

life groups' sermon guide

kingsway underground - surrender



Surrender: yielding to the Spirit through worship and prayer.

Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Yielding to the Spirit, what an interesting concept. It is something all of us talk about in Sunday school, Church services, small groups. Yielding to the Spirit. We may not call it that exactly, but we do talk about how to walk in the Spirit and be in the Spirit, constantly in God's will through the Spirit.

In Luke 4 Christ gives us an excellent three part example on yielding to the Spirit;

The story is well known, Christ was tempted after 40 days of fasting, and I think his responses to Satan are an excellent model for resisting temptation and for living in the Spirit.

Let's break down the first 13 verses of Luke 4 together...

Read Verses 1-4: "not bread alone, but by the word of God."

- Q) What does that mean, to live by the Word of God?
- Q) What are some of the ways we can live by the Word of God?
- Q) Do you memorize scripture?

I remember the first two pieces of Scripture I ever learned, the first, 2 Corinthians 3:17. It is on the Indy Star, under the Banner. I had a paper route as a kid and I read the headline and that verse every morning for two years. I still quote that verse at times today.

The second was the 23rd Psalm. I think most of us know that entire Psalm. I learned it because my mom had it as a small end table decoration when we were kids and I saw it and read it every day, long before I ever truly became a Christian.

Discussion

- Q) Who among us memorizes Scripture? What an excellent Spiritual discipline. What an excellent tool for tough times.
- Q) How do you memorize scripture and if you're not doing so how does one start to memorize Scripture?

Read Verses 5-8: "Get thee behind me Satan"

"Get thee behind me Satan." I love that phrase, and I am prone to quote it quite often in my own walk. It's an excellent verse to memorize by the way..."

Read James 4:6-8: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Verse 7 is an excellent piece of Scripture to memorize and then to utilize when we are tempted however I think we do this command a disservice when we don't read the ending of six and the opening of seven as well.

After James tells us to resist the devil he gives us what I consider one of God's greatest promises; "draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

Back to Luke Jesus says to Satan "Worship the Lord your God... I don't think any of us have any problems not worshipping Satan but could Christians actually struggle with "worshipping" something other than God.

The King James Bible continues that verse in this manner; *"and Him only shall thou serve."*

Q) What are some of things that fight for our time and attention, the things that prevent us from "drawing near" to God: the things that fight for our service?

Discussion

How do we draw near to God?

- Q) What items or events or even persons could be seen as being worshiped in our lives?
- Q) Are they competing with Jesus for our time / treasure / talents?
- Q) Are we serving them and not God?

How do we avoid that, How do we focus on Christ to ensure we are in no way "worshipping" or more likely serving something other than God.

Read Verse 8-13: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

It is an interesting concept to think that we could "tempt the Lord your God."

- Q) What does it mean to "tempt God?"
- Q) How might we be tempting God?
- Q) In what areas of our life could we be tempting Him?

How does prayer fit into these lessons taught by Jesus?

- Q) Can we as Christians be strong, and avoid temptation, walk in the Spirit and live in the word without prayer?
- Q) Can we rebuke the enemy if we are not living a spirit filled life including strong regular prayer?
- Q) Can we avoid tempting God if we are not walking with him on a daily basis, studying his Word, memorizing scripture and being obedient to the Spirit as we feel prompted and led by Him?