

the IRRELIGIOUS LIFE

experiencing the inside-out spirituality of Jesus

Week 2: *UNDERSTANDING OUR GOAL*

INTRODUCTION – The Heart Of The Matter

Spiritual formation for the Christian basically refers to the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self in such a way that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself. ... In the degree to which spiritual formation in Christ is successful, the outer life of the individual becomes a natural expression or outflow of the character and teaching of Jesus.

~ Dallas Willard

Galatians 4:19; 1 Corinthians 13:3; Mark 7:21

Learning spiritual practices is not our goal. (That only makes us religious.) Our goal is to be _____ in God-likeness, God-closeness, God-oneness, from the inside out.

**2 Peter 1:1-13
Romans 8:29**

Matthew 13:31-33

The seed suggests _____ growth.
The yeast suggests _____ growth.

Ephesians 3:14-19

JESUS SCENE – Do This In Remembrance Of Me

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE #2 – Attention

REMINDING, REFOCUSING, RECALIBRATING, RENEWING OUR VISION...

Hebrews 12:2

2 Peter 1:1-13

John 14:26

CONCLUSION – The Power Of Grace

2 Corinthians 9:8

If you have not signed up for weekly e-mail meditations and would like to receive them for this series, go to www.themeetinghouse.ca and sign up for the "TMH Newsletter" or e-mail Meghan at meghan@themeetinghouse.ca.

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Read through the quote from Dallas Willard in your notes. How is spiritual formation different than religion? What has been your experience with "spiritual formation"?
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, including key texts, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read Peter's reminder of what spiritual formation is all about in **2 Peter 1:1-13**. Together, read the passage over multiple times from whatever different translations are available. Start with the most challenging to understand (e.g., KJV, NASB) to more standard (e.g., NRSV, NIV) to more contemporary (NLT, CEV, The Message). Read slowly, thoughtfully.
 - a) What verse or thought stands out to you the most? Why?
 - b) What is Peter suggesting about the identity of Jesus in **verses 1 & 2**?
 - c) What is Peter's main point in **verses 3 & 4**? Do you believe this is true in your life?
 - d) If we really are purified and empowered by God himself, as this text promises, why do we need to apply ourselves so diligently to spiritual formation, as the text instructs? Why doesn't it just happen automatically?
 - e) What is the main lesson we can draw out of **verses 9 and 12-15**? How can we do a better job of applying this principle in Home Church?

SO WHAT?...

4. Take a few minutes to quietly meditate on **2 Peter 1:5-8**. Then, answer the following to yourself...
 - a) What spiritual practice do I most need to grow in?
 - b) What about my life these days most hinders my spiritual development?
 - c) What is one realistic next step I can take this week to help myself "increase" (NASB) or "grow" (NLT) in this area?
 - d) Do I really want this? Really?
5. If you like, share one prayer request with your group in light of #4 above. Take time to pray for each other's spiritual development this week.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, January 22 / 29, 2004