

Gospel Christianity

How Do You Practice What You Believe?

How Do You Follow Jesus??

You follow Jesus in a relationship of non-negotiable allegiance that joyfully dies to self-obsession so you can be sold out to Christ's glory & kingdom (cause).

Acts 4:13 *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that **these men had been with Jesus.***

How do you "be with Jesus"???

How do you meet with Jesus personally???

How do you meet Jesus in the real you so that your heart is captivated by his love for you and fired by love for him in a life of joyful devotion to Christ



How Do You Meet Jesus Personally?

MEDITATION

To ponder, relish, rehearse God's truth until it becomes so real to your heart that you are made deeply conscious of God, are drawn to him in prayer, and are changed in attitude and living.

The Psalms are extended meditations

- You taste the messiness, complexity, ups & downs of life
- Into the reality of life, the Psalmist is made deeply conscious of God, is drawn to him in prayer and is changed

Psalm 1 introduces the entire book of Psalms in a call to a life of mediation



How Do You Meet Jesus Personally?

Psalm 1 introduces two ways of life

3 paragraphs... 2 verses each... comparing these 2 ways of life

- The two lifestyles (1:1-2)
- The experience of the two lifestyles (1:3-4)
- The consequences of the two lifestyles (1:5-6)

How Do You Meet Jesus Personally?

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Comparison of a Tree vss Chaff

- A life that is useful vss useless
 - A life that is stable vss unstable
 - A life that is fruitful vss barren
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- The consequences of the two lifestyles (1:5-6)

How Do You Meet Jesus Personally?

Both ways of life are the product of MEDITATION

“walks in the counsel of the wicked” (1:1)

Counsel...a form of wisdom and thinking about life

**We're hearing messages all the time about wisdom for living
...how to get blessed**

Instead of meditating on God's truth...

there is a way of life that meditates on the wisdom of the world

**When you walk through life meditating on this counsel
...when it is the primary input your heart is pondering**

- it leads to a way of life (“standing in the way”)**
- and an allegiance of the heart (“sitting...settling in”)**



How Do You Meet Jesus Personally?

Both ways of life are the product of MEDITATION

*“ his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he MEDITATES day and night.” (1:2)*

The God of the Bible is a personal God who speaks...who reveals Himself to us

God speaks into our world/lives

- **Through Creation (*Psalm 19:1-6*)**
- **Through Scripture (*Psalm 19:7-14*)**
- **Through His Son**

John 1:14 *The Word became flesh* and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



How Do You Meet Jesus Personally?

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and on his law he MEDITATES day and night.” (1:2)*

TM vss CM

CM is not emptying the mind through a secret word revealed...
but the filling of the mind and heart with God’s word/truth revealed

To ponder, relish, rehearse God’s truth until it becomes so real to your heart that you are made deeply conscious of God, are drawn to him in prayer, and are changed in attitude and living.

How Do You Meet Jesus Personally?

How Is a Tree Like a Meditating Person???

Growing in a life of meditation takes time...

...like a tree putting down roots

- Slowing down your life – making unhurried time to be still before God

Mediation is pursuing God in his Word, like a thirsty tree looks for water

Psalm 63:1 *A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.
O God, you are my God, **earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.***



How Do You Meet Jesus Personally?

How Is a Tree Like a Meditating Person???

Meditation always leads to real life change – “fruit”

Torah (*Law*)...comes from a verb which means to throw something to hit its mark – eg. a javelin

**The Scriptures are not simply words to study for useful information,
but energies hurled at the heart**

Meditation leads to health, not to immunity from drought

Like a tree...which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. (1:3)



How Do You Meet Jesus Personally?

Meditation

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1 Corinthians 2:9-12

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- 10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

“Spirit can only be known by spirit – God’s Spirit and our spirit in open communion.”

