Pastor's Weekly Devotional- July 7, 2016

"Pursuing Your Goals"

During this season, the trials for the Olympics in Rio is on. Looking at the swimming trials, the two top athletes from each divisional trial "made it." Unfortunately, in one heat, the third place winner lost by 15/100 (fifteen hundredth) of <u>a</u> second. Unbelievable. It is mind boggling.

To pursue our dreams, our faith has to go through three stages. It has to move from the Intellectual Stage to the Emotional Stage and then to the Volitional Stage. While the first two stages are quite obvious, the third stage (volitional) is where faith is applied to daily life. In fact, the root word for "volitional" has the idea of "expressing tremendous internalized energy" which results in externalized energy when released in the pursuit of one's goals.

All athletes believe they could win. As a result, they release and explode their beliefs through their faith driven by an inner volition.

Have you discovered this capacity in yourself? It's there!! If you haven't, you have to believe that there is a lot more within you than you can imagine. It begins by putting your faith into action; by translating your belief into a dynamic willpower.

So begin to do this by practicing this daily:

- <u>Deflect</u> the poisonous darts of negative thoughts with holy stubbornness.
- <u>Believe</u> that because you have put your trust in God, negativity, pessimism, unbelief like invading germs will drop dead before they affect you.

And here is a wonderful promise from God's Word as you pursue your goals..."Be Strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." (Ephesians 6:10)

Have a blessed week! Pastor Sewdin