



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

51 North Franklin Road • Indianapolis, IN 46219 • 317.897.1298

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 27, 2021

ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO I WAS RUNNING IN THE PANCREATIC 5K DOWNTOWN IN HONOR OF MY GRANDPA. IT IS USUALLY IN JUNE AND AROUND 8AM. THIS PARTICULAR RACE DAY, THOUGH, THEY HAD ANOTHER RACE AT 8AM AND BUMPED OUR RACE TO 9:30AM AND IT HAPPENED TO BE HOT AND HUMID (NOT MY FAVORITE CONDITIONS TO RUN IN). I USUALLY TRY TO RUN AS HARD AS I CAN FOR THIS RACE BECAUSE THAT IS HOW MY GRANDPA WOULD HAVE RUN – SO I DID.

THIS WAS THE WORST RACE I HAD EVER RUN. I WAS ABOUT 5 MINUTES SLOWER THAN USUAL AND I HAD TO STOP FOR WATER HALF-WAY THROUGH IT. WHEN I CROSSED THE FINISH LINE, I WALKED STRAIGHT TO THE WATER TABLE AND THEN TO A GROVE OF TREES TO SIT UNDER. I DID NOT STOP DRIPPING SWEAT FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES. SOMEONE TOLD ME I HAD HEAT-EXHAUSTION.

SINCE THEN (2+ YEARS) I HAVE YET TO RUN THE WAY I DID BEFORE THAT RACE. I WAS AFRAID IT WOULD HAPPEN AGAIN TO EASILY. I HAVE NOT BEEN THE SAME, BUT THIS PAST MONTH I HAVE DETERMINED TO “KICK IT IN” AND RUN HARDER AND GET BACK TO MY TIMES I WAS ACCUSTOMED TO. I HAVE BEEN EATING DIFFERENTLY, DRINKING ONLY WATER (INSTEAD OF MY PREFERRED DRINKS: COKE, CHERRY COKE, AND SWEET TEA), AND LOSING WEIGHT. I HAVE FELT PRETTY GOOD. .FOR THE MOST PART.

THE PAST WEEK I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY TIRED – GROGGY AND SLUGGISH. WHEN YOU HAVE NOT WORKED HARD FOR A WHILE YOU NEED TO BUILD BACK UP YOUR CONDITIONING AND MENTAL FORTITUDE. THE GRIND IS TIRESOME AND DAUNTING AT TIMES, BUT WHEN YOU START SEEING IMPROVEMENT IT DRIVES YOU A BIT FURTHER.

THIS HAS MADE ME THINK ABOUT OTHER AREAS THAT MAY HAVE BECOME LAZY FOR ALL OF US OVER THIS PAST YEAR. THE ONE AREA THAT COULD DO THE MOST DAMAGE IS THE WAY WE ARE INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE; PRIMARILY WITH LOVE. WE ARE LIVING IN A FRACTURED SOCIETY THAT IS SCARED, ANGRY, AND HAVE DUG IN TO PROTECT ANYTHING THAT THEY HAVE LEFT.

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7 SAYS, “4 LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, IT IS NOT JEALOUS; LOVE DOES NOT BRAG, IT IS NOT ARROGANT. 5 IT DOES NOT ACT DISGRACEFULLY, IT DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN BENEFIT; IT IS NOT PROVOKED, DOES NOT KEEP AN ACCOUNT OF A WRONG SUFFERED, 6 IT DOES NOT REJOICE IN UN-RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH; 7 IT KEEPS EVERY CONFIDENCE, IT BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL THINGS.**

WE HAVE ALL READ THIS PASSAGE AND PROBABLY CAN RECITE MOST OF IT BY HEART, BUT SADLY, MOST AMERICANS SEE THIS PASSAGE AS A LIST OF NOUNS (WHAT LOVE IS) INSTEAD OF WHAT THEY ARE ORIGINAL- LY WRITTEN AS, VERBS (WHAT LOVE DOES). THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING KINDNESS, PATIENCE, HOPE, ENDURANCE, ETC. .AND PRACTICING KINDNESS, PATIENCE, HOPE, ENDURANCE, ETC.

**1 JOHN 3:18 SAYS, “LITTLE CHILDREN, LET’S NOT LOVE WITH WORD OR WITH TONGUE, BUT IN DEED AND TRUTH.”**

MANY PEOPLE KNOW THE DEFINITIONS AND KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT FEW PRACTICE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO WIN AS MANY AS POSSIBLE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD. IT COULD BE EXHAUSTING GIVING SO MUCH OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS, BUT GOD PROMISES IT WILL BE REWARDING. LET US PUSH THROUGH THE PAIN AND TURMOIL AND LOVE IN THE MANNER THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US – WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

**PASTOR ANDY**