

MCC Midweek Devotion

Tuesday - June 30th - 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 1 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 Way: The Way to do what? The Way to go where? Jesus is The Way back to our originally intended design in The Garden. Look at these verses: 2 Corinthians 13:5 - "*Or do you not realize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you?*" Galatians 2:20 - "*I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.*" Colossians 1:27 - "*Christ is in us, the hope of glory.*" 1 Corinthians 3:16 - "*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells within you?*" There are many, many more verses that proclaim the Truth that Christ is within us, that the Holy Spirit lives inside you and inside me.

I believe the only WAY that transformation has occurred in my heart is not because of anything special I did, or any specific retreats I went on, or because the leaders in my life are super amazing, but because God was inside of me, transforming me. In 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul writes "*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.*" Have you experienced that powerful work of the Holy Spirit before? When the Holy Spirit inside of you removed the spirit of fear that was controlled by lies? And then perhaps He replaced it with power? Or perhaps you received His love? Maybe a combination of both?

If you have, I want to remind you, it wasn't just Christ-in-you that did the work, but it was Christ-in-us. Ephesians 4 talks about how all of us together make up the Body of Christ so we can be the embodiment of His hands and feet in this world. It is Christ-in-us that fights with you and for you, so that you can no longer have a spirit of fear, but of God's power & love. It is Christ-in-you and Christ-in-us that is the only Way back to the Truths God longs for you to discover about yourself.

On Thursday, I will write more about these Truths, but for now I ask you to meditate on this: In yourself you have nothing, but Christ-in-you gives you everything you need for holy living. What other "ways" do you seek transformation or holiness? When people need advice or support what "way" do you point them to? What makes it hard to believe that by the Grace of God "The Way" is already inside of you?