

Face the Issue:

We began a new series this week based on the life of David. David was described as being a “man after God’s own heart”. That is something that we should all strive for. To be a person that follows the heart of God. As we look at David’s life we will try and discover the things about him that gave him this title and how we can apply these same things to our lives.

This week, Jeremy began at the beginning of the story of David. Until that day that Samuel anointed David, Jeremy shared that he was flying “under the radar”. It wasn’t until the time was right that God revealed to Samuel His plans for David.

God has plans for us but He may not reveal them until we are truly ready to fulfill them. This process of God getting us ready is called sanctification or spiritual growth. The gospel isn’t just about that we will go to heaven. It is also about life on this side of heaven and that God wants to transform our broken, fallen lives into a reflection of His image in all its beauty and glory. Gut to do that we have to be ready and willing to do it.

Into the Word:**Read Philippians 2:12–13.**

Paul says to work out your own salvation, which means your role is important. He goes on to say, “For it is God who works in you.” You’re not doing this project on your own. Sanctification is empowered by God; it’s impossible without Him.

When Paul says, “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling,” he does not mean you should work out your salvation with a sense of anxiety, not knowing whether it’s going to be good enough for God. Instead Paul uses the phrase to refer to a humble attitude of dependence. He’s suggesting we have a role to play, but we don’t control it. We have to be ready to be obedient in the moment and faithful, as Jeremy shared.

Some things we can control; others we can do nothing about. But there is a third category, such as going to sleep. You can’t make yourself go to sleep the way you can make a phone call. But you can get in a dark room, lie down on a soft mattress, turn out the lights, and sleep will come.

Read Philippians 3:7–14

According to this passage, what motivated Paul above all else?

What do you think it means in practical terms to know the power of Christ's resurrection (v. 10)?

What does it look like for you to press on (v. 12) in your pursuit of Christ?

What is the importance of forgetting what lies behind (v. 13)?

Apply The Word

Sanctification should be pursued for the sake of others, not just for our own fulfillment. There is a real danger in pursuing spiritual growth, because if it gets off track it can get individualistic and even narcissistic. The scribes and Pharisees in Jesus' day thought of themselves as very holy, but they didn't love anybody. They were too absorbed with themselves.

The goal of sanctification, in a single word, is *love*. There is a huge difference between being sanctified and being sanctimonious. Yet sometimes people get them mixed up. The goal of sanctification is loving persons.

God loved you when you were hardest to love. God wants to sanctify you, and that is not some spiritual project or piece of optional equipment. That is God's destiny for you. If you miss out on that, you miss out on what you were made for. God's intent is to sanctify you so you can love as God loves.

Look for ways you can be obedient in the moment to the ways that God wants to sanctify you.