

Sunday, October 3, 2021 - "Relationship Matters - Week 4 - Power Down" - Norflette Shumake

Key Passages: Philippians 2:12-18, Philippians 3:5-7, 1 Corinthians 2:2-3, 2 Corinthians 7:15, Ephesians 6:5-6, Deuteronomy 32:5

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

#### Main Ideas

- We are entrenched in culture wars
  - We "power up"
  - The kingdom of God is upside down
- Power was the name of the game in Jesus' day and we are still infatuated with power today
- We sometimes live in echo chambers = everyone we hear and see thinks the way we do → we demonize those who don't think like us → we power up
- How do we find common ground?
  - "If we're to be one, I have to know your story and you have to know my story" - Norflette Shumake
  - We have to find a shared history
- We POWER UP because we are unsure of our identity
  - We use our influence, education, wealth, network etc.
  - What empowers you or what makes you feel big?
  - For someone to dominate someone else has to get small
- We have to POWER DOWN
- Power down to...**throw it back to Jesus**
  - Philippians 2:5-7
  - When we doubt our value we figure out how to power up
  - Jesus came down from his high place and instead he took the form of a servant (powered down)
- Power down to...**work it out** (Philippians 2:12)
  - Work out our salvation → outworking of an in working of Jesus
  - Fear and trembling → don't want to do anything that will mess up relationship with someone else
  - We prove our humility
- Power down to...**let God work**
  - v13: For HIS pleasure
  - Can we trust God with our desires?
- Power down to...**light up**
  - v15: We shine as lights
    - we should be different
    - We don't look like the world we live in
    - We are the light of the world
  - Deuteronomy 32:5
- We have to have difficult conversations
  - Not converse to harm or injure
  - Willing to share pain without weaponizing our hurt, willing to hear pain without weaponizing defense or response
- When we live from false identity, we power up
- When we power down and humble ourselves, there is GRACE
  - More grace for the humble
  - Not trying to assert our own favor but empowered by God

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How have you powered up the past? What have you learned about yourself and your tendencies to do this?
2. How is God asking you to be intentional about powering down?
3. How have you seen God extend more Grace when you have humbled yourself?
4. What makes it hard to power down instead of powering up?
5. Where and why is God calling you to enter into some difficult conversations?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

**Mon: Acts 21 Tues: Acts 22 Wed: Acts 23 Thurs: Acts 23 Fri: Acts 25**

**Songs from the weekend: [Where the Spirit of the Lord Is - Hillsong Worship] - [Graves into Gardens - Elevation Worship] - [Made a Way - Travis Greene] - [Goodness of God - Bethel Music]**