

Baseball Team Devotion-The Knuckleball

Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 10:23, 2Thessalonians 3:5

The Knuckleball is probably the hardest pitch to hit and to catch. Not only does the pitcher not know where it is going, it is very difficult for the catcher to catch it after it crosses the plate. Current announcer and former catcher Bob Uecker said, "I always thought the knuckleball was the easiest to catch. Wait til it stops rolling, then go to the backstop and pick it up." Hall of Fame pitchers Phil Niekro and Hoyt Wilhelm made their living throwing the knuckleball, as well as current Boston Red Sox hurler Tim Wakefield. The knuckleball's velocity is usually between 60-80 mph, slow by today's big league standards. You can't direct the knuckleball, it seems to have a mind of its own. It moves, darts, dips and drops in every imaginable direction. That is why you often see knuckleball pitchers with high base on balls stats and a lot of wild pitches.

In today's Scripture lesson we learn from the prophet Jeremiah that a man's life is not his own and it is not for a man to direct his steps. While Paul teaches us in his letter to the Church at Thessalonica that he wants the Lord to direct our hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. We get into trouble when we try to direct our own lives. For us to do that is as silly as trying to direct a knuckleball. What God desires from us to let Him show us the way, to direct our lives. When we realize that our lives are not our own and God's plans for us are better than anything we could ever imagine. It is all about surrender. Uecker's idea of catching the knuckleball was surrender, he knew it was easier to just go and pick it up. We need to surrender our will to God. He will show us the way he wants us to go, a way of love and perseverance. Are we ready today to let go and let God? He will give us all the direction we will ever need and He is only a prayer away today from taking over to direct our lives.

Visual Aid: Have a player show a knuckleball grip with the baseball or google the grip and show them yourself.