

Importance of Private Communion With God

Introduction

- I missed being with you all!
 - To say I am **excited to be back** is an understatement!
 - I believe that God has something very **special in store** for each and everyone of you this fall!
 - **I love the youth ministry** because it's where students begin to take **ownership** of their faith and it truly becomes their own.
 - I believe in a few months you are not going to even **recognize** the person you used to be if you decide your going to take your faith seriously
 - I promise you if you put **God first** and your relationship with him you will **never be the same!**
- Tonight we are in week two of a **new sermon series** that I am very excited for.
 - **Am I Really Saved?**

New

- We are doing something new this fall
 - Under your chairs you each have a fill in the blank notes.
 - We are going to supply you each week with your own detailed notes so you can follow along.
 - Since you now have paper notes we strongly encourage you for this time during the teaching that you keep your phones away.
 - I love my phone but I also realize that more times than not my phone is distracting to me.
 - As I go through the sermon you will see on the slides behind me places in your paper where you can fill in the blank.

Let's get into it!

Background

- Jesus heals a man of advanced leprosy
 - Think of the most nasty disease you can think of x10.
- After fully healing this dude on the spot instantly
 - Jesus told him to not tell anyone what had happened.

Verses

Luke 5:15-16 (NLT)

15 But despite Jesus' instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. **16** But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

Title- Whispers In the Wilderness

Action step / main point-

- Today I want to talk to you about this spiritual truth that **Faith is formed in the quiet places.**

Introduction

- **Wherever you look in the Bible** from Genesis to Revelation there is one overarching common theme.
 - **God's Plan of Salvation**
 - Restoration to Salvation
- Old or New Testament
- **Two thousand years ago**, today, and even two thousand years from now!
 - God's plan is **still the same!**
- His **plan** is to bring **salvation to his creation**, which is you and me!
- **What is salvation though?**
 - It is the **act of being saved!**

In this **second part** of, **Am I Really Saved?** I just don't want to talk about the questions on if you are really saved, but **what does it look like to be saved.**

- **God** does not just want to **save you then leave you**
 - **God wants** to **live** with you, **communion** with you, **do life** with you, and **transform** you.
 - See **there are so many benefits** for you when you have an **authentic** and **real relationship** with Jesus. **Not just a Wednesday night relationship** with Jesus.
- **Salvation is not the end goal**
 - It is the **beginning** of a **new life** with Jesus Christ

- Salvation is not just a **get out of hell free card**, but once you have accepted Jesus into your life it is a beginning of a **new journey**, new **life**, and new **identity**.
- Jesus does not just want to be hidden within you he wants to **walk next to you**.

Transition-

- This brings me to my **first point**.

Point 1- Constant Connection

Verse

John 15:4-5 (NLT)

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. 5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

Content-

- **All relationships** take **time**
- All relationships take **connection**
- If you **never take time to connect** with someone, your relationship with them will **never grow**.
- You **can't be bestfriends** with someone if you **never spend any time** with them.
 - **Question**: How often do you and your best friend hangout?
- I love the **verses we read above** because the Gospel of John **paints a symbolic picture** of what it **looks like to be saved** and in **Constant Connection** with Christ.

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- **Jesus is using this metaphor** to explain to us that just **like a branch cannot produce fruit on its own**, we cannot do **what we are called to do** in our life **if we are not connected to God.**
- If we are **not connected to the source**, which is God, we **cannot bear fruit** or **live a fruitful life.**
- If you want to **produce something great with your life**, if you want to live a **purposeful life** and make a **lasting impact** you **must be connected** to the source.

Application

- What does this **mean for you today?**
 - **Make time!**
 - Right now set up a **time and place to connect with God.**
 - **Tell your friends** so they can keep you **accountable.**
 - **Pray to God throughout your day** and not just right before meals
 - Talk to him as you walk the **hallways**
 - Talk to him **at night** before you go to bed and when you **wake up.**

Transition

- I love what **Paul has to say** when it comes to being **constantly pursuing and being connected to Christ.**

Background

- In the **portion of Scripture** I am about to read, **Paul** is reminding this church, this large group of people that **Christ is returning** for those that have a relationship with Him. But he tells them to do this **in the meantime before Christ does return.**

Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT)

“Never stop praying.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18b (NLT)

“for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

Content

- In **Paul's final piece of advice** to this church his instructions are simple. **For those that are connected to the source** which is God, **"Never stop praying."**
- I think if **Paul was here right now**, he would give you the **same advice**.
 - Never stop **praying** to God
 - Never stop **meeting** with God
 - Never stop **talking** to God
 - Never stop **seeking** God
 - Never stop **pursuing** God
 - **Never stop being in CONSTANT CONNECTION with God.**
- What **I have come to learn** in my life is that to be a **true disciple of Jesus** are **disciplined**.
 - A **disciple of Jesus is someone** that is **disciplined in pursuing Him**.
- It can get **hard at times**, life can get **busy**, and things will always be trying to **take your attention** off of God and place it on something else.
- But **when you know the true source**, which is God, you know that your **time with God**, even the **time that no one sees** is the **most important thing** and it **keeps you connected to the source**.
- You might **say to yourself**, "Well David, I understand that I need to be connected to God, **but how do I do that?"**
- Your **relationship with God** is not a **passive relationship**, just like your **relationship with your friends** is not a **passive relationship** where you **do nothing at all**.
- **Your relationship with God** requires you to **be active and take action**.
 - **We cannot** just **spend time with God once a week** when it is **convenient** for us because there is a youth group that puts on a whole service for ua.
 - Just like **branches cannot grow without the vine**, we cannot **grow spiritually by doing nothing** and not being active in our faith.

Closing statement

- I want to give you a **little Illustration** to maybe **show you the importance of consistent** and **constant Connection with God** and how that can help you grow.
 - I want you to **look at your faith like it is a mussel.**
 - How many of you workout, exercise, or play sports?

Illustration

- Lifting weights

Content

- It does not just make you stronger spiritually.
- **When you are connected with God** and you are **consistently pursuing Him** through **praying and reading** your Bible there are **so many benefits** that come from the **time with God.**
 1. **Strengthens** your Faith
 2. **Guidances** and **Wisdom**
 3. **Peace** and **Comfort**
 - a. I promise you, getting closer to the source (God) will make your **fear** and **anxiety flee**
 4. **Joy** and **Fulfillment**
 - a. **True Joy and lasting Fulfillment** can only come from connection with God.
 5. **Healing**
 6. **Hope**
 7. Understanding of **God's Will for your life.**

Application

- What does this **mean for you today?**
 - If you want to grow:
 - You need to be active in your faith
 - You need to be reading your Bible
 - You need to be praying
 - You need to be worshipping
 - You need to be spending time with other Christian friends
 - You need to be showing up to church

- I know there is a **generation of young people** that are **ready to say I am here to grow** and **be in constant connection with God** because there is **no place better** and **more fulfilling** than being **directly connected** to the **one that created me.**

Prayer

- Can I pray for you?