

**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org  
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# St Francis



September 5, 2018

**Transformed**

*For in you, O Lord, have I fixed my hope . . .  
Psalm 38:15*

### ***The Practice of Hope***

Usually, when I think of living a Christian life I think of what I am supposed to do. Then, because I have thought about it for some years, even taught it, I remember that living a Christian life is more about who I am than what I do. As true as that is the whole idea of being instead of doing can become very slippery and confusing. Yet, the verse cited above from the Psalms this morning points to a way that is clearer. When I fix my hope on Jesus instead of on my ability to follow Jesus I am on my way to being transformed. It does bring up another question, though. How do I fix my hope on Jesus? How can I make that my practice?

### ***Fixing Hope***

I think there is a way to fix my hope on Jesus so that I am living a Christian life. The main approach is this: It is more important to spend time on Jesus transforming our character than it is for Jesus to teach us what to do. When I think that God has prompted me to do something, or I am thinking I have finally figured out what to do about something I can very easily want to accomplish all of that on my own power. That may increase my skill somewhat, but it will not develop my character. A better step is to receive what God is giving me, return it to God so that it can be transformed in his presence, and then received back into my own life. The practice of giving it up before trying to accomplish it will do more to develop my character to be like the character of Jesus than anything else.

### ***From This Point On***

What has God given you to do? Do you have an answer to a problem you have been experiencing? Do you sense that God is prompting you to do something new? What ever it may be would you give it up to God first before you do anything? Will you let God further transform your character in waiting? The challenge is this: Do we want to do something for Jesus or become like Jesus?

## **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, September 9, 2018*** Worship at 10:00am with Bishop Goff followed by pot luck.

### ***Wednesday September 12, 2018***

Theology on Tap at Keegans at 6:30pm. Contact Richard at

richardandnedy@yahoo.com

Caregivers' Support Group at 7:00pm at Walkers'. Contact Susan at  
n1placesusan@gmail.com

**Sunday, September 16, 2018** Worship at 10:00am

**The first Sunday of each month**, after church, Karen & Chris Webber will be collecting donated food from the Food Lion in Centerville and taking it to the food pantry. This would be an ideal time for anyone in the church to bring in their own donations!! The food pantry is in dire need of cereal, canned soups, and canned vegetables (not generally things donated by grocery stores).

If this is something you would like to contribute to, just bring it to church and we would make sure it was delivered to the food pantry.

**Please help us in the fun** sharing our favorite recipes, in the form of a St. Francis cookbook. Please bring your recipes to the pot luck each month, and give to Libby or Karen. You can also email to [lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com](mailto:lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com).

### **Centerville Circle of Prayer**

For My Taekwando that business would increase

### **The Diocese of Virginia**

For the people of Leeds, Markham; St. Andrew's, Ada; St. Paul's on-the-hill, Winchester; Abingdon, Whitemarsh; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; AllSouls, Atlee that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **The Anglican Communion**

For the people of The Diocese of Gusau - (Kaduna, Nigeria) [The Rt Revd John Garba](#) that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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