

For the week of November 5-11, 2017

Based on Pastor Tucker's message from November 5

We are Called to a Spiritual Life

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, the sermon gets modified right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE: *"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."* – Romans 8:11

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Spiritual Life is an Impossibility Without Christ

One of the greatest struggles for Christians is the desire to be a good person—to do good—and the knowledge that in and of ourselves it is impossible. Try as we may, we will always fall short. Even Paul the Apostle, who was so influential and effective in his service for the Lord, struggled with his failure to be who he wanted to be. In Romans 7:15-25 Paul explains the intensity of the warring desires in his heart.

There is a similar point in all of our natural lives when we come to the end of ourselves, and we can see that there's something more out there. We want to be holy, to live the life God created us to live. We want to be loving, kind, patient, worship God, have self-control, and treat others selflessly. But we can't seem to do it. That's because it's impossible to find the spiritual life God created us to live apart from His Spirit dwelling in us. Once we allow God's Spirit to breathe life in us, our focus changes. We are no longer thinking about the old paradigm of trying to please God in ourselves. When you have the Spirit living in you, the Spirit defines everything you do. Only then will we feel verse 11. The God that we believe in has displayed a power to revive the dead. It is only in reviving the dead that one can be saved. The resurrection is the answer to what we have been looking for.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. In what ways do we try to please God in our flesh?
2. What are some of the different experiences you've had with trying to maintain a godly standard in your own strength? How did that change after you allowed the Holy Spirit to come in and begin to transform your life?
3. Are there areas in your life that need new life breathed in by the Spirit of God? Spend time this week asking God to point these out, and allow Him to do a new work in you.

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: The Spirit Gives us Life

Now that we understand that we are dead in our sins, we are called to really live as God intended. We need to recognize the areas of our life where we are still striving, and allow the transformative power of the Holy Spirit to do its work. We aren't called to just believe in a doctrine of heaven or salvation that gives us deathbed assurance. We are called to be born again now. But we don't have the power to make ourselves more alive. Galatians 3:21 points out that even the law can't do it. The law is not there to give us righteousness. What religion can't do—what we can't do in our own self-righteousness—God does. The key to this week's passage is that it says in verse 4 that the requirement of the law will be fulfilled "in us." It does not say it will be fulfilled through us. We will never be able to obtain spiritual life through our natural abilities. The thing that finally takes us past our limitations is the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Once Christ reveals Himself to us and indwells us with the Holy Spirit, we come alive spiritually. As He does this work, our minds will be focused on things above, not on things of Earth (Colossians 3:2). As soon as God makes you alive by His Spirit, you become a completely different person. He begins to lead and guide your life. As you grow deeper in your relationship with the Holy Spirit, His priorities become your own. You can live the abundant life He has prepared for you when you allow the Holy Spirit to direct you.

We must take care. It is possible to do things in Jesus' name without doing them in His Spirit. Our desire to be doing something for God can lead us to do things in our own power, by our own natural giftings, that are not what God has asked of us. If we do that, even in church, it profits nothing. Consider the story of Mary and Martha. The things Martha was doing were not necessarily bad. She was doing what made sense to do. She was working to meet the physical needs of those in her home. But Mary was doing the better thing in caring for her spiritual needs. That's what Jesus meant when He said, "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Matthew 4:4). The outworking of the Holy Spirit's work on our hearts will be that we will fulfill God's call on our lives, rather than just reasoning out what makes the most sense.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. What does it mean to walk in the spirit?
2. What are some things we are doing that are spiritual?
3. Can you give examples of times when you've done what seemed to be right, but was ineffective because you did it in your own strength rather than by the Holy Spirit's power?
4. What should be the evidence that we are living a life in the Spirit in all areas of our lives?
(Examples: marriage, family, job, neighborhood, ministry)

TAKE TIME TO PRAY:

Please pray that God would show believers how to live like Jesus, empowered by the leading of the Holy Spirit so that their divinely inspired and life-changing love reveals God to the world around them. Pray that the lives of the family members at Calvary Boise glorify God and draw others into His Kingdom. Pray that we will be actively engaged in pursuing revival.

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

Note: Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@ccboise.org with your insight.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

“And you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart, and with a willing mind: for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands all the intent of the thoughts.” –1 Chronicles 28:9

Nothing makes prayer so unreal or phony as lack of honesty. If your mind is sluggish and your heart is cold, don't pretend things are otherwise. Don't use the language of warm devotion. Say exactly what you mean, honestly admit your condition. But also tell God the great truths you believe, the principles and purposes you really have, even if, for the moment, you do not feel them. This will bring a reality of spiritual things that will drive away seeming indifference and revive your prayer life. –Henry Churchill King

About the Author: Henry Churchill King was an American educator, author and theologian, who also taught mathematics, philosophy and theology at Oberlin College where he was president of the school. He served the government as head of the King-Crane Commission responsible for disposition of non-Turkish areas of the Ottoman Empire. He lived from 1858 until 1934.

Our Community Life Group:

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Prayer Requests for Our International Missions

- Please pray for Miguel & Luisa Cruz as they minister at Calvary Chapel in Buenavista, Mexico. Pray specifically for their upcoming evangelism outreach to Hidalgo. Ask that God will provide for gasoline, tollbooth fees and food along the way. Pray for the team they are leading. Pray, that God will prepare the minds and hearts of the people of Hidalgo to accept the Gospel.
- Pray for Luisa and Miguel to be ready emotionally, mentally, and spiritually to take the Gospel to the Nahuatl Natives in their area.

Prayer Requests for our Children's Ministry

- Pray for more people to be a part of the Children's Ministry team. There are many permanent and substitute needs for our Wednesday and weekend services. Pray that leadership will have great wisdom on how to unite and bless our team. Pray for the team to be able to connect well with the kids they serve, the kids' families, and those they are serving with.