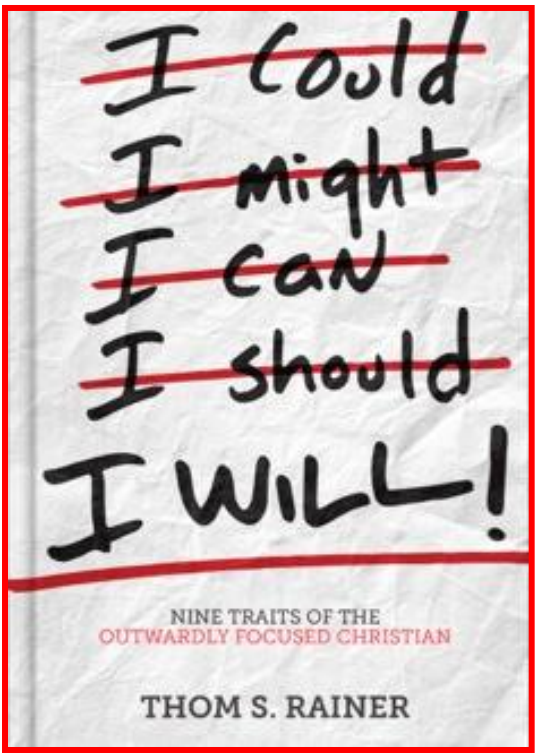
I Will!

"Points to Ponder" Booklet



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Summer 2019: The "I Will!" Odyssey

'READ ALONG' SCHEDULE

Group Discussions @ 9:00am in the Prince of Peace Congregation Life Room, on the following days:

- **June 23** – Introduction: A Tale of a Joyous Church Member, and Chapter 1: I Will Move from "I Am" to "I Will" (pgs. 1-24)
- **June 30** – I Will Worship with Others (pgs 25-34)
- **July 14** – I Will Grow Together with Others (pgs 35-46)
- **July 21** – I Will Serve (pgs 47-58)
- **July 28** – I Will Go (pgs 59-70)
- **August 4** – I Will Give Generously (pgs 71-80)
- **August 11** – I Will Not Be a Church Dropout (pgs 81-92)
- **August 18** – I Will Avoid the Traps of Churchianity (pgs 93-104)
- **August 25** – I Will Make a Difference (pgs 105-111)

"Points to Ponder"

(Discussion topics by chapter)

Introduction:

1. Why do so many church members have a critical and negative view of local churches?
2. How are some local churches acting like a religious country club?
3. Read Philippians 2:1-11. Discuss how that passage relates to being a sacrificial church member.
4. How does the right attitude of church membership naturally lead to the right actions of church membership?

Chapter 1:

1. Explain how Ephesians 4:1-3 works in the context of our relationship with fellow church members.
2. Why do you think church members are less committed to their churches today than they were several years ago?
3. Read again Philippians 2:5-8. How does this passage relate to our commitment in our church today?
4. Would you say your commitment to your church is more or less today than it was 5 years ago? Why?

Chapter 2:

1. Reflect on the declining commitment to attend worship services over the past few decades. Why do you think this development has emerged?
2. What are some actions you and others can take immediately to have a greater commitment to corporate worship?
3. Read Acts 2:41-47. Why was the level of commitment so high among the believers in the early church?
4. Read John 4:21-24. What did Jesus mean by worshipping God "in spirit and in truth"?

Chapter 3:

1. Read Acts 2:41-47. Discuss how groups were one of the important facets of healthy church life I the Jerusalem church.
2. Discuss four reason why groups are so important in the church.
3. What are three ways we learn Scripture more effectively? How is scripture learning unique in groups?
4. Give some common excuses why some church members are not in a group. What are your responses to these excuses?

Chapter 4:

1. Why do you think so many churches have become self-serving, like Resurrection Community Church, rather than other-serving, like The Church at Fountain Hill?
2. Read Matthew 20:20-28. What was the motive of the mother of Zebedee's sons in her request to Jesus? How does this passage relate to service in congregations today?
3. How could Philippians 2:1-18 relate to serving in the church today? Make certain you address verse 14 specifically.
4. Review again the story of Heather in this chapter and in the introductory chapter. What are some key lessons from her for church member today? Also, what are some specific ways you can be a greater servant in your church today?

Chapter 5:

1. Why do you think the typical church member does not invest time in "going" in their communities?
2. Read Acts 4:1-22. How can that text have real-life application in the world today?
3. How can you make your prayer life an instrument toward "going"?
4. Do most church members act like they really believe John 14:1-6? Why or why not?

Chapter 6:

1. Why have some church members developed a consumer mind-set of the church? How does that affect their giving to the church?
2. What are some of the ways you would describe a cheerful giver as Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7?
3. Note several key points on money and generosity as Jesus notes in His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:19-24.
4. Why should giving be motivated by a willing desire rather than legalistic guidelines? How would Jesus answer this question?

Chapter 7:

1. Relate spiritual atrophy to Paul's metaphor of being a member of the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12.
2. Explain the connection between grace and works in Ephesians 2:8-10.
3. What have your observations told you about the reason church members drop out of the church?
4. Compare and contrast over-commitment and atrophy in the context of local church ministry and service.

Chapter 8:

1. Thumb through 1 Corinthian and find at least five examples where the church was having problems. Make sure you describe the problems and note the chapters and verses.
2. What are some characteristics of a church that has become a spectator sport for most of its members?
3. Why do some power groups form in a church? What are some of the consequences of these power groups?
4. What personal commitment should you make as a church member not to practice churchianity?

Chapter 9:

1. What can we learn from the life of Jeremiah Lanphier to be the type of church members God wants us to be?
2. Give your best description of what a 1 Corinthians 12 church member looks like.
3. What does it mean to be a self-sacrificial church member?
4. How has this book changed you in your own approach to church membership? How has it made you more outwardly focused?

NOTES:

A COMMITMENT TO "I WILL"

I will have the attitude of Christ and put other church members before my wants and desires – ***I WILL***

I will gladly participate in corporate worship with my fellow church members as long as I am physically able – ***I WILL***

I will get involved in a group or a class so that I might grow spiritually together with others, and so that I might be accountable to them – ***I WILL***

I will go and share the gospel with others in words and deeds and not be ashamed of my Savior – ***I WILL***

I will give abundantly and joyfully, recognizing that God is the owner of all things I currently steward – ***I WILL***

I will participate in the life of my church because God leads me to do so, not because I feel compelled to please people or to feel guilty for saying "no" – ***I WILL***

I will focus on the positive ways God is using my church, and not on the flaws of my church, its leaders, or its members – ***I WILL***

And I will pray that God will use me as an instrument to revive His church, for His name, and for His glory – ***I WILL***

Sign & Date: _____