

# Faith

## Men's Retreat

May 18, 2019

### I. Introduction

A. Pdt Rick introduced us to the Inner Man last night.

B. Paul identified two of each of us. The outward man (he who is failing over time in the physical, strength and appearance the temporal) and the inner man that is truly the significant theme of our retreat. The inner man is the eternal position of man.

C. As we enter in to our second session of strength training, I pray that you will understand that your life has an eternal place. If you choose to strengthen the outward man and neglect the inner man your eternity will have eternal consequences that

D. Our passage today is found in Eph 3 17a that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

E. Pray

F. 2 Essentials to our Inner Man Strength workout.

### II. 1<sup>st</sup> Essential is to Recognize that "Christ Dwells in your Heart"

a. 1 of the primary differences we have as a Christian is that Christ dwells in our heart. (Buddha does not dwell in Buddhists hearts, Mohammed does not dwell in Muslim hearts)

- What does it mean to dwell: (Strong's concordance)

**κατοικέω** **katoikéō**, kat-oy-keh'-o; to dwell in, inhabit, remain

- Another word often rendered "dwell" is shakhan or shakhen ("to settle down"), from which is derived the

rabbinic word shekhinah (literally, "that which dwells"),

- It is the light shining on the mercy-seat which symbolized the Divine presence (Exodus 25:8, etc.). Exodus 25: 8 “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.
  - In order to avoid appearing to localize the Divine Being, wherever God is said to "dwell" in a place, the Targum renders that He "causes His Shekinah to dwell" there.
  - We use the term Shekinah Glory to capture the fact that God is filling the area. Exodus 25:8 indicates that God dwells in the sanctuary with His Glory.
  - God appears to throughout the Bible want relationship with His creation. In Genesis He walked with Adam Gen 3:8, He met with Moses on Mt. Sinai Exodus 19, and other times talking through prophets.
  - Should we be surprised that He wants to dwell in our heart manifested by the Holy Spirit?
  - We are His creation, Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, John 3:16 For God so loved the World.
  - **Men as we strive to strengthen the inner man we must gain an understanding and awe that Creator God wants to dwell in our Heart!!!**
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  - Dwell then means to inhabit, abide, remain, to experience that Shekinah Glory in our life.
- b. Look at scriptures that teach us that Christ wants to dwell in our heart.

- John 14: 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, **that he may abide with you forever** 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, **for He dwells with you and will be in you.**
  - Jesus prays to the Father for the Holy Spirit to abide in us forever. God wants relationship with us. Pretty mind blowing.
- Col 1: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory:
- Gal 2: 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, **but Christ lives in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
- Of course our text this morning details from Paul's prayer, "17 **that Christ may dwell in your hearts.**"
- An essential to the Strengthening of the Inner Man of every man here and those listening is: Recognizing that Christ can and will dwell in your heart.
- Think of that Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit wants to have relationship with you and dwell in your inner man.

c. now

- III. 2<sup>nd</sup> Essential to our Inner Man workout is to Recognize that Through Faith Christ dwells in our Hearts.
- a. Christ desires to dwell in your heart. We saw that in the scriptures we have just gone over.

- b. Creator God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit want to dwell in you. God wants to commune in and through you.
- c. Through Faith. What then is Faith.
- Lets define it: according to the dictionary it is: complete trust or confidence in someone, or strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof
  - The dictionary then says it is trust without proof.
  - Scripture says: Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen
  - So Faith of the Inner Man must have complete trust in God who he has never seen.
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- d. Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- Notice it does not say it is a little bit hard or difficult-it says without faith it is impossible to please Him.
  - Faith is a non-negotiable in our relationship with our Lord. With it you have Creator God dwelling in you. Without it you ultimately are separated from God and His Son.
  - Chapter 11 of Hebrews gives us over 10 examples of faith being manifested for us to see. Men and women who may not be the people we would have thought should be in the Hall of Faith, but God did.
- e. Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

- God gives us His grace so that we can completely trust in Him and have salvation through Jesus. That is His work not ours.
- Faith is also Gods gift to us. It is not about us as the next verse says, we cannot boast about it because God is the author of Faith and He gives it freely to us.
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f. Story of drinking water after the Tsunami in Indonesia.

g. Faith then is not only believing the water is clean, it is drinking the water. Faith is complete trust in Creator God and then placing ourselves in His Hands.

h. Jesus said John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

i. Your Faith reflects your Inner Man and your work out.

j.

#### IV. Barriers to Strengthening Our Inner Man through Faith

##### a. Knowing Christ

- If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are separated from His indwelling.
- Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
- The biggest barrier to being able to be strengthened in the inner man is to be living in the flesh and not in the Spirit. Gal 5
- If any of you question whether you are a born again believer-Today is the Day of Salvation. Without acknowledging Jesus as Savior-believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth Jesus as Lord, there

will exist a barrier to your ability to strengthen the inner man.

b. To Busy

- Pretty obvious. As Pdt. Rick shared last night men derive identity from several things: job title, how buff they are, positions, money etc.
- All of these can (notice I said can) become a barrier to the time and energy you need to spend working out those things that strengthen your inner man.
- Busi-ness can be an excuse as well as a condition of life that keeps us from our inner man work out.
- If we are too busy to read the Word, pray, interact with family, we probably are too busy with carnal things and not things of the spirit.

c. Lack of Biblical Knowledge

- I hear this all the time. I don't know anything about the Bible. I am not able to understand it.
- Men this is a barrier you have placed upon yourself.
- I am no genius. I am a man that wants to know God deeply.
- Like any job you do, you must get training to increase your knowledge and skill. Question is where is your priority.

d.

V. 2 Applications

- a. I mean to go to the gym often. A while ago I had a pretty lean and mean body with 6 pack abs the whole bit. Once out of construction my body quickly became a 24 pack- instead of muscle I had skin folds. Good intentions don't tone you, it doesn't build you up.

- I had good intentions but poor follow through-great desire but no action.

b. 2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- **1st Application today:** Examine Yourself
- Are you a true believer in Jesus Christ. Disqualified
- Do you have complete Faith in God? Do you believe that He is sovereign knowing the big and small issues in your life. Can you trust Him with your issues.
- Examine your Faith.

c. Make a Covenant to Work Out your Inner Man.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Application-Work Out your Inner Man.
- Not sure how-get with someone at this retreat and let them help you get a Work Out Plan.
- Not a man here today that cannot get stronger in the Inner Man.

## VI. Conclusion

- God has called us to be Men of Faith. This life is not about you as a man, It is about you as a Faithful Christian Man.
- Pray