

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

October 26th

Daily Devotional #26

We Are in the Season of Listening

As We Ask, "What Is GOD Preparing Us/for Us to Do?"

An introduction to "Listening" (part 3 of 3)...

*"All this I have spoken while still with you.
But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name,
will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you..."*

John 14:25–27a (NIV84)

I love that John (obviously through the counsel and guidance of GOD) leaves us this great insight to the character (and priority) of the Holy Spirit. I love, too, the significance this character quality plays in our GOD-following life, and in our Listening.

Here's what I mean... The Counselor (also translatable as "Helper", "Advisor", "Advocate") is sent to us to help us in matters of Godliness, which, for the GOD-follower, is all of life. Specifically, The Helper's task is to "teach" us and "remind" us of everything Jesus has said to us.

Keep in mind, this "teaching and reminding" task is from GOD's perspective, not ours. We tend to read "teaching and reminding" and think of two different things. I sit down at the feet of a teacher and they instruct me so that I learn something new. Then, a few days/weeks later, I review my notes so that I'm reminded of what I learned so I am prepared for the test.

This is not what Jesus is describing.

When Jesus says the Holy Spirit will teach us and remind us of everything He said to us, it is a singular task/action and result He is describing. That singular task is to join with us and help us to remember (remind us) the things we have heard from Jesus (our reading and memorizing of Scripture), and then through that recollection, help us to more fully understand, comprehend, and incorporate into our lives the wisdom, goodness, and glory of the Scripture He is helping us truly learn.

Sometimes this happens multiple times over the years with the same Scripture! Just ask Ken Thornton! As he so brilliantly put it last Wednesday at Bible Study, "sometimes I read a Scripture I've read a thousand times, and say, 'When did THAT get in there?'" GOD, through the Spirit, teaches us what we already know, but more and more deeply!

It is imperative that we know our Bible's. We need to consume and gobble up the Word of GOD so that He has something (incredibly good!) to teach us! Rich Atchley put it this way (ACU Summit, 2012):

*Improve your hearing by devouring the Word...
If your Bible is not open... neither are your ears!!!*

This is how GOD chooses to “partner” with us. He is not revealing new ideas or laws. He is more fully teaching us, helping us live, the Scriptures He has given us that we are studying and hungering to understand. That’s what happens in Listening! We are reminded of what we already know and taken, through the character and work of the Spirit, to deeper places of understanding and living. ***Through proper Listening, we are being engaged by GOD, through the Spirit, and therein being transformed for Kingdom Living!***

I love this idea! And I love that the disciples, even though they walked with Jesus for about three years, heard Him teach, witnessed the miracles, saw the crucifixion, and celebrated with Him the resurrection – in person! – needed this teaching and reminding. In John chapter two, Jesus clears the Temple courts of the money changers (they were turning “Father’s house into a market!” and not respecting it for what it was). In the ensuing “discussion”, Jesus tells them if they “destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” Jesus is scoffed at by the leaders. Now, look at what John records for us concerning these conflicts...

¹⁷ *His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for Your house will consume Me.”*

John 2:17 (NIV84)

²² *After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.*

John 2:22 (NIV84)

See that??? In verse seventeen, the disciples *remember* what they already knew about the Scripture. And in verse twenty-two, they *recall* what Jesus had said, and then ***believe*** (for John, “believe” means taking action, living it) the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken. The Spirit *reminded them and taught them what they already knew*. And the Spirit does the same for and with us.

That’s Listening.

That’s engaging with GOD and being transformed for Kingdom Living.

This is our opportunity!