



Make It Home

Building on the 3 C's (1 Peter 2:2-9)

By Pastor David Hillis, 19 January 2014

Big Idea: A desire for God and to really grow spiritually comes from a combination of a craving, a community and Christ.

- We all have the means to grow spiritually, we don't always have the motivation.
- The desire that leads to a deeper relationship with God isn't one that the sluggard has. (Proverbs 13:4)

Spiritual Growth's built on 3 C's:

1. Starts with creating a Craving (1 Peter 2:2-3)

"Spiritual fatalism is a feeling that genetic forces and family forces and the forces of my past experiences and present circumstances are just too strong to allow me to ever change and become more zealous for God (Titus 2:14), or more fervent (Romans 12:12), or more delighted in God (Psalm 37:4), or more hungry for fellowship with Christ (John 6:35)..."

"Spiritual fatalism is tragic in the church. It leaves people stuck. It takes away hopes and dreams of change and growth...I've seen entire churches like that in my day. It's like saying to a gawky little girl who feels like her body is all out of proportion, 'well that's the way you are, and you will always be that way,' when in fact she is meant to grow and change. That would be tragic to convince her... that her growth is stopped right there at 13. So it is with the spirit. Only spiritual fatalism is much worse because greater things are at stake, and because we never do get to a point where we've arrived at the final stature like we do in our physical bodies.

"So thousands of people live year after year without much passion for God or zeal for his name or joy in his presence or hope in his promises or constancy in his fellowship and feel—well, that's just the way I am. And they just settle in—like an adolescent who stops growing and lives with pimples till he's 80." - John Piper

- If you feel stuck because you don't have the kind of spiritual desires that you should, you do not need to be stuck!
- Our culture teaches us that we are at the mercy of our feelings, our emotions, but our faith teaches us that motion leads to emotion. It's the other way around.
- We have to start with a craving for God, God's not going to make us crave Him.

2. Takes root in Community (1 Peter 2:4-5)

- Scripture here calls Jesus the "Living Stone".
- Your spiritual house starts to get built as you express and seek to follow through on that desire in the midst of your community. How we primarily do that at Grace is through small groups.

3. Ultimately it is built off of Christ, the Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6-8)

- Here Christ is called the capstone or cornerstone. You can try to build your spiritual house on your own, but it won't stand without Christ.

Consistent growth in a nutshell:

Craving: Is there a craving there to grow?

Community: Are you allowing others to disciple you, speak into your life? Do you have a small group or intentional relationship?

Christ: Are you doing it on your own or through others? Are you inviting Christ, relying on the power of Christ in your life?

Just imagine what your life would look like with these 3 C's at work in your life, day by day, helping you grow in Christ.