

*Sunday, March 1, 2009*

**Discovering**



**FAITHFULNESS**



## **Discovering Faithfulness**

*Beginning a 5-Part Sermon Series, March 1-29, 2009*

### **Part 1: Forming Godly Habits**

*Pastor Phil Weaver*



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**[www.rollinghillsbaptist.net](http://www.rollinghillsbaptist.net)**

# Discovering Faithfulness

***A 5-Part Sermon Series, March 1-29, 2009***

As we continue in this “Year of Discipleship” at RHBC, how can we grow in our faithfulness to the Lord? We need to engage consistently in several basic habits that will help us stay on track in our walk with Christ. This sermon series will cover four foundational disciplines that all believers should practice: reading God’s word, praying, giving, and fellowshiping with other believers. The series will end with a communion service on March 29.

**March 1: *Discovering Faithfulness Part 1: Forming Godly Habits***  
*(Colossians 3:9-10; Ephesians 4:14-15; 1 Timothy 4:7)*

**March 8: *Discovering Faithfulness Part 2: Reading God’s Word***  
*(2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 8:31-32)*

**March 15: *Discovering Faithfulness Part 3: Connecting God’s People***  
*(Hebrews 10:25; John 13:34-35)*

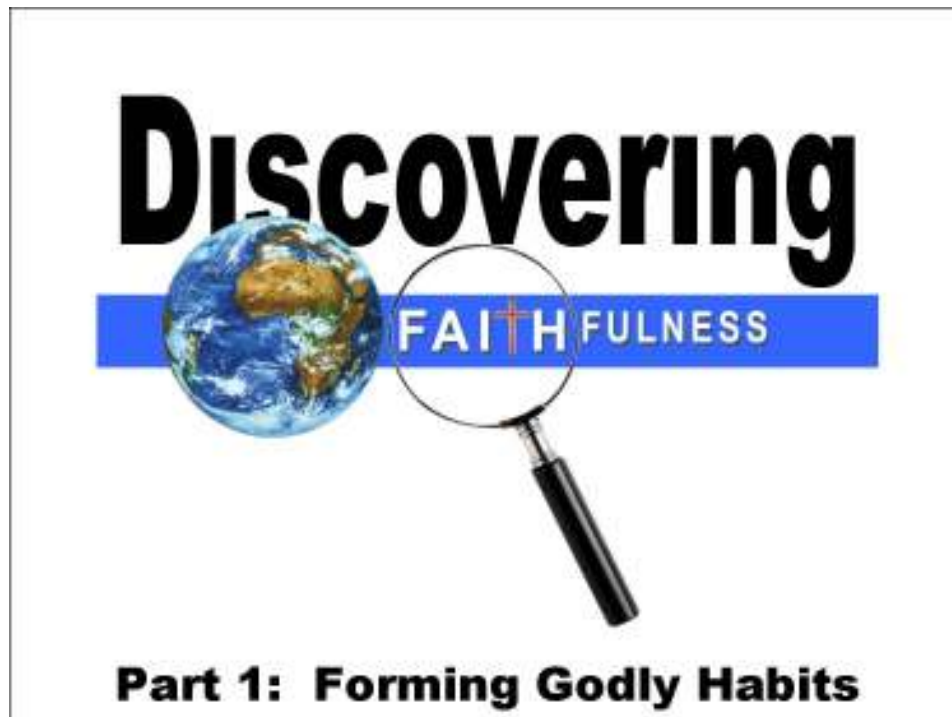
**March 22: *Discovering Faithfulness Part 4: Approaching God’s Throne***  
*(John 15:7-8; 1 John 5:14-15)*

**March 29: *Discovering Faithfulness Part 5: Supporting God’s Kingdom***  
*(1 Corinthians 16:2; Malachi 3:10; Proverbs 3:9-10; Lord’s Supper)*

If you happen to miss a Sunday in March, be sure to request a CD of the message for that week by marking the slip in the worship guide/bulletin and placing it in the offering plate when you return.

A listening guide/booklet will be available every Sunday to serve as your “outline” for each of the 5 messages in the “**Discovering Faithfulness @ Rolling Hills**” series.

*Sunday, March 1, 2009*



# **Discovering Faithfulness**

## **Part 1: Forming Godly Habits**

This month, we're going to take a closer look at what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. We're going to look at four basic habits that EVERY Christian should develop. I want to help equip you with the skills you need to begin these habits and explain the tools you need to continue in them. So, as we spend time together in God's word over the course of these five Sundays, hopefully you will enter into a time of discovering or re-discovering some ways to grow in your relationship with Christ. It's my heart's desire that you will draw closer to the Savior, as we continue on our journey through this "Year of Discipleship" here at Rolling Hills!

*Pastor Phil*

**Discover** = To notice or learn, especially by making an **EFFORT**; get to know or become aware of.

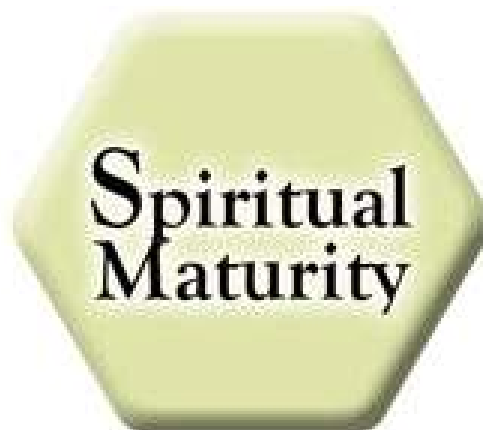
discover



**Faithfulness** = Firm adherence and **DEVOTION** to a person, cause, or idea; consistency with **TRUTH** or actuality.

## **WHAT IS "SPIRITUAL MATURITY"?**

*"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13)*



## Spiritual Maturity is BEING LIKE CHRIST.

*“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8:29)*

CHRIST LIKE

### **3 FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

#### **1. It is not AUTOMATIC.**

*“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.” (Hebrews 5:12-13)*

#### **2. It is a PROCESS.**

*“You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.” (Proverbs 8:5)*



*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)*

### 3. It takes DISCIPLINE.

*“Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.” (1 Timothy 4:7)*

*“Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.” (1 Timothy 4:7b, J. B. Phillips)*

*“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” (1 Timothy 4:7b, NASB)*



## **UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP**

**A) Mature believers are called DISCIPLES.**

**B) I can't be a disciple without being DISCIPLINED.**

**C) The more disciplined I become, the more God can USE me.**

**D) The mark of a disciple is CROSS-BEARING.**

*Jesus: “Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27)*

**E) How often am I to do this? DAILY.**

*Jesus: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)*

**F) What is involved in "cross-bearing"? WHATEVER it takes to give Christ first place in my life!**

# HOW CAN I BECOME A DISCIPLE?

By developing DISCIPLE HABITS.

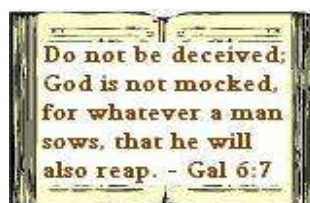
*“And stop lying to each other. You have given up your old way of life with its habits. Each of you is now a new person. You are becoming more and more like your Creator, and you will understand him better.” (Colossians 3:9-10, CEV)*

*“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” (Colossians 3:9-10)*



A **habit** is “a continual, often unconscious inclination to do a certain activity, acquired through frequent repetition” (*Webster’s Dictionary*). It is “a customary practice” or “an established disposition of character.”

***“Sow a thought, reap an act.  
Sow an act, reap a habit.  
Sow a habit, reap a character,  
Sow a character, reap a destiny.”***



# FOUR HABITS OF A DISCIPLE

## 1. Reading God's WORD

*“Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” (John 8:31-32)*



## 2. Connecting God's PEOPLE

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)*

## 3. Approaching God's THRONE

*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:7-8)*



## 4. Supporting God's KINGDOM

*“In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:33)*



*“Also set aside ten percent of your wine and olive oil, and the first-born of every cow, sheep, and goat. Take these to the place where the LORD chooses to be worshiped ... This will teach you to always respect the LORD your God.” (Deuteronomy 14:23, CEV)*

### **DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE #1**

***I will COMMIT to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity.***

*“In the past you voluntarily gave your bodies to the service of vice and ... the purposes of evil. So now give yourselves to the service of righteousness - for the purpose of becoming truly good.” (Romans 6:19, J. B. Phillips)*

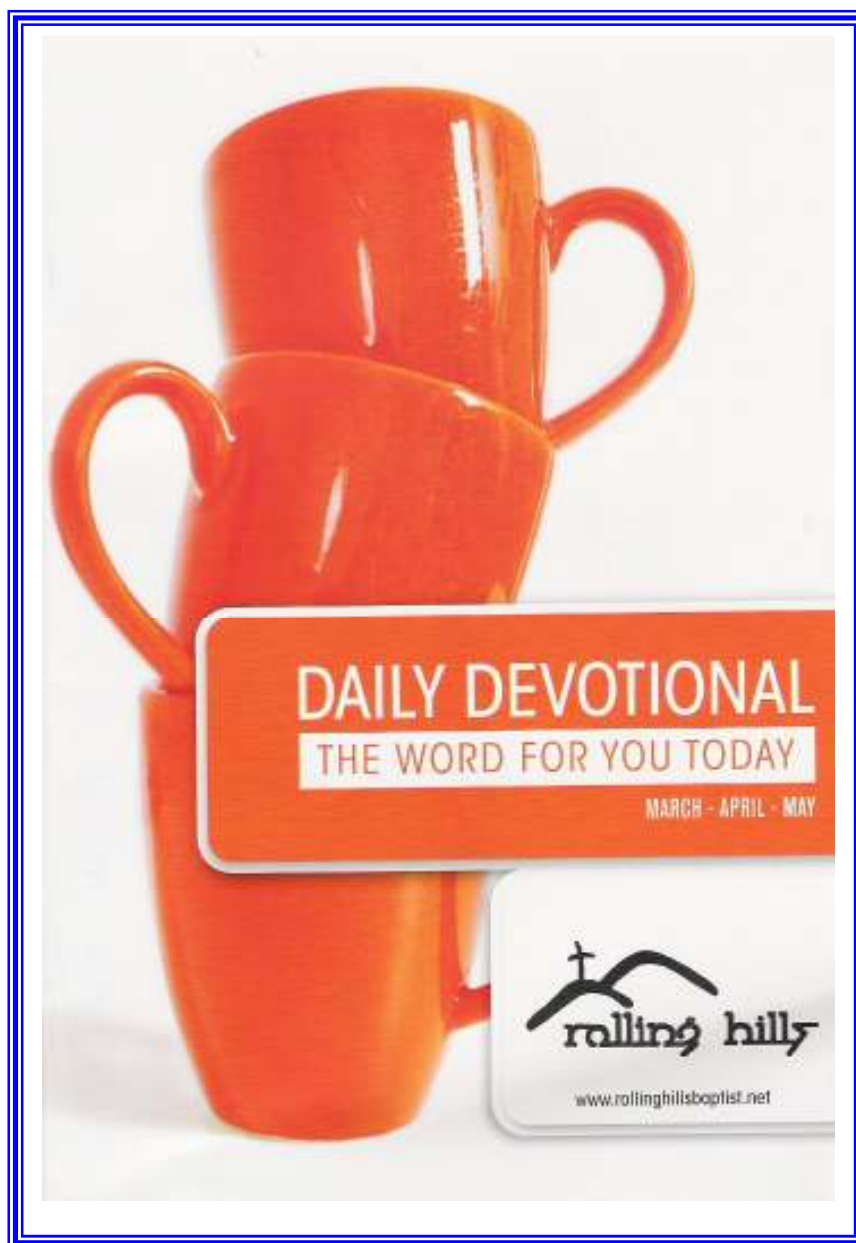
*“I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.” (Romans 6:19)*

***“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” (Ephesians 4:14-15)***

***“Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality.” ~ Abraham Lincoln***

## *For Further Consideration This Week:*

To help you get started on your journey of “**Discovering Faithfulness,**” I’m providing you with a 3-month devotional booklet entitled “The Word for You Today.” It is my prayer that we will join together in making the commitment (or re-commitment) to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity – starting TODAY! Be sure to get your copy of the devotional booklet, and please take some copies to give to your friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers. Tell them about the **discovery** you’re on this month, and invite them to join you!



# *Coming Next Week*

*Sunday, March 8, 2009*



**Part 2: Reading God's Word**

**Discovering Faithfulness**  
**Part 2: Reading God's Word**

**Pastor Phil's March Sermon Series:**

# Discovering



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**March 29: Supporting God's Kingdom**  
*( Lord's Supper Service )*