



WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

Devotional #1 – By Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

2015 has passed and 2016 has arrived. It's hard to believe. Not only has 2015 passed but so have 50 years of my life. The beginning of a new year is always a contemplative time. Today is the second day of our 21-day fast. It is my prayer that we will take this time to think about what God wants to do in our lives, in our homes, and in our church! Our theme this year is Sharpening Our Vision in 2016. I believe that God gave me this theme for this year this past summer. Back in August I lost my brother and as I was driving home from the Celebration of Life service I asked Mandy, "What will change as a result of my brother's death?" This one question began challenging me: **"Am I being who God wants me to be? Am I allowing Him to use me? Am I walking in full dependence upon Him, or myself?"** Challenging questions, aren't they? With this New Year I'm asking you the same questions that I asked myself.

Yesterday we began a new series at church, **"Home Run Life"**. This series is dealing with how we can truly live a successful life. The entire premise is based on a baseball diamond. Home plate is where it all begins. As we looked at the baseball diamond, we also looked at the Life of Joseph in Genesis 37-50. When you look at Joseph's life, he was a success. He had overcome obstacles. He had risen in power, won favor with people, won battles within himself, and most importantly, he learned to depend on God in spite of the circumstances. This is home plate. It's where it all begins. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must learn to depend first and foremost on God--not on ourselves, not on other people, not on prosperity, not on popularity, but on God and Him alone. Apart from Him we can do nothing. If we don't depend on God in all things first and foremost, we end up striking out. **John 15:5 (NLT)** says, **"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."** Think about these words "apart from me you can do nothing?" Let me type that one more time "apart from me you can do nothing."

Let's change the wording and read it one more time **"Apart from God I can do nothing!"** Wow!

Question for today: What/whom are you trusting in today? Is it yourself? Other people? Prosperity (checkbook, 401K, etc)? Popularity (do you care more about what other people think than God?)? Or are you fully trusting in God?

Prayer for this week: *Dear Jesus, I ask that you will help me to fully depend on you in ALL things! Help me during this 21-day fast to learn to live a Home Run life! I pray not only for myself but for my church, the staff, the elders, and all the attendees that we will sharpen our vision in 2016 to know Your desires, Your heart, and Your will. Help PFWC to depend on you in ALL things. Change my heart, change my home, change my church and let it begin with me!*