

Wow! What a great weekend we had of worship and sharing in God's Word and hearing from an incredible family: Jay, Beth, Ben, Bekah, Abi and Noah Loecken. Folks, if you haven't caught the theme that God has been placing before us for weeks, months now you've been asleep or haven't been around. It's as plain as the nose of your face!

What is that theme? That God wants NLF to be church, a people of deep impact upon the community, neighborhoods and city we live in. That He has entrusted us with a task that only we can achieve – No one else can, or will do it. Has the sleeper awakened yet? If you've been around at all this Summer I certainly hope so – If not, let me just forewarn you that you'll be hearing a lot more on this topic, and as soon again as this weekend!

It's a message that God will not let me put down yet, and I will try to remain as faithful to His leading as I possibly can. I know that in the middle of September we'll begin a new series, "Aliens: Living Beyond this World" out of 1 Peter. It will follow a similar vein, but hopefully take up deeper as to why we are to live with such a radical, crazy love.

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy... Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." (1 Peter 2:9-12)*

I hope you're planning on joining us as we take this journey together – God is definitely up to something at NLF... Will you be a part of what He is doing, or will you simply watch from a distance? Come on, step into the deep end and let's see where God takes us in this journey together...

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

Christ **IS** All!

**Pastor Mark**