

# city beautiful CHURCH

April 10, 2013



*"I quit!"* This has been a reoccurring thought in my life this past month. Thankfully, I haven't sent in my resignation or left the country to start a new life, but both of those ideas have certainly crossed my mind. Last night, it occurred to me how intense the battle is for my heart to stay engaged in the work God has called you and I to here in Orlando. I need your prayers. Badly.

Serving in a vocational ministry setting for 13 years now, I have had many hard seasons. Within one year in the church-planting arena, I feel like I've never faced more challenging realities. The depth of the struggle has amazed me. A friend wrote on FaceBook today saying, *"Nothing like a morning run on a battlefield to give perspective on life."* I'm not sure where he was running, but what a truth and needed encouragement for me today.

I've had the privilege of inviting some people to help me put together a summer series for our whole church community. We'll study the book of Ephesians in small groups and live out what we learn in our city together! I'm grateful for the way God has been leading in it. He reminded me this morning that these battles are not against flesh and blood--they aren't against the people in my life or the circumstances I face. He pointed me again to Ephesians 6 so I could remember how to stand in the midst of the hardships.

God is showing me through all of this how He wants to be my all in all. Always in process, I'm still learning the ways in which I place my hope and expectation on other things or in other people. These painful realizations are God's kindness to me. He wants me to know how ONLY He can satisfy me. He wants me to understand how DEEPLY He loves me. These

pain points direct me toward these truths.

I wish I could pull it together today to share a more encouraging story with you. Truth is: He is doing so much! I guess I thought perhaps the encouraging story is this one... He's continuing to shape me and mold me into His image. I have a feeling that the best fruit is yet to come as I walk in these hard places with Jesus and take people on that journey with me. I'm so grateful for you--I mean it when I say I could not be here without you. You help me to stay in it when I want to run away. Thank you for that.

Please pray that we all faithfully walk in step with the Spirit of God--I think the rest will come.

**musings  
in  
ministry**

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