

Dear NU Family,

Have you ever done something that scared you, or maybe something completely out of your comfort zone? For some, it might be one of the classes you are in right now. I certainly remember a few classes that I faced with “fear and trembling”! I tried something new and a bit scary this last weekend, myself. My wife Brenda was out of town, and as much as I miss her when she is gone, I am able to get a lot of housework done. For some time now, she has wanted me to remove a large tree in our front yard. The tree was beginning to cause some problems with our roof, since it was growing too close to the house. I have never felled a tree, but I decided this weekend was a great time to get it done. I had to take the tree down in three sections. I reached the first section with a 12-foot extension saw while standing on the peak of my roof, the second section while standing at the top of a ladder, and the third section as a stump. While standing on the top rung of the ladder, chainsaw in hand, making the final cut to make sure the tree fell in exactly the right spot, I became anxious. If the tree fell too far to the left, it would cause damage to my house; if it fell too far to the right, it would take out the neighbor's car. I thought I might end up featured in a State Farm Insurance commercial! The tree could only land in one spot to be felled successfully. God’s Spirit spoke to me and said, “You can do all things through Him who gives you strength” (Phil. 4:13). I do realize that Paul was not referring to cutting down trees, but those words truly helped me in that moment.

As I thought about this passage, I realized I can do all things, but at the same time, I can’t do anything. I can do what needs to be done in Christ, but I can’t do anything I simply *want* to do. The things we do must be in line with the Spirit of God, since He is where our strength comes from. Life is supposed to be challenging because that is how we grow, but often, the greatest challenge is for us to embrace the fact that the Spirit of God gives us strength. Too often, we don’t give God’s Spirit enough credit for helping us walk through our difficult seasons. As you read this today, you need to know that God believes in you, you have friends who believe in you, the leadership in this institution believes in you, and faculty members believe in you. The question is, do *you* believe in you? The Spirit of God is in you, encouraging you to keep moving forward, and giving you strength to be the conqueror God designed you to be (Rom 8:37).

*Father, thank you for your Spirit, who give us strength. You always know exactly what we need in our moments of weakness, and when we call out your name, you never disappoint. I ask that you would continue to make yourself known in a real and personal way to our community as we learn to hear your voice and understand your will in our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.*

**COMING UP THIS WEEK**

**Mon, Oct 22** | Chapel: Kylie Hale | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am

**Mon, Oct 22** | Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

**Wed, Oct 24** | Chapel: Dr. Denny Davis | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

**Wed, Oct 24** | Staff & Faculty Chapel: Dr. Denny Davis | Butterfield Chapel, 3:40pm

**Thurs, Oct 25** | Q Union: The Power of We\* | Butterfield Chapel, 7pm **\*Spiritual Life Credit Offered**

**Fri, Oct 26** | Chapel: President Castleberry | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

**Sun, Oct 28-Mon, Oct 29** | 7&7 Prayer | Butterfield Chapel, 7pm and 7am, respectively

**SPiritual LIFE CREDIT**

**Q UNION**

**JONNO DEMACEDO**

**EMILIE HEISEL**

**HOLLY HOLLOPETER**

**THE POWER OF WE**

**OCT. 25, 2018 / 7-9 PM BUTTERFIELD CHAPEL**  
[quion.co/northwest](http://quion.co/northwest)

**VIDEO TALKS BY BOB GOFF, JO SAXTON, AND SCOTT HARRISON**

**Phil Rasmussen, D.Min.**

Vice President - Church Relations and Campus Ministry

425.889.5307 (office)

206.909.9488 (mobile)

[phil.rasmussen@northwestu.edu](mailto:phil.rasmussen@northwestu.edu) / [northwestu.edu](http://northwestu.edu)

Instagram @pramussen

Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges