

Living Abundantly

Troubling The Darkness - Week 11 (9-14-22)

James 2:17-20

Some aspects to living require more effort and intentionality than others.

I. Signs of a living organism

A. Nutrition - Romans 10:17

1. absorbs materials for growth/energy
2. We absorb the Word of God, and revelation from the Holy Spirit.
 - a) digestion takes time. It's not instantaneous.
3. Are you feeding your spirit well?
 - a) good nutrition, balanced with physical activity, regular meals

B. Respiration

1. Breath of life/God's spirit breathing life
2. "Practicing the presence of God"
 - a) John 15 - Abiding in the vine
 - (1) Science to make observation about life, but can't explain where life actually comes from.
 - (2) The truth is that life only exists because God breathed His breath of life into that person or thing. Science and technology can some amazing things, but it will never be able to create life.
 - b) Jeremiah 2:13 & 17:13

C. Sensitivity

1. God gave us the ability to feel pain for a reason
 - a) Conviction/correction - Hebrews 12:4-11
2. Sensing the Holy Spirit
 - a) The Holy Spirit should be your first teacher!
 - (1) 1 John 2:27
 - (a) Our pastors have been called to lead, feed, and protect us but we must be able to hear the Holy Spirit for ourselves.
 - (b) Our pastors should be confirming to us what we are already hearing from the Holy Spirit.
3. Is our heart pricked when we experience or see evil?
 - a) Hebrews 5:13-14 - exercise your senses to discern both good and evil.

D. Movement

1. We need to be moving!
2. Is your faith moving you to act?
3. What is our faith's reaction to the darkness that we experience and see?
 - a) Our faith should cause us to want to retaliate or to hold even tighter God and His word.

- b) Are we too asleep to properly respond to the evil taking place around us? or the good around us?

E. Excretion

- 1. Get rid of what you don't need... the waste
- 2. Romans 12:1-9
- 3. Mark 4:18-19 - We need to do the work to get rid of the weeds

F. Growth

- 1. Anything that is alive must experience growth at some point.
- 2. As Christians we should be growing and developing in the things of God.
- 3. Food and exercise - Word and practice
- 4. Growth should happen naturally as long as good nutrition and exercise is provided.

G. Reproduction

- 1. Discipleship!
- 2. If you're not making disciples your faith isn't alive.
 - a) This IS a requirement as a Christian. - Matt. 28:19
 - (1) The great commission is something that God expects of all of us.
 - b) There is something wrong if we do not want to share the most important information people will ever hear.
 - (1) There is a reason God made reproduction enjoyable.
 - (a) not just being a part the first step but also "parenting" these new creations in Christ on into maturity.
 - (2) We should be eager to be making new disciples!