

## **I. Introduction to Series**

- A. Over the summer months, we have been focusing on the foundational aspects and truths of our faith. For the most part, these topics and messages have been centered around building up and the establishing of this body inwardly. Series and topics included...
1. Spiritual Disciplines - April - May
  2. Practicals of our Faith - June - August
  3. Identity in God - August - September
- B. Activation Series - Today, the messaging team is starting a new series that will carry us through the end of this year. This series will be focused on encouraging us as a body to activate our faith and take ground for the Kingdom in both our personal lives and in our community lives. This series will have a very strong emphasis on application to the extent that many, if not all, of these messages will be fruitless in their purpose unless you intentionally activate the truths and exhortations into your life.

## **II. Our Great Need**

- A. According to the scriptures, there are three paramount needs concerning the redemption and restoration of the original intention of God concerning humanity's fallen state.
1. Death of Sin (Instant Forgiveness, Progressive Sanctification)
  2. New Heart (Instant Indwelling, Progressive Wisdom and Revelation)
  3. New Body (Progressive Physical Death, and Instant Resurrection)
- B. All three of these needs are absolutely critical to the process of redemption because, without them, there would be no restoration and the promises of God to humanity would remain unfulfilled. As you may also note, all three of these needs are unattainable and undeserved for humanity and are truly needs that only God, through His love and mercy, can provide.
1. Instant vs. Progressive - This morning, I want to draw your attention to the progressive nature of both the elimination of sin through sanctification and death, and the revelation of God that brings life to the human heart. The scriptures are repetitive and clear on this principle: the instant aspects of

redemption position us for a relationship with God, and the progressive aspects are the fruit of that relationship.

- C. Defining Life - In our culture, for something to be “alive” is defined in terms of existence. In other words, in a comprehensive sense, if something exists, it is alive and has life. Biblically, however, “life”, to be alive or to have life is not defined by mere existence. Being alive or having life is defined by the scripture as having the Spirit of God inside of you, giving you life through transforming and conforming your heart and mind into the image and nature of God. The Holy Spirit does this through the revealing (revelation, and wisdom) of God's image and nature to your spirit. This is how God brings you into and gives you life.
1. Revelation and Wisdom - Revelation and wisdom are not the same thing but they are two sides of the same coin. Wisdom is divine understanding of who God is and revelation is divine disclosure of who God is. In other words, revelation is the initial giving or disclosure of truth, whereas wisdom is the betterment or gain of depth in that truth. When it comes to the wisdom and revelation of God, both are divine and not available to the natural mind and heart.
- D. Supernatural Work of God - It is critical that we understand that receiving revelation and wisdom of God is very different from receiving natural understanding. Revelation and wisdom is a supernatural knowledge that impacts our hearts and minds in a transformative way. This is radically different from understanding in general, cognitively knowing a truth about God. This is paramount for all believers to understand. Memorizing and knowing the bible front to back, and understanding all the theological implications found within cognitively is VASTLY different from receiving revelation and wisdom. The implications of this truth is that one can graduate with a MDiv from a top seminary, have a world-wide ministry, author a thousand Christian books, listen to teachings or worship music 24/7, and still be absolutely dead on the inside.

*“Reading christian books, attending conferences, listening to teachings, and spending hours in intercession are all edifying uses of time and may be filled with many, many truths and references to “God” but can result in virtually no enlargement of the heart.” (Stephen Venable)*

1. Understanding this principle (revelation and wisdom of God unto transformative life) will make sense of the myriad biblical passages that speak of our great need to receive life daily through the means of revelation and wisdom.

### III. Seeking

- A. Granted to Us - Growing in revelation and wisdom is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit; it's not something that can be taken, it must be given. The good news is that we worship and love a God who came that we might have life and life abundant. He has promised us that to those who set themselves in the posture of seeking revelation and wisdom, He will give abundantly and liberally to all those who pursue it.
  
- B. The Posture - There are biblical instances in which revelation and wisdom seems divinely thrust upon an unsuspecting individual. However, the overwhelming exhortations given to us in the scriptures is that we are to set ourselves in a posture of seeking. I would like to offer you a couple of practical tips to help you find and maintain a lifestyle of seeking wisdom and revelation.
  1. Intentional Focus on God's nature, emotions, and character found in the scriptures and exemplified in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
  2. Ask - Pray to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to reveal God's heart and nature to you. Ask Him to transform your heart and mind to be conformed into the image of Jesus.
  3. Specifically Gaze - Narrow your focus to just one particular aspect of God's heart or character. Examples: mercy, patience, kindness, compassion, faithfulness, justice, courage, etc..
  4. Meditate - Focus on one or two passages of scripture that highlight this specific aspect of God's heart. Practice a form of meditation that works for your personality to help you ruminate on this specific truth. Examples:
    - a. Journal your thoughts or feelings about the passage.
    - b. Write a short narrative.
    - c. Write a commentary or teaching notes.
    - d. Paint it or draw it.
    - e. Write or sing a song.
    - f. Discuss it with someone.
    - g. Write questions concerning the practicals of the passage. For example: What did the scene look like? How many people were there? What did their faces look like? What was the tone of the

moment? Many times you won't know the answer. Shoot for twentyish questions.

5. Consider your Heart - Look to your heart to understand the places you need revelation and wisdom. Is the Holy Spirit highlighting an aspect of the nature of God that He wants to conform you to? That's a great place to start. Consider the movements of emotion, wonder, and beauty as you pray and meditate. This is often (but not always) a sign that revelation is being given and transformation is happening. Consider the person you were and the person you are becoming.