

# Holy ruthlessness?

By Dave Hagle | Mar 7, 2017

2008 was a tough year.

When a dean retired at one of our colleges, I was asked to fill in temporarily. This was in addition to my own full-time position. At the same time, I was trying to finish my doctoral dissertation, serving as vice-chair of my local church board, and spearheading an anti-poverty group. Oh, and I was trying my best to be a good husband and father. It wasn't too long before I was at my wits end. But I soon recalled sage advice from a former professor. Years prior, he kindly suggested I needed to practice "holy ruthlessness."

A clarifying question is at the center: What had God called me to do? Not what I wanted to do, but what was God leading me to do? That is the "holy" part. If God calls me to something, it is sacred. That means it has priority. For me, my family and dissertation were those things. The whirlwind of my jobs was there, but finishing my dissertation was paramount to my vocational calling.

So what was the "ruthless" part? Once I identified the sacred, I did everything in my power to protect God's calling. Something had to give. I made hard choices. I stepped down from extra leadership responsibilities and anything that was not immediately necessary to my calling. But not everyone understood my choices—and that was ruthless. It felt like I was being ruthless, uncaring, and self-centered with others. I worried someone would be irritated or inconvenienced when I said no and set boundaries. That did happen. But I learned it didn't matter; I was focused on what God had called me to do in that particular season. It is holy because it is a sacred task; it is ruthless because others may not understand. This gave me freedom to finish my most sacred tasks.

>>> Continued >>>

Is God calling you to practice holy ruthlessness? What should you relinquish control of that will allow you to focus on what God has called you to do? If God has called you, he will provide a way through. But you may need to make some difficult choices.

**July 23, 2017**

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

“Encouragement for the Journey of Faith”

Joshua 1

**Sermon Notes:**

*Deuteronomy 34:10-12*

*Joshua 1:1-18*

**1. Receive the \_\_\_\_\_**

**(v. 2)**

**2. Recognize God's**

**\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5)**

*“The beautiful thing about this adventure called faith is that we can count on Him never to lead us astray.”*

~ Chuck Swindoll

# 3. Respect God's

**(v. 7)**

**Exodus 33:8-11**

**Deuteronomy 34:10**

**Deuteronomy 34:9**

**Reflection:** What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS? What is God setting before you as a Kingdom building and faith strengthening challenge? Are you trusting in God's presence and provision?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives.

**Challenge:** This week I will pray for following local schools, administrators, staff, teachers, students, and their families:

## ***Communion at FOCUS***

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

## ***Pray for our Schools Night*** ***August 1, 7:30-8 PM***

Save the date, and plan to meet with many from our community at the Scott County High School Main Entrance to pray for our local community schools.

## ***Youth Group 6:30 - 8 PM*** ***Next Sunday Aug. 6th!***

Friends welcome, snacks provided!

## ***FOCUS Family Fun Friday -*** ***August 11, 7:30 PM***

FOCUS will be having a family movie night out on the lawn of the North side of the church building. Popcorn and water provided! Consider inviting some families and friends for a fun evening together!

## **Our Beliefs**

Wesleyans believe in one God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the Savior of all who put their faith in Him alone for eternal life.

We believe that those who are made new in Christ are called to be holy in character and conduct, and can only live this way by being filled with the Lord's Spirit.

We believe in the Bible and its sufficiency to establish our faith and conduct.

We believe God wills for people everywhere to know Him and be made new in Christ.

We believe that the purpose of the Church is to worship God in spirit and in truth, and to reach a lost and fallen world with the gospel of Jesus Christ through its worship, witness, and loving deeds.

115 N. Water Street  
Georgetown, KY 40324  
(502) 369 2096  
[info@focuswesleyan.org](mailto:info@focuswesleyan.org)  
[www.focuswesleyan.org](http://www.focuswesleyan.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/focuswesleyan>

# *The* **JOURNEY**

YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS NOW

