

Power for Ministry: Going the Distance or Going to Pieces

- Speaking/living for an audience of One, Jesus. This is a challenge because we also want the applause or "well done" from our families, peers, audiences and the people in our church. We want people to say that they are proud of us and enjoyed our message, but we want them to give God the glory and be drawn to Him. We agreed that the best compliment we could receive from a person would be, "God used you to touch my life."

- Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith it is impossible to please God. Mary shared some thoughts about the importance of faith.

- Commitment is HUGE! The keys are 1) stay in the Word -- and as we polled the group, we found that we all connect with God through His Word at different times of day: morning, noon and nighttime and anytime in between. 2) Be accountable. Our accountability partners ranged from husband to friend to prayer group and beyond. 3) Be thankful. "Without gratitude, we lose perspective," Mary reminded us. "Gaze at the Father. Glance at circumstances."

- We addressed the FEAR FACTOR as it relates to living the Christian life. 1) Expect the storms (II Cor. 6:4-5). Singing and quoting a favorite verse help! 2) Be thankful. Again, Scripture is huge. Col. 1:17, Isaiah 45:3, Phil 4:13, II Cor 12:9, Romans 8:35-39, Psalms 41:2-3, Hebrews 12:3 and other Scriptures were shared.

- Life Balance - When things start getting out-of-balance, we feel it first... in our health, by a lack of motivation, by feeling paralyzed or overwhelmed, or some of us start procrastinating. To stay on track, we run back to Jesus for direction.

Please remember to read "Experiencing God's Power in Your Ministry," by Mary Southerland [Harvest House]. You will be encouraged and recharged!