

Dgroup Discussion Guide for May 20, 2018

Don't Fall for Wordly Success, Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Scripture: 1 John 2:15-16

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

DON'T FALL FOR WORLDLY SUCCESS

God views success and achievement very differently from how the world views it. From His point of view, success has nothing to do with fame or fortune, but instead with pursuing and doing God's will in our lives. It is about submitting to the Holy Spirit, as He remakes our bodies into His temple, so that He can give us the power to live as God us to live. It has everything to do with allowing ourselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can become the person God designed us to be. This way, we can truly be the light our dark world needs.

But in the culture in which we live, we are often so willing to barter the important things in Christ in exchange for getting us to the top of the world. These things serve as the cost of gaining achievements; it brings with it landmines of compromises that can eventually destroy us.

Integrity – Integrity is doing what we say we will do. Integrity is very important and it is never measured by a percentage. We either have integrity or do not have it.

Marriage and Family – Marriage and Family are given by God so that people can share life together, but some sacrifice marriage and family for the sake of becoming successful in business or in career.

Personal Health – Some people are so engrossed into achieving things to the point of neglecting and eventually destroying their health.

A LIFE PLEASING TO GOD

How can we live a life that pleases God and succeed in what He wants us to be and to do?

1. Turn your life and resources over to God. Seek out His plan and will. God wants us to let Him be in charge of our lives. This is difficult to do because oftentimes we do not want to lose control of what we are doing. But when we turn everything over to God, we put ourselves in a position where God blesses us and shows us His greatness and His power.
2. Acknowledge that what you have belongs to the Lord. We should tithe for at least three reasons:
 - a. Simple obedience to God's Word.
 - b. God's blessings as a byproduct but not necessarily a motivation for giving.
 - c. The ministry of sharing to people the Good News about Jesus through evangelism and missions.

3. Present your body as a living sacrifice to the Lord. Scripture says we are not our own; we were bought for a price and the price was the very blood of Jesus Christ.
 - a. We are awesome creations made in God's image.
 - b. Each morning is an opportunity for us to talk to God in prayer, to walk with Him, be guided and be used by Him.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

TRANSFORMATION is the result of two things:

1. Knowledge of God's will revealed in the Bible.
2. The enabling and empowering of the Holy Spirit to give strength, wisdom and insight far beyond what we can do any other way.

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A Spirit-filled life is a command for all believers. It is not a super deluxe edition of the Christian life that is reserved only for a few super Christians.

A Spirit-filled life is the key to spiritual power. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a destination but a regular occurrence and a lifestyle as we live and walk in Him. It is a lifestyle that can be seen by our family members and the people around us. The following are steps that we can take towards experiencing a Spirit-filled life:

- a. Recognize your need to be filled with the Spirit (John 7:27-30). We need spiritual power to be on top of things and not be driven by the culture of the world.
- b. Confess any known sin in your life (Hebrews 4:13; 16). If we are to be Spirit-filled Christians, we need to forsake that which we know is wrong. God wants a clean vessel. So let us come clean with God if we desire Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit.
- c. Give yourselves to God with complete and absolute dedication. This active commitment means that we hold nothing back. We yield our lives to God because we know He loves us and He wants the very best for us.
- d. Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13). Be alone with God, get on your knees and tell God you desire the fullness of His Spirit in your life.
- e. Accept filling of the Spirit by faith with thanksgiving and begin walking in obedience to the Lord (Galatians 3:13-14).

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is emptying ourselves, letting the Holy Spirit fill us, and presenting our bodies to the Lord that He may control, guide, and direct us. When we are filled with the fullness of the Lord, the fruit of the Holy Spirit is the undeniable evidence in our life, and we experience loving people radically.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Worldly Success. Are we still living a life measured by worldly successes and achievements? How would we describe a successful life?
2. Transformed Life. Are we living a life pleasing to God? Is there still any sin in our life that we are unable to give up? How are we allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us? Do we spend time in prayer with God? Do we listen to His messages to us through His Word, through godly people, through events in our life? How sensitive are we to the leading of the Holy Spirit?
3. Be Filled with the Holy Spirit. Have we ever asked God to fill us with the Holy Spirit? What is holding us back?
 - a. Go through steps a to e. And discuss how we can intentionally commit to doing this in our lives.