

Sharing Christ's Life

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I. Introduction.

A. Every once in a while the spiritual life does not feel in cycle. Something needs to shake one up.

B. The mechanics of sharing Christ's life.

II. The devotional life is like a tree planted by the river. (Jeremiah 17:7,8)

A. Although the tree faced both heat and drought, it survived.

1. The leaves always stayed green and the tree never missed a fruit-bearing season.

2. The secret was that it was planted by the water and its roots were spread out.

B. This is the picture of a Christian whose soul is in contact with Jesus drawing life from Him on a daily basis. (John 15:5, Isaiah 38:31)

1. Defining fruit: the overflow of life for what is required for basic survival.

2. There are three parts of the human soul: mind, affections and the will. These are then the power of the soul. Each of these taproots is a channel by which we make contact with Christ.

III. The taproots of the soul:

A. The mind that is exercised through meditation on the word of God. (Psalm 1:2,3)

1. This is rumination - a cow chews something up and stores it up for later. The cow ruminates in perfect timing without waste. She squeezes the nourishment out of it.

2. We transfer the life of Christ into us in a similar manner. Christ comes in the volume of the book. (Psalm 40:7, John 6:63)

3. One is to meditate day and night. (Psalm 1)

a. The conscious mind makes a transfer to the unconscious mind at night and it becomes restless. But the purpose of the unconscious mind is for dwelling on God's Word.

b. The last thing that a person thinks about during the day should be God's Word so that it will be the first thing he thinks about the next day. (Proverbs 6:22)

B. The affections exercised with communion or prayer. (Jeremiah 31:12; 30:21)

1. God wanted to commune with man. (Exodus 25:22)

2. The tabernacle was a pattern of true fellowship with God. (Hebrews 9:24)
3. Communion is the alternative impact of two personalities that produces a pleasant effect.
 - a. In communion with God we talk with Him about the things most real to us.
 - b. Time passes fast when we are in communion with God.
 - c. Time is relative to the enjoyment we have with someone.
 - d. There needs to be deference in one's approach to God as there was for the Jews with the tabernacle.

C. The will - trusting in the Lord and choosing obedience. (Psalm 37:3)

1. If we want our souls fed we are to do good.
2. There are two laws: the law of the Spirit and the law of sin. (Romans 8:2)
 - a. Every reversal represents a choice which we are to make.
 - b. The Lord allows an opportunity for service or temptation so that we might grow in obedience.
3. The life of Christ comes into us as we satisfy the needs of the hungry and the afflicted. (Isaiah 58:11-12)
4. He that waters will be watered. (Proverbs 11:25)
5. We too often miss the signals of service. (Psalm 123:2)

III. Conclusion.

A. God is looking at us and is able and ready to supply the nourishment that our soul needs. (Isaiah 27:3)

B. We can share Christ's life and enable Him to share ours. (John 15:5)

Application questions.

1. What are the three taproots of the soul? How do these connect to the mind, affections, and the will?

2. In what ways do involvement in the Word, prayer, and obedience overlap? How are they distinct? What are ways that all three can be incorporated throughout the day?

3. How should your devotional life look different in light of the message? What aspects of the devotional life do you plan to work on? How?
