

PART II: The Holy Spirit in Education and Training

Fecha @January 24, 2024

LAST WEEK'S PRACTICE.

Last week's practice was very simple but required being very intentional, as most workouts are. The practice was to start walking and accepting the invitation that the Holy Spirit is making to you to go deeper into Casa Evidencias. It was to do the third and fourth steps of last week's guide, which was to recognize which of the three stages of Casa Evidencias you are in (assistant, member, apprentice), and write what step you were going to take this week to advance

- Who would like to share what step they were going to take and how did it go?
- What was the easiest and what was the most difficult part to carry out this practice?
- What can you do this week to continue doing this practice so that you can continue growing in the stage you are in at Casa Evidencias?

SUMMARY.

This Sunday we continued with our practice; **Training with Effort**. In any training, if we want to advance, we need a coach to guide us to know what we are doing well, to continue doing it, and what we are doing wrong so we don't continue doing it. For three years, in the first century, that rabbi and teacher was Jesus; and when he left he sent a representative to do the same job he was doing. The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, mainly through Bible meditation, is our main guide in our walk and training as we become apprentices of Jesus

SUNDAY'S TEACHING.

- What did the Holy Spirit speak to you (or got your attention) about Sunday's teaching?

2 Timoteo 3:16-17 (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- As you read this verse, does it change your view of the importance of meditating on the Bible every day?
- If the Bible was inspired by God himself and helps you see what is true and what is a lie, corrects you when you are wrong, and prepares and empowers you, why do you think there are more days when you don't read the Bible than days that you do read it? Remember to answer in the first person, or if you read it most days, why do you think there are more days that you read the Bible than those that you don't? Remember to answer in the first person.
- What practical step could you take over the next week to take a step forward in your Bible reading consistency? If you read it only on Sundays or Fridays, what could you do to read it once more during the week, if you read it twice a week, what could you do to read it three times. Something simple but that helps you grow

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE.

The journey of practicing Jesus is not linear and straight, but rather it is seasonal. There is no one way to do it when it comes to following Jesus. This path of apprenticing under Jesus is simply a way of finding ourselves within this house that we call Casa Evidencias and it is an invitation to deepen and grow in our family)

Our community is built around the idea of practicing Jesus. It is important, very important to go to church on Sundays and Fridays and listen to the teaching, but if you stay there it is not of much use. In the words of James, **“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves (James 1:22).”** Let these words challenge you as well as those of the philosopher Dallas Willard, **“Grace is not opposed to effort”**

Remember that in our apprenticing under Jesus, we either move forward or go backwards, it is virtually impossible to stay in the same “place.” Therefore, today we are going to do a simple, but very important practice, so that you can continue growing in your apprenticing of Jesus. Because the reality is, if you're not growing, you're probably “de-growing”

PRACTICE.

As we develop the habit of reading Scripture, we learn to find ourselves in God's story. The Scriptures begin to help us see the world as God sees it and to be formed into his image. There are many ways to engage with the Scriptures, such as reading them, studying them, memorizing them, and praying them, but tonight we are going to use the practice of LECTIO DIVINA to encounter the Spirit through Psalm 21, which is today's Psalm of our plan of reading

LECTIO DIVINA which is a tested way to encounter God in the pages of Scripture. So as we do this, simply notice where you feel the Spirit speaking to you through the text. Pay attention to the posture of your heart, doing your best to open yourself to the voice of God and let the words you hear challenge you, shape you, and bless you. We will follow these five steps to guide our time: Stillness, reading, encounter, apply, devotion

- **Stillness:** To start, let's put aside our phones or any distractions and get into a comfortable but alert position. Let's take a few moments to breathe deeply in and out, centering ourselves before God. Do your best to let go of any worries or thoughts and focus on this moment and on God
- **Read:** Now we are going to read Psalm 21 aloud. Then, each one individually, will read the passage again slowly. As we read both times, pay attention to which verses, phrases, or words catch your attention. Underline it, or make a mark on it
- **Encounter:** Now let's meditate on what The Holy Spirit showed you and highlighted. Reflect and write in the blank space below (or in a notebook where you normally do this) answering the question: **What could The Holy Spirit be telling me?**

- **Apply:** Next, let's name and write what The Holy Spirit might be inviting. Answer the question: **How can I accept and put into practice this invitation that The Holy Spirit is making to me (which I wrote in the previous point); How am I going to put it into practice tonight, tomorrow and next week?**
- **Devotion:** Finally, we will take a moment to write a prayer, committing to what The Holy Spirit has been revealing to us and how we want to be transformed by him and his truth. And thus, being able to trust that it's The Holy Spirit that makes our transformation

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE.

This week we want to continue this practice by setting aside intentional time to read the scriptures daily. Keep in mind that the practice of reading Scripture is intended; **develop a relationship with God and not fill ourselves with information about God.** Read the different reading plans we give you at pre-teens, teens, and young adults

The passages are:

- Thursday: Luke 19 and Psalms 22
- Friday: Luke 20 and Psalms 23-24
- Monday: Luke 21 and Psalms 25
- Tuesday: Luke 22 and Psalms 26
- Wednesday: Luke 23 and Psalms 27

If you already have a daily scripture reading rhythm, consider adding something like Bible memorization to your scripture practice. Simply put, memorization is the process of continually remembering the words, truths, and images that God uses to shape us. Memorization can provide us with a completely new learning path, which can be accessed anywhere and at any time

Next week, we will take the time to hear how we did in this practice of daily scripture reading and meditation