

**Week 4: Finding God's Plans for My Spiritual Life**  
Pastor Peter, FCOG, 10-11-15

**God's Plans for My Spiritual Life includes**

1. Growing up in my faith

“My friends, you are acting like the people of this world. That’s why I could not speak to you as spiritual people. You are like babies as far as your faith in Christ is concerned. So I had to treat you like babies and feed you milk. You could not take solid food, and you still cannot, because you are not yet spiritual. You are jealous and argue with each other. This proves that you are not spiritual and that you are acting like the people of this world.”

-1 Corinthians 3:1-4, NIV

- Paul goes on to say how these believers were not growing because they had favorites in Church!
- 2 ways to learn: book knowledge and hands on  
Best way is through active serving! Learning as you go
- Do you want to learn more Bible? Volunteer in our Kid’s Ministry: planning Bible lessons gets you into learning
- God’s tone is harsh if we do not grow! Yet the choice is ours...**take your spiritual life seriously!** Keep growing in your faith

***God's Plans for My Spiritual Life includes***

2. Finding my 'ministry' / place

“He also gave apostles, prophets, missionaries, as well as pastors and teachers as gifts to his church. Their purpose is to prepare God’s people to serve and to build up the body of Christ. This is to continue until all of us are united in our faith and in our knowledge about God’s Son, until we become mature, until we measure up to Christ, who is the standard.”

-Ephesians 4:11-13, GW

- Primary role of pastors is to teach the Bible and teach God's ways...we are Administrators
- Church members are the real ministers!

**“to prepare God's people *to serve* and *to build up the body of Christ.*”**

### **Do you know *your* place in our church?**

- Are you a helper....set up events
- Are you an outgoing person....greeter
- Are you a quiet person who prays....ask me for prayer requests every week
- Can you see the 'BIG' picture....help with planning
- Are you a mentor....lead a small group
- Find your place so we are not lacking in any area...result will be maturity in our Church!

### ***God's Plans for My Spiritual Life includes***

#### **3. Practicing Spiritual Warfare**

- Do you know how to win the battle for your mind? What about arguments with people?
- Do you know how to pray against evil? To pray for healing?
- Our walk with Jesus is a spiritual walk and we are called to respond to life with spiritual power, not human / fleshly power
- Here's the difference:

Human Power:

I'm stronger, I'll get even.

I'm louder, I will win this battle!

We think, 'Just wait till I get him alone....'

Spiritual Power:

The battle is done in prayer.

I lay down my life, my pride, my prejudice, my control....to become a servant of Christ.  
When I see a life out of order, I go to battle for them: against the stronghold that I see, surrounding them with prayer, petitioning God for their soul.... *This is Spiritual Warfare*

Listen to the Apostle

"Of course we are human, but we don't fight like humans. The weapons we use in our fight are not made by humans. Rather, they are powerful weapons from God. With them we destroy people's defenses, that is, their arguments and all their intellectual arrogance that oppose the knowledge of God. We take every thought captive so that it is obedient to Christ."

-2 Cor. 10:3-5, GW

- **Part of growing in Christ is practicing what we learn / read ie: Jesus tells us to do the following:**
  - lay hands on the sick...they will recover
  - say to mountains (troubles) 'Be gone!' and they will leave
  - preach the good news of God's Kingdom
  - People who do these things see spiritual things happen...we are in a spiritual war.

*God's Plan for my Spiritual Life is that*

**4. I will let Jesus live in my heart**

"I'm asking God to give you a gift from the wealth of his glory. I pray that he would give you inner strength and power through his Spirit. Then Christ will live in you through faith. I also pray that love may be the ground into which you sink your roots and on which you have your foundation. This way, with all of God's people you will be able to understand how wide, long, high, and deep his love is. You will know Christ's love, which goes far beyond any knowledge. I am praying this so that you may be completely filled with God."

-Eph. 3:16-19, GW

**The Apostle prays for 3 things:**

- Power from God's Spirit
- Christ to live in us
- Commitment to God

**We can and should pray for the same things!**

- He is talking to believers to have Jesus in their lives (notice he is already there!)
- You all know there is a difference between talking the talk...and walking the walk
- Paul prays that we might have a real, ongoing relationship with Jesus

**Do you let Him every day or only on Sundays?**

**Do you let Him only when it's convenient or in emergencies?  
(Help me Jesus!)**

**Are you letting Him into your decision making, your dreams,  
your relationships, your work....**

**It's better to think "Jesus in me means I'm a Christian  
everywhere I go" than to think "I should be Christian in this  
matter"**

**-at work, you are a Christian**

**-at home, you are a \_\_\_\_\_**

**-at school you are a \_\_\_\_\_**

**-shopping at Walmart you are a  
\_\_\_\_\_**

**.....only if you and I let Him be with us.**

**God has a plan for your Spiritual Life:**

- to Grow up in your faith**
- to find your ministry / place of serving**
- to learn and do spiritual warfare**
- to let Jesus dwell in your heart**

**Action Step Today**

- **Attend a Small Group this week**

- **Sign up for Class 301**
  - **Serving this week in the following ministry:**
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