

Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Devotion:

As you come to the close of your first week as a SALT camper you have experienced serving behind the scenes, witnessed the Gospel message from a whole new perspective, and started growing closer in community. The first week of SALT is always the most exciting. Everything is new and you are experiencing camp from an entire different perspective than you ever have before. Moving into the next two weeks, you will have already been through a week of camp and have a little experience under your belt. However, this brings a certain challenge we would like to warn you about: letting comfort creep in. You might be thinking to yourself: “why is being comfortable such a bad thing?” We would like to give you a couple reasons why we should seek to be uncomfortable rather than comfortable:

1. Comfort = Complacency

Ginni Rommetty, president and chief executive of IBM, states clearly “Growth and comfort do not coexist.” When we are comfortable, we miss opportunities to grow, we do not push ourselves, and we end up stuck. Whenever we let comfort creep into our lives we begin to miss potential opportunities to grow. Each week a new group of 500 kids comes to Woodlands for the first time of the summer. They are just excited to come to camp as you were when you first showed up to SALT. If we are comfortable we can risk missing the opportunity to make a difference in these kid’s lives. Christ-like service means putting ourselves last. You get the opportunity to do that daily by serving these kids. It says in 1 Corinthians 15:58 to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. As Christ followers we should seek the work of the Lord at all times. Being comfortable robs us of the chance to fulfill that call. We see in scripture being uncomfortable forces us to grow. Romans 5:3-5 says “More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Comfort results in complacency and complacency is the death of growth. For you to grow in your relationship with Christ, push yourself out of your comfort zone and allow Christ to mold you through the process described in Romans 5.

2. We are called to be uncomfortable

If we truly examine the life of Jesus we will never see a moment of comfort, and as Christ followers we are called to pursue the life of Jesus. In 1 Peter 2:21 it says “To this

you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.” We are called to follow in Christ steps, which includes suffering for the sake of Christ. Christ doesn’t only want us not to be comfortable, but he wants us to pursue being uncomfortable. The world preaches the message of comfort. To have a comfortable life is idolized in the world, but that isn’t what Christ died for and it isn’t what we are called to. 1 Timothy 6:12 urges us to fight the good fight of faith. I don’t think there is any question God doesn’t want us to be comfortable. Why do you think this is? Well, we are called to a mission of extreme value. Each week the kids who come into Woodlands have the opportunity to make life changing decisions. Eternity is on the line, and you get to play a role in their decision. If we are comfortable we are not pursuing the type of service and life Christ has called us to. In addition, the way in which you serve impacts those around you, especially the campers. If the trash isn’t taken out or bathrooms were filthy, it would have a negative impact on the campers. Empty trash cans and clean bathrooms are not going to be the things that change a camper’s life, but overflowing trash and dirty bathrooms could be the things that distracts a camper enough to turn them away from life change. You get the chance this week to help play a part in a child’s salvation story by the way you serve.

In conclusion, being comfortable hinders your ability to grow and is not the lifestyle Christ calls us to. As you walk through the remainder of your SALT session push yourself out of your comfort zone, allow yourself to be uncomfortable. Remember why you are here and the mission you are called to. We are continuing to pray that you will come out of SALT a difference maker, a leader that serves. Matthew 10:39 says “If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.” Don’t cling to your life in comfort, give your life for the mission of Christ.