

## Stand Firm

On a beautiful day last fall, our church body enjoyed a beautiful day at the Leesylvania State Park where we enjoyed a great time of worship, a touching baptism, a good meal and an inspiring message by Pastor Gary. The scripture he spoke about was one that is familiar to many of us, Romans 12:1-2 which says,

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Pastor Gary reminded us that our true and proper worship of the Lord requires a sacrifice – one that is living, holy and pleasing to God. This is only possible when we give ourselves wholly and completely to the Lord – refusing to be “jello” Christians who mold to whatever and whoever they are with, but instead choosing to be renewed from the inside out. This renewal is only possible as we fill ourselves up with God’s Word and things that are pleasing to Him.

The people in the worship ministry of SouthPoint desire to offer God true and proper worship, as well as lead our body of believers into whole-hearted devotion to the Lord. Here, in their own words, is how some of our worship team members answered this question: “What does it mean to offer your life as an act of worship to the Lord?”

† To be in the Word daily, to be in continual prayer (talking to God) all the time, and to surrender my will to His – daily.

- † To lay my life down at His feet, and let Him live His life through me.
- † To have a heart that says, “Here am I, Lord, send me.”
- † To be involved with the body of believers, using the gifts that the Lord has given me and spending time with the Lord on an individual basis.
- † To show Him my thankfulness for all He has done for me and the desire to have others see Him in me and to have the same experience of Him.

It's time for us as believers to stand firm, refusing to mold to the world's standards of success, power and self-worth. Jello might make a pretty and tasty dessert, but molding ourselves into the shape of the world is not an attribute God desires in a life of worship, fully surrendered to Him. Be encouraged by Paul's words to the Corinthians and us, “But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (I Corinthians 15:57-58).