

MCC Midweek Devotion

Tuesday – July 7th - 2020

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Scripture Passage: John 14:6 - Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (NIV)

Devotional: “The True-Self” Part 3 of 3

Here is a beautiful, inescapable Truth: The Christian journey is only possible because of Jesus Christ - because of the perfect life He lived - because of His death on the cross - because of the victory He won through His resurrection from the dead. The only way we can be with our Maker and hear what He has to say about us is through Jesus. John 14:6 gives us some pictures of what that looks like.

Jesus is The Life: On Thursday I wrote, “You can live out of your original design, your True Self, because Jesus lives in you.” Jesus said this Truth - “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” We might ask, full of what? The answer is found in Galatians: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, & Self-Control. A life full of these in abundance. Christ-in-you is the source of all of these. When we show up in our True Self, connected to Jesus, it is there we experience LIFE as He intended.

Any “life” apart from Christ is not life at all – it is death. Romans 3:16 says, “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Spiritual, emotional, & relational death are earned when I choose to live life my own way as the False Self, believing the lies of ‘the thief.’ But LIFE that comes from Christ-in-you is simply a gift that you did nothing to earn – all you can do is receive it. This life does not last for just a moment – no, this life as the True Self is promised for all of eternity.

There is another important reality regarding living as the True Self and it connects back to what I wrote last week about 2 Timothy 1:7 - “*For God did not give us a spirit of fear. He gave us a spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind.*” Often, we understand the “spirit of power,” and the “spirit of love, but what about the “sound mind” part, we don’t want to just skip that, do we? A sound mind is a clear mind, self-controlled, disciplined, with unclouded judgement. The True Self has this kind of a mind. The True Self clearly sees that the self-destructive thoughts I have and my sins (past and present) are not me. The True Self recognizes with clarity that the False-Self is sometimes how I show up, but by the Grace of God, it isn’t me. Let me repeat that: The True Self recognizes with clarity that the False-Self is sometimes how I show up, but by the Grace of God, it isn’t me.

I invite you at this moment to connect with your True Self. First, identify a way you are showing up sinfully or immature in your life, AKA how you are currently living out of your False-Self. Now, invite the Holy Spirit to do His work in that area of your life. This isn’t about trying to destroy or fix the False-Self, because destroying & fixing are a way of striving & earning. Jesus didn’t do that - He poured Grace over it all through His death and resurrection. The same is true of the True Self, Christ-in-you. The True Self with a sound mind accepts the False-Self as reality, and then, trusting Jesus’ completed work, just simply leaves it at the foot of the cross in the never-ending river of God’s grace, where it belongs.

Take a few minutes, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to accept your False Self, release it, and then choose to live the gift of holiness that Christ-in-you is already living. Amen.