

Questions for Small Group Use and Personal Reflection

1) WHAT DISCIPLINES BEST HELP YOU EXPERIENCE GOD?

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD... Jeremiah 29:13-14

Bible study Worship Serving
 Prayer Fellowship Mission
 Fasting Accountability _____

2) WHAT BARRIERS ARE HINDERING YOU FROM EXPERIENCING GOD?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the LORD... Psalms 24:4-5

- SIN

Materialism Pride Sexual Lust
 Laziness Gluttony Envy
 Self-centeredness Anger Lying

Other Sin: _____

- IDOLATRY

You shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3

What do you put ahead of God?

What are you going to do to change it?

I've Got Questions...

What Does a Normal Christian Look Like? How do I Know If I'm Lukewarm or Backslidden?

Revelation 4

Grace Fellowship Church, April 25, 2010, Pastor André Rusch

Revelation 4:14-18 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. “ ‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.’”

- Does your own spiritual estimate of yourself match up with God’s knowledge of what you really are?

Three categories

HOT: YOU ARE GROWING.

...your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. **2 Thessalonians 1:3**

COLD: YOU DO NOT KNOW GOD YET.

...He who sent me is true. You do not know (God), but I know him because I am from him and he sent me. **John 7:28-29**

LUKEWARM: YOU ARE DRIFTING.

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. **Hebrews 2:1**

“One of the great mistakes we’ve made in modern Christianity is approaching God *deductively* as an object of knowledge instead of approaching Him *inductively* as the cause of wonder...God is more than factual. He is wonderful...The mind is educated with facts, but the soul is educated with beauty and mystery...” Mark Batterson, *Primal*, pg. 53

So, how does this happen, this drifting, this deceptive trap that we all are susceptible to?

Was there a time in your life that you were honestly closer to God than you are today?

Two of the most common barriers which cause us to drift away from God

If there was another point in your life that you were closer to God than you are today, God didn’t move.

I. Sin- Greek- *hamartia*, and it literally means “missing the mark”.

I Corinthians 15:34 “Come back to your senses as you ought, and, and stop sinning.” *Stop doing that which breaks fellowship with God.*

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

For those of you that say, “Well, I can’t overcome something,” let this speak to you.

I Corinthians 10:13 “...God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond that which you can bear. When you are tempted, he will also provide a way out.” *There is always a way out!*

II. Idolatry

Exodus 23 “You shall have no other gods before me”.

Matt. 13:44-45 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

Jeremiah 2:13 “For my people have committed two evils, they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

■ **When you look at your stuff and you are bummed out, then you don’t get it.**

Conclusion:

The common theme to the 7 churches- **Repent & Return.**

Revelation 2:4-5 “... You have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember the height from which you have fallen, (*remember how intimate you used to be with Him?*) “Repent and do the works (*things*) you did at first.”

Go back and do what you did if you want what you had. That prescription never changes! It may be that you go back and do some of the following:

Fasting, bible study, prayer, worship, getting back into your small group, getting in a SG, getting into counseling, serving somewhere in the church, getting into the missions development program here at GFC, accountability for a specific area you are struggling in.

What is it that connects you best with God? It is so easy to spiritually drift. Not only do we have busy schedules and everything else vying for our attention, we have an enemy that is seeking to destroy each of us. We must stay close. We must stay connected. We must cleanse ourselves from sin and cast down every idol that might compete for our affections. You can be hot, you can be cold, but **DO NOT BE LUKEWARM!**