

Spiritual Living

Introduction:

To misunderstand spirituality leads to frustration & misery. Spirituality is not just found in attending services; participating in worship; teaching bible class; or other externals. Prayer & meditation play a large role. How spiritual are you? Do you deeply desire an intimate, close, personal relationship w/God? Or...do you find yourself in a rut, not seeming to go anywhere spiritually? What can you do to remedy this situation?

I. Spiritual maintenance is not the ONLY goal we have.

- A. Is your involvement in church mechanical? Are you in a spiritual rut?
- B. Spiritual maintenance mode has always been a problem.
 - 1. 1 Sam. 3:1 – look at the spiritual condition of Israel at this time.
 - 2. 3:1 – the word of the Lord was rare – but not nonexistent.
- C. We're no different!
 - 1. Great challenge – fighting spiritual habituation.
 - 2. We simply drift into acceptance of spiritual maintenance mode.
 - a) There is danger associated w/living spiritual life on auto pilot!
Heb. 2:1-3a.
- D. Rev. 2:1-7 – why did the Ephesian receive such a strong rebuke?

II. Spiritual living is to live as if Jesus were in your place.

- A. Our goal is to present Christ in everyway in our life. To Let Him be seen in us!
- B. Gal. 5:22-23 – a picture of a fruitful spiritual life.
 - 1. Which of the above fruits are most evident in your life? Least evident?
- C. Consider Col. 1:28 – our goal is to become *complete* in Christ.
 - 1. 3:1-2 – full devotion to spiritual living is absolutely necessary.
 - 2. Spiritual transformation is not a compartmentalized pursuit.
 - 3. 3:10 – *according to the image of Him...*
 - a) 3:12-17 – what personal qualities does this involve?
- D. Spiritual living is made possible by our conduct & right living.

III. Spiritual living is made possible by increasing our dependence on God.

- A. Do you want to live each day w/a sense of the presence of God?
 - 1. Look at Jesus. His goal was to accomplish the will of the Father.
 - 2. John 4:34; 5:19-20; 5:30; 6:38
- B. He surrendered to God to the point that HIS LIFE revolved around the Father!
- C. Spiritual growth, in a sense, is simply increasing our capacity to experience the presence of God.
 - 1. That means letting Him envelope the entirety of our lives.
 - a) *Every thought carries a "spiritual charge" that either moves us closer to or a little farther from God.*
- D. Because of Jesus' dependence on God – He could speak with confidence at the end of His life – in having accomplished God's will.
 - 1. John 17:1-4.
 - 2. same was true with Paul – 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Phil. 1:21-24
 - 1. What about you? Can you say Phil. 1:21 with confidence?

Conclusion:

- A. Do you need to make in the way you are pursuing your spiritual life?