

PART VIII: The Credibility of the Word of God (part ii)



Fecha

@March 6, 2024

LAST WEEK'S PRACTICE.

Last week's practice was to implement the changes you wrote. Be aware of what has been the biggest obstacle during this season and do what you can to overcome it, be intentional in the area that The Holy Spirit has shown you to grow, and continue to grow in the three practices that we have been emphasizing, lectio divina, prayer (based on the Our Father) and meditation on the word of God. And (if it helps you), keep filling out your calendars, and memorize another Bible passage

- Who would want to say the verse from 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 or Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (or suddenly memorized a new one)?
- Who would like to share what was the biggest obstacle they identified last week and how they tried to overcome it? Whether you did it, or not. Just being honest
- Who would like to tell you what has been the area that The Holy Spirit has shown you that you should grow and how it's been?

SUMMARY.

When Adam and Eve were connected to the source of power they could see, and understand. But there was something that could turn off that fountain and God had warned: The day you eat from that tree, you will surely die. When Eve lost trust in God and in his Word, it was the beginning of their disconnection from God. And although they did not stop being living beings, they certainly died, they were disconnected from God. They no longer saw, nor perceived. They stopped relating to God and no longer recognized his voice. In the same way it happens to us today that, although we read the Bible, we do not understand it and we do not recognize it. But there is hope, that you will be regenerated and transformed to connect,

once again, to the loving source of God; For it is through a relationship, communion, as it was in the Garden of Eden, that man is once again connected to God

SUNDAY'S TEACHING.

- What did the Holy Spirit speak to you about Sunday's teaching?

Acts 28:25-27

- What stands out to you most about this passage?
- Have you ever been in a state of disconnection with God where you heard but didn't understand; you saw but you did not comprehend; and your heart was hard? Why do you think you were in this state of disconnection?
- What do you think you can do to not fall again, or never fall into a state of disconnection from God?

PRACTICE AS A COMMUNITY.

Our community is built around the idea of practicing Jesus. It is important to go to church on Sundays and listen to the teaching, but if you stay there it is not of much use. In the words of James, "Don't just listen to the word of God; They have to put it into practice. Otherwise, they are only deceiving themselves. (James 1:22)" That is why our goal should not be just to read the Bible, but to put it into practice

Our culture has taught and forced us to be a generation that thinks about easy, immediate, and short-term satisfaction; but very little growth is obtained that way. The Bible constantly invites us to think about "the world to come," about the fruits we will reap later

Today, we are going to "take a trip to the future" where you are going to imagine that you are in 2025, and you are going to write a letter to your "now self" telling him/her how much the effort in your apprenticing to Jesus was worth it during 2024

First, take a few seconds to think about what your life is like now, the good, the bad, and the ugly. And how would you like it to be on December 31, 2024

Maybe you now suffer from anxiety and depression, and you would like to end up trusting in God. Maybe you don't have a purpose in your life, and you would like to end up with a direction of what God wants to do with you. Maybe you now live selfishly, and by the end of the year you would like to be more generous. It may be that now your emotional and even physical life is disorganized, and you would like to end 2024 putting God at the center

Write what comes to mind in this space

- One or two people I would like to share who wrote

Now, you are going to imagine that you are in our night of worship on December 31, 2024. And you are writing a letter to yourself, in "the past," to your "self," which is on March 6, 2024. And you are going to tell him/her how your life is now and how much it was worth making the effort to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, and to do what Jesus did

You can start by saying: your name, I am on the last day of 2024 and it has not been an easy year. But now, God is the center of your life, you are living in a less accelerated way, in community and, although you still don't know exactly what God wants to do with you for the rest of your life, there is a slightly clearer direction... It was not easy to stop your addiction to your phone or to distraction, it was not easy to get up earlier before going to school, to pray and read the Bible, and many times it felt like it was not worth it and nothing was happening; But now that I'm looking back, I can see that it was a small growth from day to day, but what I see now has been big

Write in a notebook you have (which is what we recommend) or on the back of this sheet. Let the Holy Spirit guide you, as you write, about what he wants to do in you

- One or two people who would like to share what their growth has been

Now, take a few minutes and read that letter to God as a prayer. A request for what you would like Him to help you do. Ask him to give you the discipline, wisdom, and grace, to train yourself with effort during this 2024

You don't have to do it out loud, but we do recommend that you do it audibly. Do your best so that it is not something you only do in your thoughts

- One or two people who would like to share what has been the biggest obstacle they have had so far and why

Fourth, write down a concrete step you are going to take to overcome the obstacle

Write in a notebook you have (this is what we recommend) or on the back of this paper

- One or two people who would like to read their letter

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

The practice of the week is to put this letter in a visible place, perhaps next to the calendars. If you didn't finish it today, or you did it quickly, you can take some time in silence tomorrow to listen to what The Spirit wants to tell you. And, every day before going to bed, read this letter, as a reminder of what God wants to do in your life during 2024. You can also use it as a start in your moments of prayer, asking the Holy Spirit for help to work in you