



# NORTH FLORIDA TRES DIAS

JANUARY 2014

ENCOURAGE...

LOVE...

HOPE...

FAITH...

DECEMBER 2013

## UPCOMING WEEKENDS

Men's #50  
March 20-23, 2014  
Ben Wilds • Rector

Women's #50  
April 3-6, 2014  
Jo Arrington • Rector

Men's #51  
October 2-5, 2014  
Jim Arrington • Rector

Women's #51  
October 16-19, 2014  
Lillian Arrington • Rector

### ONE THING

Have you made a New Year's resolution? Or maybe you've given up on doing that! Perhaps in past years you've been through the cycle of optimism, trying hard, faltering, getting discouraged, and giving up.

Most people who make a New Year's Resolution have given up on their project by mid February. Many people discard the whole idea and say, "I don't make New Year's Resolutions!"

But there is another way to approach the start of a New Year: Pray for God to lead you in a "**New Year's Renewal**."

Use the clean slate and fresh start of a New Year to make a New Year's Renewal. Pray about what the Lord wants to do in your life and how you can work with him to grow in that area.

My New Year's Renewals always boils down to one thing: More than anything I want to be the kind of person who lives for the one thing of being devoted to Christ with all my heart. Each year God shows me a problem I need to overcome or something about how I live my daily life that needs to change so that I can get more centered on Christ as my **One Thing**.

In Howard Baker's book, The One Thing, he shows that three of our Bible heroes inspire us to live with singular Devotion to the Lord:

David: In the midst of his painful and frightening desert trials over about ten years in which he was horribly mistreated and nearly killed he prayed, "*One thing I ask, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life... My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!'*" (Psalm 27:4, 8).

Mary: She set aside her kitchen work to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him and she received his affirmation: "*There are many things that can be worried about, but only one thing is needed - it is the best thing - and Mary has chosen it!*" (Luke 10:41-42).

Paul: He counted his many accomplishments and blessings as dung compared to the "*surpassing greatness of knowing Christ*" (Philippians 3:8). He expressed his life ambition, "*One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 3:13-14).

This year, more than ever, I want to seek the One Thing that is the best thing, to be more devoted to Christ. The way to make a real character change - to learn, grow, or heal in any area - is by training. Look to Jesus as your Coach and "work out" with him. "*Train yourself to be godly*" Paul advises us (1 Timothy 4:7).

An important part of any spiritual training program is meditating on Scripture. To meditate on Scripture is more than reading it. And it's different than studying it. When you meditate on Scripture you pray through God's Word by applying it to the struggles and opportunities of your life. You become as a bee that stops on a flower and lingers, staying on the flower to suck out the nectar and using it to make sweet honey.

"*Your word, O Lord, is sweeter than honey!*" exclaims the Psalmist (Psalm 119:103).

May we, day-by-day, discover more sweetness in Scripture and use it to live for the One Thing of loving God and loving others as he loves us.

Bill Gaultiere



THE FULLNESS  
OF JOY IS TO  
BEHOLD GOD  
IN EVERYTHING.

WRITE IT ON  
YOUR HEART  
THAT EVERY DAY  
IS THE BEST DAY  
IN THE YEAR.  
RALPH WALDO EMERSON



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LOVE...

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FAITH...

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### **A DIFFERENT WAY OF SEEING**

*"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7*

Hiking in the deep wilderness can be foreboding. In the morning you may find yourself in a deep ravine between the sides of two mountains, barely able to glimpse the sky above. In the afternoon you may be in a rugged, old-growth forest, completely surrounded by trees with no view of the horizon. In either case, you are headed toward a destination you cannot see. Aided by a map and compass (and now GPS), you trudge on with certain expectation of your direction.

That is what the Christian life can be like at times—walking toward a destination we cannot see, but one which we have every confidence of finding. The destination may be in this life—a decision about vocation or our children—or it may be eternal (Hebrews 11:8-16). Either way, we have a map (Psalm 119:105) and a heavenly Companion (Hebrews 13:5) upon which we depend. We don't know specifically what next week, or eternity, will look like. We are moving toward destinations we cannot see. But that is not a problem since we walk by faith, not by sight.

Walking by faith means seeing life differently: trusting the God we cannot see (1 Peter 1:7-8) for that which He has yet to reveal.

Walking by faith means being prepared to trust where we are not permitted to see.

*John Blanchard*