

Human Wholeness (The Spiritual Disciplines)

In Christ alone we discover and receive the contents for all human wholeness. Once our human spirits are enlivened by the Spirit of Christ, we are led by Him to orient and organize all of life around the Person of Christ. This is a time of tremendous transition - a time of learning and unlearning as the Holy Spirit applies the atonement of Christ to all of our experience. It is a time of growing up into all that is already ours in Christ. We are learning to live from the fullness, the allness of Christ.

Our union with Christ calls for a deep and personal and abiding communion with Him so He might find a free and clear expression of Himself through us. Paul reminded Timothy of the profitability of such communion, calling these designated channels of God's gracious and all sufficient supply "disciplines" or "exercises" (I Tim 4:7-8). As with any discipline or exercise, the activity involved doesn't magically give us something not there before. Such activities develop, utilize, employ or bring to the surface what is already there.

Likewise, the disciplines of faith have no power in themselves to transform us or make us whole - only God does that (Ps 138:8; Phil 1:6). They do, however, tune and turn us to the One able to make us whole in every way. They do nothing to perfect our character but rather allow the character of Christ to find expression in and through us. Many Christians tend to see the spiritual disciplines as the center of the Christian life. They are not! Christ is the center! Their role is to take us to the Center, keep us mindful of Christ.

There are disciplines of communion that create opportunities for mutual self disclosure, for sharing life together. Listening for God's voice through the Scriptures, seeking His revelation of Himself through the Bible is one example. Pouring our finite story into the Infinite Love of God through prayer is another. Referencing all to God throughout our day as we "pray without ceasing" celebrates and affirms the relational dynamic of our union with Christ. Worship, both private and corporate, directs our focus to the Core, the Center of Life.

There are disciplines of submission in which we un-learn our self determining habits. Presenting our bodies to God as living and holy sacrifices (Ro 12:1-2) fires up a revolt within, for what the body wants it always tries to get. Fasting reminds us not to organize life around the sensual and temporal, but rather to subordinate the material to the spiritual. Obeying authorities in our families, churches, and governments causes us to remember we are not our own final word.

Disciplines of service keep us mindful of the other-centeredness of our new nature. Disciplines of stewardship keep us aware that we are spiritual caretakers of material goods. As we order our lives in such a way that it demonstrates how grateful we are for all God has entrusted to us we realize we are to manage every aspect of our lives for His glory. Our very lives are offerings to God and to the world (Ja 1:18).

We have been graced a life of unbroken union with God. Faithful and consistent spiritual exercises and disciplines - communion with God - enable us to access the inner realities of His supply for the purpose of outer manifestation. We live as sanctuaries of the Most High God... made whole and holy by His indwelling Life.



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Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

GREETINGS

June is the month for honoring our fathers. That's easier for some of us than others, yet necessary for all of us. It would be nice if all our earthly fathers were wonderful protectors and providers, good examples and models. Mine was, yet it seems such men are harder and harder to find.

Perhaps what is even rarer are numerous spiritual fathers. Many churches seem to have not even one, some only a few, few churches seem to have many. A significant number of our church problems can be traced to this lack of maturity. When you pray this month, pray for such men - spiritual fathers - men who have the eternal perspective.

In the parable of the "prodigal son" we are asked to identify with one of the two sons, aren't we? Have you ever been asked to identify with the father in the story? You have now! Our families and our churches and our communities need "fathers". Will you cooperate with your Heavenly Father so He might have a fuller expression of Himself in and through you?

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CALENDAR



JUNE

5,12,19,26	CCF
14	Alachua Study
28	Ocala Study

♥ PRAISE & PRAYER ✝

- ♥ Our earthly fathers
- ♥ Our spiritual fathers
- ✝ Spiritual fathers for our churches
- ✝ Growing intimacy with our Heavenly Father

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