

A question I was asked a lot over the weekend was, “*So, how’s the unpacking going?*” Now, that’s a natural question to a natural event – Moving across the state meant we had to pack up our belongings into boxes and pack them on a truck to move to our new home here in Saratoga Springs. To answer the question, yes, we’re almost “*unpacked*” but there are still a lot of boxes pushed into corners of the house that need to be unpacked eventually and things put away.

Some people have told me how they moved 10, 20, 30 years ago and still had boxes that were yet unpacked! I’m thinking to myself, “*Wow! Wonder what’s inside the boxes?!*” Is it something that would bring a smile or frown to their face when they finally unpack that last box and realize what’s inside? Is it something of deep sentimental value that warms the heart, or something you really didn’t need anyway, so off it’ll go to the garbage heap?

Roland gave us a great challenge over the weekend about that fact that we are “*becoming*,” we’re not what we used to be and we’re not what we ought to be, we are becoming... As I sat and listened this weekend, my mind drifted to the boxes I have stacked neatly throughout my house yet to be opened; and between you and me, hopefully they’ll all be opened by the end of the month! But let’s forget about literal boxes a moment – What about the figurative boxes in our lives, our mind, our heart that have yet to be unpacked by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. You know, boxes filled with disappointments, disobedience, shame, regret, rebellion, heartache, etc.

See, these are items in our lives that day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year keep us from “*becoming*” what God truly intends us to become. So, that got me thinking over the weekend of the words of the writer of Hebrews, “*...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*” (Hebrews 12:1)

How about you? Do you have some boxes in your life that need to be unpacked so you can be all that God has intended you to be? God wants you to live in the knowledge and power of His Son; to be “*becoming*” and to “*overcome!*” Let’s give ourselves to that this year and rejoice in what Paul said is true of all Christ-followers...

*“Whenever, though, they turn to face God as Moses did, God removes the veil and there they are—face-to-face! They suddenly recognize that God is a living, personal presence, not a piece of chiseled stone. And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We're free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.”* (2 Corinthians 3:16-18, Msg.)

**Remember – Christ is ALL!**

*Pastor Mark*