

“Who’s Your Daddy?”
Week 2: Living a Spiritual Life
Pastor Peter Smith, 11/8/15

“See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children—and so, in fact, we are. This is why the world does not know us: it has not known God.”

-1 John 3:1, GNT

Who’s your daddy?!

If God, then we need to resemble him in our thoughts, our actions and our words. We need to look more and more like him. It’s called the spiritual life.

The Spiritual Life

- Many today say “I’m spiritual”
- The meaning is broad...from a lover of nature to Budism to Christianity
- For Christians it means to be focused on Jesus, on Christ
- The Bible teaches us there are two main parts to our lives: physical and spiritual.

1. We have been made alive in Christ

So continue in Him...how many times in the NT?

Walk in Him...live in Him...for Jewish people the idea to walk around in; see life from all sides; hence, have your life in Christ

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him”
-Colossians 2:6, ESV

Points:

1. We started something new with Jesus, a spiritual life! We have received him how? As Lord. Not a buddy (we don’t follow a buddy’s rules) but as one over us, with authority. So

2. We must continue to walk in him / live in him.
3. It's about ownership
4. Paul says,
 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." -Gal. 2:20, NLT

Paul's focus was not on him / this world / but spiritual life, Jesus

- Get your eyes off of the physical stuff around you. Pray, read the Bible, get involved with a Small Group at church to help you focus on the imp. stuff in life!

Living a Spiritual Life

1. Don't **settle!**

"Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ"
-Philippians 3:8, CEV

Ladies, you what you thought / think when a friend dates a guy or even gets married to someone you don't approve: "I can't believe she ***settled*** for him!"

- Didn't try hard; lower expectations; ...she could have done better!
- To settle means we pick something lower than our standard, the easy way to do something. Don't give in to the temptation to live life easy...
- It's easy to coast, to go with the flow. Desire more from God and yourself! Don't be afraid of making changes...

2. Develop **spiritual goals**

“I want to lose 15 lbs” “I’m going to buy a car this month” “I’m looking for a part time job during the holidays”

- Examples of goals, *physical* goals
- Measurable

Set some spiritual goals

“I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize that God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done.”
-Phil. 3:14, CEV

- The Apostle stayed focused by knowing where he was going...toward God, toward his spiritual goals
- Bite-size goal for a week / month and apply yourself to change.

“God, help me to be more like Jesus” is okay;
Better is this: “God, help me to love my unlovable co-worker this week...Or Teacher, or husband, or neighbor...”

Growing spiritually means we look at our ‘problems’ / struggles not just as problems but as ways we can grow:

Have a financial need?

“God, help me this week to grow in my faith, to trust in You”

Have a physical need?

Use this time to learn about healing. How do you keep your heart at peace as you wait for God to work in your life? Pray for others who are sick, their families as well.

- It's all about getting our eyes back on Jesus, about our focus

3. **Draw close to God**

A pastor recently said the following statement:

"If you move, God moves" James 4:8 says,

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you"

- Be intentional about your relationship with God
- Intentionally read or listen to your Bible
(Smartphone / Tablet: **Biblegateway will read the Bible to you!**)
- Talk to God during the day, not just 1 time!

4. **Daily carry your cross**

"Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

-Luke 9:23, NIV

It means prioritizing our lives:

- Denial means to put God first, not my passions, drives, old nature
- Denial opens the door for God to show up, to lead you daily

Remember: spiritual life vs. physical life. A battle is taking place every day!

How do we win? Through the Cross.

- Deny yourself the privilege of being 1st-instead be a servant
- Deny yourself the privilege of sin
- Deny yourself no-restraint living to please God

Have you started your spiritual life with Jesus? Would you like to pray to follow him for the 1st time today?