

INTRO

- As we move into Spring and warmer weather, what are some things you look forward to doing?

This past Sunday at our popup service and as part of our *Moving Forward* series, we heard from various leaders in our church a testimony of the personal struggle these past 2years, but also how God sustained them and gave them the strength from God's word to move ahead. These are some of the scriptures they shared that sustained them:

READ

- 1 Chronicles 16: 8-11; Prov 3:5-6; Rom 12:12

REFLECT & RESPOND

As we emerge as a church community from a prolonged season of disconnection, we are focusing on what it means to Move Forward as we regather and relaunch, and specifically, the strength we will need for that.

Qu: As you reflect on these past 2yrs, how has God sustained you?

Read 2 Cor 12:9-10

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

When we go through times of hardship, difficulties, and feel particularly weak, it is natural for us to want to escape those times. Yet Jesus tells Paul that it is in those times that His grace is sufficient for us and when we are weak, we are strong if we come to depend upon Jesus and his grace for that season.

Qu: what causes Paul to reframe his weakness and difficulty as something he boasts in? How can this apply to us in our hardships?

As we consider the road and season ahead, we are confident that God is able to sustain us. To be sustained means to be strengthened and supported. There are many ways God does this for us, but minimally, there are 3 critical sources of sustenance and grace we must tap into.

1. God's PRESENCE

This seems the obvious place to start and it rightfully must be our top priority—cultivating our own life-giving relationship with God through regular and intentional times set aside to pray, worship, and meditate on scripture.

2. God's PEOPLE

As much as we need our own relationship with The Lord to sustain us, it won't be enough unless we build deeper connection and relationships with one another in community. There's a measure of God's grace for you that will only come through others.

3. God's PURPOSES

This might sound counter-intuitive, but it is as we get on with the work of ministry—making disciples, advancing the kingdom—that we find another source of grace to sustain us.

Qu: In the season ahead, what does each of these 3 areas look like for you? Where do you need to be more intentional?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Give thanks for the way God has sustained us personally and as a church
- Pray the season ahead would be one marked by and increase in presence, people, and purpose
- Pray for one another to practice a life of up-in-out in the week ahead.