

HEALING THE HEART AND LIFE BY WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST DAILY: #VI

A Series Of Studies In
The Reality Of Spiritual Life
Here And Now

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This Final Session:

1. Living Wholeness of Life in the Kingdom and Power of God.
2. PRACTICAL ISSUES, LIKE HOW TO DO IT.
3. Serious Q & A

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It Is Our Responsibility To DO IT

1. To put off the old person and put on the new. Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-10
2. To put on new bowels, new “innards.” Col. 3:12
3. To “abide in the vine,” draw our life from Christ and his kingdom. John 15:4
4. “Mortify our members which are of the earth.” Col. 3:5-7

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We Really Can Do This

- ❖ It is the reality and power of this type of life in individuals that initially moved across the earth from Jesus through his followers.
- ❖ Individuals through history and up to today have continued to have this life.
- ❖ The institutions and traditions of Christianity have always testified to it.

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Note Carefully:

1. These scriptural directives are all the same in this sense: If you do one, you will find you have done the others.
2. There is no question of *earning anything*, but only of receiving and living from “the life from above.” John 3
3. There is no question of perfection, or of being “beyond temptation,” just of doing much, much better.

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For You Individually

1. Explicitly take your place and identity as a disciple of Jesus. Tell him, yourself and others. Spend some time doing this.
2. Consider what you would like to learn from him to do as a child in his kingdom. Be quite specific, but start with a few things.

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For You Individually

3. Be sure you *want* to change in these respects, in your heart of hearts.
4. Begin to learn why you have trouble with the things listed, and what you could do to change inwardly with respect to them. Study these matters with Christ.

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For Example:

1. Is control of your tongue a problem: “No unwholesome word...from your mouth, but only such as is good for edification.” Eph 4:29; “Swift to hear, slow to speak.” James 1:19 and 3:1-12.
2. Looking to lust. Eph. 4:19-22; Col. 3:5; Matt. 5:28. Or covetousness. These are closely allied to:
3. Living in disappointment and dissatisfaction, and thus being vulnerable to temptations of all kinds. Las Vegas?

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Or: On The Positive Side

1. Confidence in praying.
2. Confidence in speaking for Christ.
3. Confidence in hearing God’s voice.

THESE CAN ALL BE LEARNED IN THE SCHOOL OF JESUS CHRIST—
GO THERE; DWELL THERE DAILY.

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What Can Our Churches, Groups Of Disciples, Do?

- ❖ Decide that they want to be whole in Christlikeness and to focus their efforts on that objective, and helping others toward it.
- ❖ That is, take care that this is the clear objective of everything they do.
- ❖ Their aim is not self-perpetuation, or making people “like us,” except insofar as that means “Like Jesus” in real life.

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The Great Commission

- ❖ “I have been give say over everything.”
- ❖ “So make disciples to me as you go among all kinds of people.”
- ❖ “Submerge them in the Trinitarian reality among disciples.”
- ❖ “Teach them how to do everything I said.”
- ❖ “I’m with you every minute.”
- ❖ Matt 28:18-20

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It Will Be A Wrenching Experience

- ❖ Most groups simply are not about this. We don’t say this to condemn. It is simply a fact. Look at what they devote time and attention to.
- ❖ Similarly for individuals: They do not *seek first* God’s reign and his kind of rightness in their life.
- ❖ This not to condemn, but to enable us to begin to deal with the issues, individual and corporate.
- ❖ Please tell me if I am wrong.

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Making A Beginning

- ❖ Revolutions are not helpful. Jesus didn't do them. "Don't think I have come to destroy the law or the prophets." Matt. 5:17
- ❖ Guilt, condemnation ('judgment' in *that* sense), superiority, attack, distancing are not helpful. Humility, tears, truth told in love, and service are. Luke 18:11-14
- ❖ Say: We teach people to do the things Jesus said, by practicing and cultivating inner transformation.

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Just One Thing

- ❖ The individual can start there. What would it be. It doesn't much matter so long as you stay on the path of inward change.
- ❖ What would it be for you?
- ❖ Then our groups could offer help to individuals in their "one thing."
- ❖ Leave the overall group arrangements pretty much in place. They will take care of themselves.

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All We Need

- ❖ We don't need special training, facilities or even a budget.
- ❖ We need to really want inner wholeness.
- ❖ We need to be willing to be very different from what we are.
- ❖ We need to be willing to learn as we go with Jesus throughout our days.
- ❖ We need others to walk with us and before us to help us.

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LET'S DO IT!!

BEGIN NOW!!!

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