

*“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” - 1 Cor 15:58*

# NORTHSIDE EXHORTER

*A Teaching Bulletin to Inform and Edify God's Family at Northside*

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## **“A New Year Brings New Challenges”**

***Proverbs 24:10 – If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.***

Below is an excerpt from Keith Harrell's, "Attitude Is Everything For Success." It was a gift given to me by a sister in Christ approximately 9 years ago.

***CHALLENGE: FACE IT!***

***Definition Of Challenge: A demand; a call to engage in a contest or fight.***

Life is full of challenges. There's no limit to how many of them will come your way, so get ready, be ready, & stay ready. As I heard Garrison Keillor say on the radio recently, "Life is like war—if things get too quiet, you're losing." Of course, he was making a joke, but the truth is that when the road gets too smooth, you have the tendency to become complacent. You won't be able to know what you're made of & grow stronger if everything in your life comes easily without bumps that challenge you to find new ways to resolve issues. If all of your relationships evolved perfectly & you never had any arguments, disagreements, or even differences of opinion, you'd never learn anything. You wouldn't be equipped to successfully handle difficult situations &, in essence, you'd be defeated. The fact of the matter is that challenges are a part of life, but God can use them to make you a better person by sharpening the qualities within you that are able to overcome those obstacles.

In the corporate world today, businesses want to increase profits, improve productivity, & reduce overhead. Many of my friends who work in this environment are called upon to do more with less—they're working longer hours with the same pay & fewer resources. Unfortunately, many of the companies they work for are being downsized or "right-sized"—so my friends can only face this type of challenge by having the right attitude & the ability to know they'll get through it. Almost everyone I know who ever lost a job looks back on the experience as a gift & a door to a better, greater opportunity.

Challenges break you out of your mold & help develop your character. And it's through them that life hands you new opportunities for success that you may never have experienced otherwise.

***- Antoine N. Holloway***