

## Life Group Notes 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Stand firm in the faith and serve the Lord**

***What did God speak to you about on Sunday? What can you remember from Si's message?***

***Before you look at the passage get people to flick through 1 Corinthians looking at the headings and any highlighted bits in their bible and share with other what God has challenged/inspired you from his word/what has been preached during this series?***

***Read 1 Cor 15:58-16:24 ask each person to share what thing challenges/inspires them the most from this chapter?***

***V1-12 Discuss in groups what it means (as practically as you can) to be abounding in the work of the Lord in your giving and decision making? (e.g. when your feeling frustrated in your job, thinking about a new job, been offered a promotion how do you involve God in this process. What about booking a holiday, deciding when to retire, what to do in retirement, having children etc.)***

***Have any of you got a testimony of when God clearly permitted one of your decisions or clearly closed it down? What about any testimonies when God has opened a wide door for effective work for you?***

***V13-14 Read these verse again. Lets dig deep into these 2 verses. What does being watchful mean? What light do the following scriptures shed on it – Matt 26:40-41, Col 4:2, 1 Tim4:16 & Matt 25:13.***

Standing Firm in the faith, act like men (courageous and responsible), be strong are all needed because of the opposition we will face. Jesus promises us trouble in this world, but tells us to take heart for he has overcome the world (John 15:18-27, John 16:33). Jesus is always with us Matt 28:20, yet the disciples were scared until they received power from on high – Acts 1 & 2, when threatened they prayed for boldness and received fresh power from on high – Acts 4 . Even the Apostle Paul asked for prayer for boldness to proclaim the word as he should Eph 6:19. To stand firm, be courageous and strong requires not only knowing the truth (which is key) but being filled with the Holy Spirit regularly.

***With that in mind spend some time praying for each other that you will be filled with the Spirit to live and witness for Jesus as we should.***

***Finally, as Si mentioned we are believing that God is opening a wide door for effective ministry in our area and nation at this time so spend some time asking God to move in power with signs, wonders and much salvation in our nation, in this area and with our friends, family and work colleagues.***

***Recommended book to read – Tom Wright, “Paul for everyone 1 Corinthians”***

***Now might be a good time to buy Tom Wright's, “Paul for everyone 2 Corinthians,” ready for the Autumn series.***