

Solitude Journal – November 17, 2019

The Lord said, “The response of obedience to God by a person is actually the response of the nature of God in a person – which is Me.” Jesus in me is that nature of God, and he is formed in me I the work of the spirit in me. This is seeking his face. God becomes real to me as I see him face-to-face in Jesus Christ – who dwells in me.

“Seeking his face is not external, it is internal. It is spiritual because he is spirit.”

The Lord talked of and obedience circle. Our obedience (as we seek him) ways to him being formed in us. His formation within us obedience.

Chambers writes, “This work of obedience is the evidence that the nature of God is in me.”

The Lord told me it is a very deep spiritual understanding that must be experienced, but is very difficult to describe. It is the work of the Holy Spirit, and it is personal. However, he said people must be taught to pursue it.

From the night

- 1.) Dream – overwhelming impact physically of the Holy Spirit manifestation. A description that I cannot remember in detail, but very strong impact. There was a song about goose bumps.
- 2.) Coming home – leading God’s people home. Home being rest with God, our inheritance, are Promised Land. Such a theme of “bring my people home.” Lately I have noticed so many songs about going home (including the Daughtry song that is so special to me). The Lord yearns for his people to come home.
- 3.) Freedom – we are only free “in Christ.” Many Christians continue the same battle they engaged in before salvation – the battle of maintaining a moral standard that is established for us. In Christianity, Jesus was clear that the standard is even higher. This battle is not freedom. It is rules. Again, the freedom only comes “in Christ.” His yoke is easy – his burden is light. For freedom, we must be joined (united) to Him. This only happens through the Holy Spirit. He step by step systematically brings us into this unity where we ultimately find freedom. There is a cost associated with this process and a discipline that is required. However, as God Himself grows within us, we soon learn that the cost is well worth the reward. The reward is God himself, and the fruit of that reward is a personal relationship with Him and freedom from our sinful nature.

Quiet time Revelation

I see basically for groups of people. There are countless subgroups, but I think all people fall into one of these four categories. I’m going to list them in inverse order of commitment to God.

Last, is the group that for whatever reason has no interest in the one true God. They choose to believe he is not real, does not exist, or exists in a manner outside of biblical descriptions, etc.

Next, is a very intriguing group that Scripture references periodically. It is the group that understands there is a God (either through revelation or personal experience), knows he is real, but still has little interest in making him their God.

Next is the group that I believe is the most significant and perhaps the most dangerous. This group believes in the God of the Bible, and to varying degrees, has decided to make Him their God. In line with beliefs coming from a wide range of sources, (which may or may not include strict Bible reference), they adopt a lifestyle based on the worldview developed from these sources. They attempt to live in accordance with character and moral fabric aligning with this belief system. Sadly, I believe this group includes the majority of the American Church. There are a number of potential pitfalls with this belief system. One problem is obviously that the worldview is only as good as the input it is built upon, and a second problem arises in the degree to which it lends itself to rationalization and conformity based on outside circumstances.

I want to note that both of the previous two groups are heavily influenced by circumstances of the world. In order for our faith to grow, the world must decrease in significance to us. Both of these groups find it difficult to leave the world behind.

First is the group that Jesus spends so much of his ministry discussing. I will not describe this group in detail because Jesus (and the apostles) has Artie done so. The example of this group was set – first by the life of Jesus, and then by the lives of the apostles. This group is simply called disciples.

Based in more than three years of intense teaching from the Lord, unfortunately, I believe this group to be very small in today's Western church.

Based on these teachings, I believe this departure actually began late in the first century, and has grown more dramatic in the centuries that have followed, despite all of the goods things that the church has done.

As we seek a move of God, it is actually a return of the church to the early first century example that we are asking them to provide. As we see throughout the Old Testament, throughout all of history, man is simply not capable of return to God without his help. We need him to wake up his people.

At this point in history, I think we should be able to admit we are desperate for him.

A note from chambers devotion on November 17-"my goal is God himself – at any cost, dear Lord, by any road."

Monday, November 18, 2019

The Lord said, “dying to self is not only a process but a daily battle. This battle must be fought tirelessly and vigilantly. The battle is for freedom as the natural man is in bondage.”

Surrender = Freedom

Oswald Chambers

“stop listening to the tyranny of your individual natural life and when freedom into the spiritual life. Don’t say, ‘oh Lord I suffer from wandering thoughts.’ Don’t suffer from wandering thoughts.”

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

The Lord talked to me about entering the narrow gate. Luke writes “make every effort.”

The Lord said that we have a large group of Christians that make every effort to live a Christian life. While this may be noble, it is not what the scripture is saying. It says make every effort to enter the narrow gate – which is the realm of the Holy Spirit.

This connects with the theme of my quiet time. What are we seeking Western Mark the Lord said the two are as different as night and day. One is seeking behavior that aligns with God’s standard, while the other is seeking God himself. Scripture tells us he desires mercy not sacrifice.

Quiet time

Questions – how do we seek?

How often do we seek?

How much time do we spend seeking?

Why do we seek?

What are we actually seeking?