

## RHYTHM OF LIFE

# "God is Everything in Everything"

Pastor Rick Shelton

Sunday, November 8, 2009

- Everything is about my personal health and well-being in relationship with God
- I am here to help you find God, know God better, and find out what He wants.
- There is a problem today where Christians who have a crisis/hard-time, and get mad at God . . . freak out, go into a depression, and may even leave the church and God!
- There is a difference between real grieving, and breaking our relationship with God over our hard times. Don't give up on God! In hard times is when we need Him the most!
- There will be a lot of things in life we just don't understand. But, that's just life!
- We don't know everything about anything!
- We are going to have so many "aha!" moments when we get to heaven! We will then 'see' and understand it all!
- In the meantime, we must trust God! We live in a broken world and can't understand everything.
- If we don't have the 'God-factor' right (central and supreme), then forget about getting our lives, job and finances, etc., right!
- Pastor Rick was saved as a child of 11 years old. He grew up in church, and is now 55 years old . . . and can say, "Walking with the Lord just gets sweeter as the days go by."
- One day, Pastor wrote on Facebook a question: *What if you lost everything and everyone dear to you? Would life still be beautiful? Would God still be good? If not, WHY?* Here are some of the responses he received:
- **P. S.** - I experienced just that 6 years and 2 months ago, lost my best friend, lover, husband, pastor, father of my children, felt I had really lost everything . . . after all stuff doesn't ever matter. Yes, life is still beautiful and God is still good! Things were dark for a season, but the "Son" is always shining. There is life after death, and divorce. I am a testament that God is all that really matters.
- **B. B.** - Been there. Done that. Now I can say that no other challenge that life throws my way can possibly equal the hell my family went through when we watched as they unplugged my 29 day old niece from life support. Did it challenge our faith? Absolutely! It took me a long painful journey to come back to my faith. I won't pretend to understand why things happened the way that they did. But I do know that now I am stronger for it and can relate in a whole different way to folks I otherwise wouldn't have been able to. Whatever happens, God is still the Master Planner, and who am I to question my Creator?
- **T. G.** - Yeah...did that...life was not good and God was gone...for a long time...but every day gets better...it's so easy to say what you think you would do...totally another to actually walk through the valley personally...no one knows. Emotions are your worst enemy; it just takes awhile to figure that out and get out from under them...you can learn so much in that place, lessons that cannot be experienced otherwise...in the end...God IS FAITHFUL!!
- **K. C.** - I lost everything and everyone dear to me because of my own actions. I hated my life; I felt like God could not possibly love me in the shape my life was in. It took me being held at gunpoint for four hours to realize I screwed up in the biggest way possible. I turned my back on my family and on God. It took years to earn their trust back and a long time for me to realize that God had forgiven me of what I did; it was up to me to forgive myself. It is still a battle everyday. But I thank God that with help I turned my life around and I now have a wonderful relationship with Him and a beautiful daughter that I was told I could never have. God is the answer to every question I have.
- **M. H.** - I know that God would still be Lord, but life would not be beautiful if I lost my kids and grandkids. That would take me out, and I know without His help I would not want to live. I have gone thru some horrible things in

life but none of that would compare to losing all of my dear ones - not just a husband, niece, you still have family left. If my house burned, I would be hurt because of pictures and gifts that can't be replaced, but with insurance you build again. But to lose ALL my loved ones like Job, I would like to say that, but, I know I don't know.... I know that God is my healer and my Helper and time heals all wounds, and the only thing that would make it bearable is to know that I would see them again in heaven.

- J. B. - I pretty much have . . . and, Yes . . . God is still GOOD!!! He is beyond GOOD! He is over-the-top GOOD!
- G. D. - When my husband left me in '88, I thought of Job...how he lost EVERYTHING in a day, but he fell down and worshipped. I asked God to work that in me so that my first reaction in such a time would be to worship and praise Him!! Jesus said don't be deceived: LIFE is more than the abundance of THINGS we possess. When we have Him, He is truly MORE THAN ENOUGH. That is why some of the "poor" people on earth are really RICH in FAITH...because they have Him in a very real, LIFE sustaining way!!!
- E. P. - Well, the most obvious answer (to your question) is going to be that God is good all the time. But, the reality is this; we are not always going to FEEL that way because we are human and, therefore, fallible in every way. Where God does not fail, we most certainly do. That being said, if I lost everything dear to me God would definitely still be good but my bigger question is , would I still KNOW/BELIEVE/TRUST IN/CONFESS that He is good? Keeping in mind that I am flawed, I pray that if this were to ever happen to me, I would continue to believe and confess that He is good with my mouth and in my actions – consistently.
- T. M. - I would be devastated and be reading the book of Job.
- C. P. - When you lose something VERY near and dear, you have to trust that there is a reason! I may not understand, but God is ALWAYS good...
- T. S. - God has always been faithful... I would hope in the darkest of times I'd find my faithfulness to push through, and tie a knot in my faith rope to hang on. I might have negative thinking for a few days, but God always seems to whisper in some manor or through someone a message that reminds me of his faithfulness, if I trust him even when it looks impossible or nothing is changing. I remember a song we used to sing in church, and I sing it when things go crazy. When you have a set-back, don't take a step-back, get ready for a come-back!
- D-C. B. - Honestly? If when you say everything you also mean everyone then this is how I think I would react. I would probably react with sinful nature because that is who we are as a result of the fall. I would also probably get really ticked off at God and continuously ask WHY? One thing that I am sure of is that losing it all wouldn't cause me to lose my Faith or trust in the Lord, but I may need to realize my faith all over again. At some point and hopefully not too long after, I would realize my faith again and remember to lean not on my own understanding and trust in God. I would hope that the Word would keep me on that straight path to righteousness.
- There is a brutal honesty in saying, "I would be ticked off at God . . . but I may need to realize my faith all over again."
- First, forget those platitudes.
- I would rather have an honest heart.
- Job ended up saying, "I have said things I didn't understand . . . things too wonderful for me to understand about God. God forgive me."
- Look at those of you that are here today; some are like Vicky (McMullen), others have lost their jobs . . .
- Be brutally honest with God, but tie a knot in your faith rope and hang on!
- When you are going through a tough time, that is when the devil will try to cause you to give up your faith, and question everything you trust and believe. Your emotions can rage, and be out of control, and your mind is negative, and you cry, etc. . . . but don't give up on God! God hasn't forsaken you! He is always with you!
- Psalm 23 (NKJV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint

my head with oil; My cup runs over. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

- Some of you need to release the pain inside NOW!
- God didn't promise a life without pain, but He did promise never to leave us or forsake us! He will be with us in the storm, in the mid-night hour! He'll be our Rock in a shaky world, when all is falling apart!
- Sing and believe this song: My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand!
- The last entry in response to my message on Facebook was Annette Vrabel, from our church. I saved it until last. Here it is.
- **Annette Vrabel** - My oldest daughter (14) was snatched from me in an unimaginable way, both for her and me!! Life as I knew it was shattered!! I trusted Jesus with my children, and it didn't look like He came through. ALL I had learned about Jesus was good ...but... now had to be applied in a really BIG way. The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak, what I could not do for myself, my Heavenly Father did for me!! It began with forgiveness...forgive my trespasses as I forgive those who trespass against me. The healing process had begun, it wasn't easy or fun most of the time. That was in 1987 and I will still tell you that no weapon formed against me will prosper...I will sing, dance, shout and declare my God is an awesome God!!!
- In 1987, I got a call while attending a Cardinals' baseball game to come to the funeral home. Annette's daughter had been brutally murdered. Annette wanted me to pray for her daughter, hoping God would raise her from the dead. Donna and I have watched Annette go through 22 years, stay faithful and trust God, having a testimony of victory, serving others at LCC.
- If I would put a 'picture' of someone who has made it through the tough times, not giving up on God, it would be Annette. I honor Annette. She has walked through it and stayed strong!
- We have come here today to have God undergird us (even though our life may still be shattered), and put back the broken pieces of our faith . . . where our faith can be put back intact . . . where we can trust God again!