

For 20 years I worked as a Medical Technologist, working in a medical laboratory  
As a profession, it calls for efficiency and multi-tasking—neither of which I do well  
One Sunday afternoon I was on call and came in to do several STAT lab tests—all long tests  
At one point I realized I had several things to do next and had no clue what to do  
I started spinning and was overwhelmed

The same thing often happens with life—we become overwhelmed with everything we're to do  
Partly it is just our busy lives, but partly it is the pressure to perform and do more, get ahead  
Our work ethic that says we must work way more than 40 hours per week, even 60 or 80  
The attitude that we must work harder, work smarter, etc.

No wonder this spills over into the life of the church and our spiritual lives  
Where there is a compulsion to do bigger and better  
It is easy to shift into programs and work to create something for everyone until we burn out

North Seattle Friends Church is an oasis from this kind of thinking  
We learned a long time ago that the compulsion to run programs and hold up the structure  
Only caused us all to be exhausted and tired—well on the road to burn out  
We are enough to do everything that God asks us to do—but not everything we think we must do  
Simplified our committee structures  
Emphasize calling and giftings over programs—willingness to support our callings  
I feel a calm in the midst of compulsion that flows all around us

Yet we look around and wonder if we really are enough—are we sustainable?  
Have we grown too small?  
Will we make it?  
Can we hold on long enough to get to a new building and location?  
Will it be any different when we get there?

As soon as I say that, I'm reminded of the song...

*He did not bring us out this far to take us back again,  
He brought us out to take us into the Promised Land*

Based on Deuteronomy 6:23 when they complained about the wilderness  
After leaving Egypt, they began to lose hope and feel stuck forever in the desert  
Hence the promise that God would give them the land promised to their ancestors

Yet some died in the wilderness and didn't make it—will we die too?

When I consider all the miracles that God has done in walking along side us for years  
How can I question that we are enough to go forward to what is next?

But not only that—just look at the Biblical story...

The Son of God born as a baby in a manger  
Jesus calls 12 disciples—not the movers and shakers of society, but the willing  
Twice he feeds the crowds with what they had—a small lunch of loaves and fish

A number of years ago, I hit bottom and took a week in the woods to spend time with God  
Read Romans and contemplated Abraham and Sarah waiting 25 years for Isaac to be born  
Rather than focus on the miracle, I sat with the waiting—what it felt like, what they were to do  
Realized that it wasn't theirs to do anything but be faithful

What are we to do?

Admit the truth

There is risk in the journey—there are no guarantees—we acknowledge that

Jesus, we do worry that we are enough

But we know that the answer is not in fretting or worry

The only thing we can do is fall back into your presence and hold on

Trust—put our trust in God

Be faithful to what we do know

Hold on to *the oasis* of God's presence in the midst of a world that does life another way

Continue to be mammon busters

Stay together

Invite others to join this wild ride

Stay connected to the Divine Presence and walk together day by day, step by step