday morning. That is not it!

Solitude is preparing you to hear from God. It is learning how to listen in silence. The author, Richard Foster, stated, “without silence there is no solitude...it always involves the act of listening...We must come to understand the connection between inner solitude and inner silence; they are inseparable...we must come to understand and experience the transforming power of silence if we are to know solitude” (98-99). Then he said, “Control is the key.” So now, I am intrigued and bewildered. Where are the instructions?

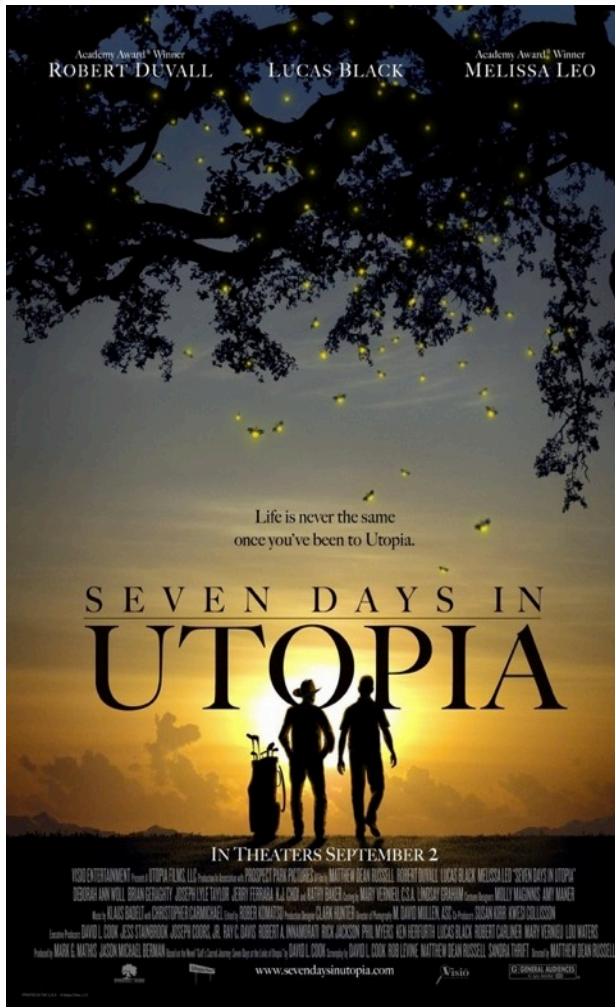
First, the author states, “We should take advantage of the little solitudes that fill our day. For instance, before the family awakens, the solitude of a morning cup of coffee, the bumper to bumper traffic during rush hour, or a moment of rest and refreshment when you turn the corner and see a flower or a tree...We can find or develop a ‘quiet place’” (105-106). There are others, but I will stop and start with these instructions for this revelatory discipline on solitude and silence.

This chapter for me is a—“WOW...thank you God!”--moment for me. I realized that I am not alone, nor am I lonely. He has removed distractions from me and moved me into a place of quiet rest. He has given me a home of peace, where I can sit, meditate, read, and be still to hear and adore God.



Seven Days in Utopia: A Review

By Cassandra Friday



Seven Days in Utopia is one of those films that will have you examining the meaning of your own life by the time the credits roll. Based on David Cook's best-selling novel, the film stars Lucas Black and Robert Duvall. Luke Chisholm (Black) is a professional golfer ready to quit after a very public meltdown at his most recent tournament. So beaten down in the only thing that gave his life meaning, Luke drops off the grid and ends up in the little town of Utopia. After crashing his car through Johnny Crawford's (Duvall) fence, Luke is adopted by the charming southern town and taken under Johnny's wing. Wise old Johnny makes Luke a deal: stay seven days in Utopia and he'll get his game back. At the end of the seven days, however, Luke gets more than he ever bargained for.

Directed by Matthew Dean Russell, the film is clearly Christian in its message without overpowering the entire storyline. Also, compared to other Christian produced films, the salvation scene was handled extremely well. Lucas Black brings a lot of emotion to his character while

Robert Duvall plays the classic, reflective old mentor that he is known best for. The film also includes Melissa Leo, Kathy Baker, and Deborah Ann Woll; but only as minor characters in comparison.

The film opens with a Bible verse and ends with a twist that is unprecedented in the film world: you have to visit a website to see the end of the final scene. Honestly, though, this ending does not take away from the film at all. This film is one of the best out there. With no swearing, sex, or violence, it is definitely a family-friendly movie with an entirely positive message about what truly matters in life. Anyone looking for an encouraging and personally challenging film to see, this one meets the all the requirements. Two thumbs up!





Just a Thought...

Most of us use text abbreviations at some point in electronic communication. One of the most common is OMG. We may say Oh My Goodness, but the rest of the world uses the abbreviation to use the Lord's name in vain.

Let's start a new trend: TYG for "Thank You God!" or HMJ for "Help Me Jesus!" Think we can make it stick? Let's give it a try.



EPIC Miracle Update

As we all have been praying and working hard on our new campus remodel, I **am thrilled to share with you** that we should be able to **submit our building permit plan** for review and approval by the County of Sacramento this week. It will take them some weeks to review, and I will keep you posted as to the timeline for completion. This \$350,000+ project is going to be an **EPIC MIRACLE MAKEOVER!!**

Pastor Ron Harden



JOB OPENING

EPIC LRC/Library is now hiring a LRC/Library Clerk 1 position. This is a part-time position. Please see the job description posted in the EPIC LRC/Library and at both receptions desks.



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