

# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



## Weekly Sermon Series

### **Taking Root: Deep Breathing ...Doxology John 14:4-14; Hebrews 4:14-16**

I remember years ago when I was growing up that the Doxology sung on Sundays was always "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost." Alas, it's been a long time since I have heard it sung in church but I still remember the words. Praising God from whom all blessings flow is a prayer we should be singing since we first began to walk with Christ to our last breath of life. We know Christ has prepared a place for us so we need to listen to the guidance he is giving us in order that we, too, may arrive at that heavenly place.

Given a GPS system and instructions on how to use it, some people still become hopelessly lost. They have punched in the wrong information, perhaps missed a turn, or were not paying attention to the voice from the sky telling them where they should be going. Some people read their Bible the same way. They read a few brief verses, put it down and form some sort of an opinion, but don't really pay attention to what it said or how it relates to them personally or even to the overall message intended. Before long they are overwhelmed and simply set the good book aside or search for a couple of verses when the need arises.

In John 14, verse 6, we read, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." That statement is a direction to God in the simplest of terms. If you feel that a lifetime of good works is going to get you there, you will need to remap your pathway. Faith and good works go hand in hand. Check out verse 22 in James 1, where we read, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." In chapter 2, verse 17; it states "...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." Prayer is a form of work and is used by countless individuals who in the daily tasks of life are physically unable to help another individual. The point is, if we claim to follow in Christ's footprints we shouldn't be full of excuses when a call for help arises or a need is seen. Instead, we should be able to find it in our heart to step out and do what needs to be done and be thankful that we can be of service.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow as you continue in your journey of faith. And remember, too, that an encouraging word, a strong arm, and a willing desire to help will go a long way in strengthening someone else's walk. John 14:12a says, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing." A great GPS for a daily journey to be sure.

-- Week of August 30, 2009