## North Florida Tres Dias

## **UPCOMING WEEKENDS**

Men's #47 October 11 - 14, 2012 Duane Thurmond • Rector

Women's #47 October 25 - 28, 2012 Becky Goff • Rector

Men's #48 April 11 - 14, 2013 Robert Bass • Rector

Women's #48 April 25 - 28, 2013 Hazel Long • Rector

## ENDLESS PASSION · CONTINUAL DEVOTION

"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostle's teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

God is passionate toward us. He gave everything on the cross before we gave anything to Him, just because He loves us. Our goal as a Christian is to have the same passionate love for God that He has for us. When we do we will have energy and joy to do whatever God wants us to do without even noticing the sacrifices we make.

As Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him, even so, our burning love for Him will make any difficulty just one more chance to embrace the cross for His sake. (Hebrews 12:2)

Endless devotion is a great definition of being passionate. Endless means a 24/7 relationship instead of a religion that puts God in a box that you only bring out once or twice a week. When king Darius threw Daniel into the lion's den because of the deception of men who were jealous, he said to Daniel: "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you." (Daniel 6:16) When he came out the next day he called down into the den, "Daniel, servant of the living

God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Darius had his own religion but what struck him about Daniel's was that it was all the time. It was a relationship - a passionate relationship - not a religion. May we embrace the relationship God wants us in all the time and reject the temptation of putting God into a compartment we can control.

Devotion means passionate, singleness of heart. When we are devoted to something it is of the highest value to us and we will pay any price to protect it. God wants this fire for Him in our hearts. Passion.

The same four things that the apostles continually devoted themselves to and produced an atmosphere of being passionate, also apply to us.

The Word of God. Fellowship. The breaking of bread. Prayer.

Through these four disciplines God will ignite a fire and passion in us and grow it until our hearts are completely healed and completely His.





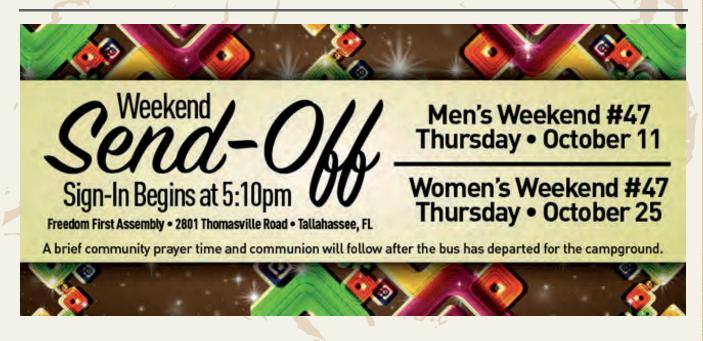
## CHALLENGE THE DARKNESS

Pastor Larry Perry • Freedom Church, Tallahassee, FL

Challenge the darkness! It is time for believers challenge the darkness. As the world suppresses the truth, challenge the darkness; as men deny God, challenge the darkness. As men follow the foolishness of their darkened hearts, challenge the darkness. As men display their claim to wisdom, foolishness in the sight of God, challenge the darkness. As men give themselves over to sinful desires, challenge the darkness. As men choose lies over the truth, challenge the darkness.

Challenge the darkness by loving the deceived. Challenge the darkness, weeping on your knees before God. People's souls and eternity are at stake. Challenge the darkness by speaking the truth in love. Challenge the darkness as your Savior did. In humility he wept over Jerusalem; in humility he died. In humility and love, He challenged the darkness!

This is a pastor's burden. I believe it is my Savior's call to the church: challenge the darkness. Mostly, we covet your prayers that God's will in our lives be fulfilled!



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