

Week 5: Day 14-16

Week 6: Day 17-19

Week 7: Day 20-21

Week 8: Day 22-24

Introduction

I. The Purpose Driven Life

a. This Teaching

1. Based on a bestselling book written by Rick Warren, lead pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA.
2. The book is written as a 40 day series of daily devotionals.
3. The number 40 was selected because of its biblical significance
 - i. Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
 - ii. Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai and 40 years in the desert.
 - iii. The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land
 - iv. David was transformed by Goliath's 40 day challenge.
 - v. Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
 - vi. The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change.
 - vii. Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness.
 - viii. The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection.

b. The Goals for this teaching

1. Promote personal devotion and understanding of our individual purposes for life.
2. Strengthen the desire of individuals to serve the fellowship of believers through each partner discovering his/her divine calling.
3. Create opportunities for small group leaders to share this information in a small group setting with their un-churched friends and family.

II. Created to Become Like Christ (Day 22)

a. Introduction

1. You were created to become like God's son, Jesus Christ.
2. God decreed He would make man in his image. Man is the only creature made in the likeness of God. (Gen. 1:26)
3. Man has three parts (trichotomous)
 - i. Spiritual Beings – our spirits are immortal and will live beyond our earthly bodies.
 - ii. Intellectual Beings – our minds can reason and solve problems
 - iii. Physical Beings – we have a physical habitation while living here on earth.
4. You and I will never become God, or even a god.
5. God doesn't want us to become a god; he wants us to become godly – taking on his values, attitudes, and character.

b. God's Spirit Working in You

1. It is the Holy Spirit's job to produce Christlike character in us.
2. This process of changing us to be more like Jesus is called sanctification.
3. Christlikeness is not produced by imitation but by inhabitation.

c. We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit's work

1. The Holy Spirit releases his power the moment you take a step of faith.
2. Effort doesn't affect our salvation; however, it does impact our spiritual growth.
 - i. **2 Peter 1:5** And * * beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
 - ii. **2 Peter 3:14** Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.
 - iii. Three responsibilities in becoming like Christ
 - a. Let go of old ways of acting.
 - b. Change the way we think
 - c. Put on the Character of Christ

d. God uses his Word, people, and circumstances to mold us

1. God's word provides the truth we need to grow.
2. God's people provide the support we need to grow
3. Circumstances provide the environment we need to practice Christlikeness.

- e. Becoming like Christ is a long, slow process of growth
1. **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
 2. This final phase of spiritual development is called glorification.
 3. God is more concerned about your character than what you do.
 4. “Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well adjusted lives.”

III. How We Grow (Day 23)

a. Introduction

1. God wants us to grow up, not just grow older.
2. You must want to grow, decide to grow, make an effort to grow, and persist in growing.
3. The first step is to make the decision to grow.

What is one area where I need to stop thinking my way and start thinking God’s way?

b. God’s part and your part

1. You must let go of some old routines, develop some new habits, and intentionally change the way you think.
2. “Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”
 - i. Work out – you responsibility
 - ii. Work in – God’s responsibility

c. Changing your Autopilot

1. You must deal with the root cause not simply the action.
2. This is called repentance in the New Testament.
3. Stop being a spiritual baby.
 - i. **1 Corinthians 14:20** Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.
 - ii. Babies are selfish.
4. Start thinking like Jesus, which is to begin thinking like others. (Philippians 2)

IV. Transformed by Truth (Day 24)

a. Introduction

1. Spiritual growth is the process of replacing lies with truth.
2. To become like Jesus, we must fill our lives with his Word.
3. Jesus declares the importance of His word
 - i. “The words I have spoken unto you, they are spirit and they are life.”
(John 6:63)
 - ii. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
 - iii. God’s word is our spiritual nourishment.

“ The Bible is far more than a doctrinal guidebook. God’s word generates life, creates faith, produces change, frightens the Devil, causes miracles, heals hurts, builds character, transforms circumstances, imparts joy, overcomes adversity, defeats temptation, infuses hope, releases power, cleanses our minds, brings things into being, and guarantees our future forever!”

b. Abiding in God’s word

1. I must accept its authority – The Bible must always have the first and last word in my life.
 - i. **2 Tim 3:16** [All scripture](#) is given by inspiration of [God, and](#) is [profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:](#)
2. I must assimilate its truth
 - i. You receive God’s word when you listen and accept it with an open, receptive attitude.
 - ii. Read the Bible daily to stay in range of God’s voice.
 - iii. Researching or studying, the Bible is another practical way to abide in the Word.
 - a. Five point question answer rule
 - 1 Who wrote the scripture?
 - 2 To whom is he speaking?
 - 3 When did he speak/write
 - 4 What is the purpose of the writing?
 - 5 What is the occasion of the writing?
 - iv. Remember the Word by engaging in a memorization plan.
 - v. Reflect on the Word or meditate. (Psalm 1:2)

c. I must apply its Principles

1. We must become doers of the word. (James 1:22)
2. We avoid personal application because it can be difficult or painful.
Consequently this shows the importance of being in a small group fellowship.
3. Write out an action step to becoming a doer of the word.

“ The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives.” – D.L. Moody