

COURAGE TO BE

July 7, 2011

Paul Tillich, a German Theologian, once wrote a book entitled, *The Courage to Be*. In his book he talked about “being” as apposed to “doing.” We are all so caught up in the doing process of life that we don’t realize that God first made us to be open to His presence to be willing to wait until we get guidance from Him before we do things.

Sir Winston Churchill once said, “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” It takes both speaking and listening to clearly understand what God has in store for each of us.

We are more prone to verbalize than we are to listen to another speak their mind. So often we are formulating our own rebuttal to a conversation rather than truly listening to what the other person has to say. I have often said, “God gave us two ears and one mouth. That should tell us something about communication.” We must work at listening twice as hard as we do talking.

Winston Churchill made a very famous speech to the English people during the throws of WWII. His speech was advertised far and wide. Everyone listened with rapped attention as he approached the podium. He opened his mouth and said these words, “Never give up! Never give up! Never give up!” Then he sat down. The English faithful were very disappointed at his speech until they got to thinking about it. It turned out to be one of the most powerful speeches he ever made. It was a clear message to the English people which helped them to get through the war and end on a winning note.

So I ask you to concentrate on being rather than doing and your life will take on greater meaning and purpose. Just have the courage to be the person God intends you to be and life will be worthwhile.