

## Hillcrest Chapel – Prodigal 2010

“Seeking the presence of Jesus is the essence of repentance.” (Jim Murphy)

- ✓ Luke 3:16-17 “John answered and said to them all, ‘As for me, I baptize you with water; but He who is mightier than I is coming, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He Himself will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire. And His winnowing fork is in His hand to clean out His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’”

What is the “chaff” in your life? {anger, lust, materialism, isolation, addictions, control; it’s all about me, not Him; demandingness} How is it affecting your relationship with Jesus? What are its roots?

- ✓ John 15:16-17 “You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one another.”

The more I understand what love requires, the more I realize how poorly I am apparently able to love, and the more awed I become by Christ’s love.

What is preventing me (& you) from really being able to love? Why do I need to? Deal with:

- ❖ Pain in your heart – Don’t stuff, it. Take it to Him.
- ❖ Sin in your behavior – Recognize, confess, repent, be accountable
- ❖ **Sin in your heart** – it may not be what you think (& probably isn’t)

If we are to love genuinely, we must first pull up the evil root of denial and self-protection in our sinful heart.

Jeremiah 17:9-10a “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind....” Do you trust yourself to objectively assess your internal issues? Why?

What are our resources for attacking the root issues in our lives?

- **The Word of God:** Do it all for the purpose of better knowing God, yourself, and others so you become more loving. We must come to the Bible with the purpose of self-exposure consciously in mind. We must approach the text in order to see ourselves more clearly – allow the Sword of the Spirit to penetrate our soul.
  - ✓ Hebrews 4:12-13 “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”
  - ✓ 2 Tim 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”
  - ✓ Romans 14:23b “..... and whatever is not from faith is sin.”
  - ✓ 1 Corinthians 8:1b-3 “Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. If any one supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; but if any one loves God, he is known by Him.”

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- **The Spirit of God:** typically thought of in terms of fullness, indwelling, sealing, baptism - how about searching of the Spirit? We must figure out how to let the Spirit of God make us aware of what He sees. What gets in the way of His work? Problems – our focus, our goals, our interests, our self-centeredness, our choices, our self protection...
  - ✓ Eph 4:30 “And do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”
  - ✓ 1 Thessalonians 5:19 “Do not **quench** the Spirit.”
  - ✓ Ephesians 5:18 “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit...”
  - ✓ Luke 1:15 “For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother’s womb.”
  - ✓ John 16:13-15 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you.”
  - ✓ Ephesians 1:13-14 “In Him, you also after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”
  - ✓ Psalm 139:23 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the everlasting way.”
  - ✓ Proverbs 20:27 “The Spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the innermost parts of his being.”
  - ✓ Psalm 51:10-12 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord, take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and renew a right spirit within me.”
- **The people of God:**
  - ✓ Galatians 6:1-2 “Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.”
  - ✓ Hebrews 10:23-25 “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”

Each resource is available to replace the blindness of self-deceit with a clear vision of integrity.