



LET'S GO DEEPER

SERMON NOTES - Have a Health Check - October 27 - Pastor Peter

Ephesians 4:14-16 "Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

1. The Foundation

Spiritual growth always has a foundation.

There's always something upon which spiritual growth is based.

Col. 1:15-18 "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see - such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him. He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is His body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So He is first in everything."

Jesus is the Foundation and Source and Lord of all.

But it's even more focused than just general creation and general revelation.

Jesus is the foundation of spiritual life.

Acts 4:12 "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

The only way to have spiritual life. The only way to have spiritual health. Is to find new life in Jesus.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is it possible for relationships to lose their warmth over time?

2. Do you feel your relationship with God has grown cold?

3. If so, what can you do to reignite the fire?



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If we've drifted from the Foundation we can ask God to reignite the fire.

2. Build On The Foundation

Jesus is the foundation but we also have a part to play in spiritual growth. Jesus is a firm foundation but then we need to build.

Mark 12:30 "You are to love the Lord your God with a passionate heart, from the depths of your soul, with your every thought, and with all your strength. This is the great and supreme commandment."

What does it really mean to love Jesus like that and how is it shown? How do we build spiritual growth in our own lives?

Jesus is happy to give us some help.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commands."

Decades later, the same disciple who records those words, John, reinforces them in another place.

2 John 6 "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands. As you have heard from the beginning, His command is that you walk in love."

Love for Jesus goes beyond feelings which aren't always consistent, and it lands on the level of obedience to what He asks.

The level of our obedience is in direct proportion to the depth of our love. The more I love Him, the more I'll obey Him.

3. Put the Foundation First

The way we do all that is by putting and keeping the foundation, Jesus first.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are the risks of building a relationship solely on feelings?

2. How do God call us to action our faith in him?

3. Is obedience in direct proportion to the depth of our love for God?



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We want Jesus to be number one.

Exodus 20:3-5 “You must not have any other god but Me. ‘You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.’”

God wants to be first. God doesn't want anything or anyone to be more important to us than Him.

1 John 5:21 “Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.”

The Greek literally says, ‘keep yourselves from idols.’

How do we keep Jesus first?

We Take An Honest Look

Psalms 139:23,24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”

Reflect on how you live your life in the light of Jesus being first?

We Trust God

And we trust God.

We can trust God. We can trust what God says. And we can trust what God does.

Phil. 1:6 “I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

He started spiritual growth in you, and He'll finish it.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do God want to be first in our lives?

2. Why do you think we are propense to idolizing other people or things?

3. How do we put God first?
