

Series DM Session 7 100424 Experience of Faith Themes Hor

Main Themes

1. **Experiential Faith:** The session revolves around understanding faith not just as a belief system but as an experiential reality that involves the active engagement of the believer in their relationship with God. The focus is on experiencing God's life and grace as a personal reality rather than as mere theological concepts.
2. **Spiritual Maturity and Growth:** Emphasizes the journey of growing in spiritual maturity, which includes developing discernment and deepening one's awareness of God's presence. Participants are encouraged to move beyond basic beliefs and cultivate a deeper experiential knowledge of God.
3. **Unity of Faith:** Stresses the importance of unity within the faith community, where believers co-participate in the life of God and support each other through shared spiritual experiences and personal testimonies.
4. **Discernment and Spiritual Faculties:** The development of spiritual faculties such as discernment and spiritual sensitivity is highlighted as essential for recognizing God's guidance, distinguishing His voice from distractions, and making decisions aligned with His will.
5. **The Transformative Power of God's Grace:** God's grace is presented as more than an attribute—it is the essence of God that transforms believers' lives and leads to spiritual self-awareness, growth, and a deeper relationship with Him.

Topics

1. **Scriptural Study:** Examines scriptural references like Hebrews 11, Ephesians, and 1 John to illustrate the experience of faith through the lives of biblical figures.
2. **Faith in Action:** Discusses how faith manifests through actions, obedience, and trust in God's promises, as seen in the examples of Abel, Noah, and other figures from Hebrews 11.
3. **Personal Prayer Life:** Encourages participants to engage in prayer as a means of aligning with God's will, gaining spiritual insight, and deepening their experience of God's presence.
4. **Spiritual Disciplines:** Highlights the importance of daily spiritual practices such as study, reflection, and prayer in cultivating an experiential faith and becoming more sensitive to God's presence.

Concepts

1. **Co-Participation with God:** The idea that believers are not passive recipients of God's grace but active participants in its unfolding in their lives. This involves being vessels for God's transformative work and allowing His grace to shape every aspect of their being.
2. **Sabbath Rest:** The concept of resting in God's completed work and trusting in His life as our own, moving away from striving for holiness through human effort.
3. **Progressive Sanctification:** The critique of a purely theological view of progressive sanctification, advocating instead for a focus on the immediate, experiential reality of God's indwelling life.

Directives

1. **Reflect on Personal Experiences of Grace:** Participants are instructed to recognize and testify to God's grace in their daily lives, seeing His hand at work even in ordinary situations.
2. **Cultivate Spiritual Sensitivity and Discernment:** Encouraged to develop spiritual faculties that help distinguish God's voice from other influences and to act boldly on His guidance.
3. **Engage in Personal and Communal Prayer:** Directives are given to deepen the personal prayer life and participate in communal prayer, fostering unity and a shared experience of God's presence.
4. **Study Scripture with a Focus on Experience:** Exhorted to read scripture not merely for intellectual knowledge but for an experiential encounter with God's life and grace.

Exhortations

1. **Pursue a Deeper Understanding of God's Life:** Encouraged to go beyond superficial beliefs and engage in a deeper pursuit of knowing God intimately through His indwelling presence.
2. **Embrace God's Grace as the Essence of Transformation:** Urged to view grace as the active essence of God's being that transforms thoughts, actions, and spiritual awareness.
3. **Testify to God's Work in Daily Life:** Exhorted to share personal testimonies and experiences of God's grace, strengthening the faith community through mutual encouragement.

Encouragements

1. **Rejoice in Unity with God and One Another:** Participants are encouraged to find joy in their shared experiences of God's grace and the unity it brings to the community of believers.
2. **Trust in God's Sustaining Grace:** Urged to rely on God's grace as the sustaining power in their spiritual journey, trusting Him to complete the work He has begun.
3. **Seek Full Assurance of Faith:** Encouraged to move towards full assurance of faith, where the believer's confidence is rooted in the experiential reality of Christ's life within them.

Overall, the document is an exhortation to move beyond intellectual belief into a lived experience of faith, where spiritual faculties like discernment and sensitivity are cultivated, and God's grace is actively engaged in transforming the believer's life. Participants are directed to reflect, study, and pray deeply, embracing God's indwelling life as the essence of their being and the foundation of their unity as a community.