

Family Life - Glorifying God in our families
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY - There is Hope!

Good morning everyone,

Let's pray together.....

Let's review the verse together that we are memorizing together as a body....

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will STRENGTHEN you, I will HELP you, I will UPHOLD you with my RIGHTEOUS right hand.

THIS IS A PERSONAL AND INTIMATE VERSE FROM OUR GOD!

- * This promise was made to Israel as they were faced with enemy nations and yet God was and is the avenger of those chosen by Him.
- * We have no reason to fear in our current circumstances
- * God is with us and for us! There is no better security than that!
- * As many in the world worship themselves and the creation, we are in Christ and God is our All in All!
- * God supernaturally strengthens us, He is our Helper, No-one can snatch us out of the fathers hand who UPHOLDS us! and all that is God and flows from God is right and righteous and exactly what He wills for us and our families.
- * There is much comfort in this!!

PROVERBS 3:5 was the verse for our younger ones;
Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

Last week as part of our introduction we discussed that there are times and seasons that we feel defeated, ill equipped weak and overwhelmed as we consider the part God has placed us in our families...

And this often is because we are allowing our circumstances....to define us and to be the source of fulfillment or validation of our failings!

Have you ever noticed that Our hearts are so quick to gravitate towards temporal stuff that we think will give us satisfaction, peace, fulfillment.

- and we have the many inputs of the culture around us saying... stop and listen to me.... if you think THIS way or do this or buy this —the exchange for you time, attention, devotion and resources will be happiness, health, great relationships, wisdom insight or what ever!

The culture is constantly messaging a me first view and that our best can be mustered up inside of us on our own.... and when we have a measure of this kind of success, our pride is fed...

1 Peter 5:5 we see that we are to clothe ourselves in humility and that our God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble...

Jeremiah 9:23-24 says;

23 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,
24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

So if you and i want true WISDOM to live by and to live fruitful, peaceful lives that encourage our spouses and kids and grandkids and our brothers and sisters in Christ....
**we need to be committed to a lifestyle of learning; learning more of God and what He teaches us and how that matters every day as we deny self, kill sin and point ourselves and family back to the HOPE we have in Christ!

- The ending verses in 1 Corinthians Paul spells out that unbelievers see the truth of the gospel as foolishness and that all boasting is in its fullness is in CHRIST alone - and the life He now affords us is eternally linked and empowered by our newness in Him and the power of His word and sealing of the Holy Spirit.

An article i was reading last week from Desiring God really is a good reminder and challenge for us as a spiritual discipline that will result in wisdom from above, spiritual growth and peace that will rightly equip us for each day..... its not profound.... its just enormously helpful;

- Make it a habit to meet with God DAILY..... duhh but are each of us doing this?
 - PLACE, PLAN, and a PLATE (Bible, Pen, Notebook)

Break out into groups to discuss the importance of the habit and both the benefit and consequence when our faithfulness in this area begins to wane.

So work on ;

1. Why is it important to have a daily (Place, Plan and Plate) discipline of being in Gods word and how is this helpful in your God given roles as Husband - Dad or Wife - mom ? (Psalm 119, 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Tim 2:15, Col 3:17, Hebrews 4:12, Joshua 1:8, Romans 15:4-7, Matt 4:4)
2. What are the consequences we encounter when we don't have this P³ approach to our personal time with God? (Col 2:4-10, James 4:6, 1 Peter 1:13-25, Eph 2:1-10, Psalm 119:28, 32, 14)