




COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Spiritual formation is the development of a heart for God.

HEAD CHANGE: Apart from Christ we can do nothing. And if we do nothing it will be apart from Christ.

HEART CHANGE: God is not opposed to effort but to earning.

LIFE CHANGE: For people to be attracted to Christ because of who I am and what I have to say and the way I say it.

OVERVIEW

Practice > 'New Year's Resolution Spirituality

When we think about the good news of Jesus, two approaches in the form of a question come to mind. There are two contrasting questions that form our shift today from making converts to making disciples.

Question 1: In a 'Conversion Centered Gospel' one might ask "If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven?"

Question 2: In a disciple centered gospel one might ask "If you knew you were going to live forever, what kind of person would you like to become?"

The second question focuses on a process of growing toward Christlikeness. One question is just concerned with getting us to heaven. The other is concerned with who I am right now and who I am becoming. This is what we call discipleship or spiritual formation which is the development of a heart for God.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT) - Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, **train yourself to be godly.** "Physical training is good, but **training for godliness** is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated?
2. How would you describe what it means to be formed into the image of Christ, to have a heart for God?
3. What are the biggest challenges for you to move from merely studying the Bible to also including "spiritual reading" of the scriptures?
4. In what ways have you witnessed in yourself and/or others the Holy Spirit using the scriptures to make renovations to the hearts of those in your life?
5. Is it easy for you to surrender to God when recognizing that you are not in control? What does surrender look like? What does it involve?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, we can't do any of this without You. We recognize that you are in control. Give us grace to hunger for your words more than those of anyone else. We accept your truth as the supreme authority in our lives. In Jesus name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!