THE VILLAGE CHURCH

Intimacy with God

Developing a God-Centered Life

"… How to Develop a Heart after God"

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Intimacy with God

Developing a God-Centered Life

- An Orientation
  - Image-Bearer
  - Crystalizing the Call
  - "Stilling" Our Heart for Intimacy
- Building the Foundation
- Situational Awareness On the Battlefield
- God's Discipline
- Our Disciplines
- Identification of Inhibitors
- "Walk This Way"
- In-Class Testimonies

Crystalizing the Call

Outline

- **Our Quest**
  - To intentionally yearn to know God and seek Him with all our hearts
- **Our Motive**
  - To purposefully live for the pleasure of the King
- **Our Worship**
  - To honestly evaluate and deliberately re-orient the passions of our hearts

Homework / "Going Deeper"

Scripture (Part 1)

- Read Hebrews 11:20 - 23. What do these verses say about these men and what mattered most to them at the end of their days
- What other verses would be jugular as you write out your eulogy, finishing strong, having your spiritual flag flying at full mast and why?
- Determine by writing down the topics you would want spoken to if you had the opportunity in your funeral (i.e. – marriage, children, work, etc.)

Writing Out Your Eulogy (Part 2)

- Write out your eulogy you would want people to read at your funeral and the epitaph you would want people to read standing over your grave-stone; incorporate the theme of Intimacy with God in it; be ready to share it with the class…
- What new life changes is God pressing on your soul that need to be made in your life?

Here is a resource to review in your efforts above… Jeff is a close friend of mine who used to work at Motorola…

- Imagine Your Funeral: http://legacynation.com/2014/07/25/imagine-your-funeral/
- Imagine Your Funeral & Welcome to Mine: http://legacynation.com/2014/07/28/imagine-your-funeral-welcome-to-mine/

Intimacy with God

Developing a God-Centered Life

An Orientation

Crystalizing the Call

Our Motive

Today's Learning Objective:

To understand the nature of faith and the role my decisions can play in pleasing God

Our Motive

What Is The Nature of Faith?

- Faith is not the absence of doubt but the overcoming of it
- The power of faith rests in the reliability of the object in which one's faith is placed
- The degree of faith one places in an object is directly proportional to the knowledge of the object
- Faith springs into existence when I make a decision to please God (Hebrews 11:6a)

- Faith that pleases God is always comprised of two parts:
  - He is Real - Faith believes that God exists (v6b)
  - He is a Rewarder - Faith believes God rewards those who seek him (v6c)

Hebrews 11 – The Hall of Faith: Walking by Faith…

Illustration

Worship

Walk

Work

Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)…

- Involves becoming fully persuaded (11:8)
  - A decision of the heart; diligent seeking
  - To lean fully into God's CHARACTER & His WORD
  - Reckless abandon without safety ropes
  - It is becoming "committed" to versus "trying" to
- Involves completely turning our back on this world and "worldliness" (11:8)
  - 2 Peter 1:3-8 - Stop "tree hugging"
  - Focus on things unseen and not things seen
  - Set ourselves as being apart from this world

- Is born in sacrifice and is costly (11:8)
  - Genesis 12:1 - Leave all we know and follow God's direction - our family, friends, plans, agendas, dreams, desires
  - Galatians 2:20 – *"Christ lives in me… I live by Faith in the Son of God"*
  - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 – Christ's reason for His death

Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)…

- Involves a journey of desire/delight (11:8)
  - This is the sanctification process; it begins with a decision; it must have a WANT TO
  - v24–26 - Moses lost his attraction to Egypt and all it offered, it and nothing else *"could not compare"* to…
  - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – Love on steroids; Desiring to please God MUST become the highest motivation in our lives; a motivation of the heart to please God no matter what (Psalm 37:4; 145:19)
- Involves a blessing, or a reward or an inheritance, or a promise (11:8)
  - Where we are going and what we are pursuing and longing for is much greater than what we leave behind (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:6-9; 1 Corinthians 2:9)
- Involves taking action (11:8)
  - *"He went out…"*
  - Our choices and explicit decisions will be displayed in our actions

Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)…

- Involves a journey or a pilgrimage and occurs over time (11:8)
  - Faith is built through progressive sanctification
  - It is architected in our hears and solidified by our actions in life
  - It is a journey of dependence
- Involves uncertainty (11:8)
  - Hebrews 13: 5-6 (God will never leave me) – the process of knowing the One who is taking us there and not knowing the destination
  - It is getting to know Him with certainty as we embark upon an uncertain place (James 1:2-12)

- Involves alienation (11:9, 13-14)
  - *"He lived as an alien in the land of promise"*
  - 1 Peter 2:11-12 – how do we define ourselves? Are we okay with being aliens in a world that is not our home?
  - Do we "disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed"?
  - Do we really "speak the truth in love"? Where are my real allegiances?

Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)…

- Involves putting down tent pegs versus foundation stones in this world (11:9)
  - *"Dwelling in tents"*
  - We must hold the things of this earth very loosely
  - We must be willing to "pull up our tent pegs" to go where God wants us to go
- Ensures that obstacles will come our way (11:9)
  - *"Dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise"*
  - They lived in tents for over 100 years; obstacles are really opportunities for us to grow in grace, knowledge and faith
  - Either our character will be developed or displayed
  - Our decisions over time create an evolution of solidification or commitment; example – big tree's rings of growth each year
- Involves keeping an eternal perspective or passion (11:10, 14-16)
  - *"For he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God"*
  - We need to live in the shadow of eternity and see the unseen or eternal
  - This will help us navigate this life and establish the right motivation of the heart to please God (1 Peter 5:10; Colossians 3:1-2)

Walking by Faith (Pleasing God)…

- Must be tied to a personal God (11:10, 16)
  - *"… whose architect and builder is God"*; *"Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them"*
  - God is intimately involved in each of our lives