



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church**
- We are not a perfect people**
- We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!**



CFF is called to:

Radiate the love of Christ

Reach the Lost and the Saved in order to

Restore them into fully mature followers of Christ

Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend at least 5 minutes a day – at least 5 days last week reading/hearing the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with someone this week?**
- **Did you spend time alone with God this week?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit is saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked?**

- 2003-04 I took a year of soul searching in a refocusing process - it was here I developed a personal calling statement. Here I developed my purpose statement-mission statement-values-vision-spiritual gifts test-Myers-Briggs-Strength Finders
- 1 of my 9 Core values reads like this: *I'm committed to Change- It is always happening-I cannot allow myself to get stuck in "my ways"!*
- I revisit & update it yearly (because we change). I need to make sure I am pursuing God on His terms - not mine.

- What God wants to talk with us today is “Change”
- Everyone knows change is happening and we want some change in our lives but when it gets right down to it - we resist it and easily fall back into the same ruts we've been in for years.
- The reality is – as we navigate through life we are changing at multiple levels but we are usually fighting it as it happens... aging, hair color or loss, weight, eyesight, patience with young children, etc.
- We are supposed to be changing spiritually, as well, as God leads us on the road to becoming mature.

- Most of the time if we are looking to make changes in our life it revolves around: diet, exercise, or hopefully as Christians – in our spiritual life.
- For weeks now I have been having problems with my voice – So, I told Kim I am going to stop putting cream in my coffee – I took 2 sips and walked to the fridge to get the cream.
- This morning I was typing my notes for this message about my being committed to change and I was drinking a cup of coffee with cream! So, I dumped out what I had and got a cup with no cream or sugar

- This change is me-driven... just like getting in shape or dieting. It has spiritual impact, of course, but it isn't driven from a spiritual foundation principle
- The exact topic God wants us to consider today is “God-directed change” This type of change has eternal value
- We also understand God-directed change is driven by revelation through the Holy Spirit and empowerment to accomplish the change through the Holy Spirit...

1 Corinthians 6 9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11 Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- Don't allow yourself to get stuck on "the list of don't's" right now - instead let's step back and see what is being said to the believers:
- God has birthed a change in you that has completely changed the direction of your life – LOOK at what you USED TO BE and now LOOK at what you are – God has done this change and He is making you Holy!
- So, in the moment of salvation – forgiveness is granted – we go from unholy sinner to holy saint by God's amazing transformation power – what's next?

- Does God's word teach a lifetime of change?

2 Peter 1 5 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

- We clearly see “*God has given us EVERYTHING we need for living a godly life*”!!
- It clearly states “*we have received all of this by coming to know him*”
- So, it should be a done deal with the surrender to Jesus and accepting forgiveness ... but the context of the scripture continues from there:

5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control,

and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. 8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. 10 So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 11 Then God

will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- *“make every effort” - “Supplement your faith with...”*
- “The more you grow like this” – “But those who fail to develop in this way” - “work hard” – “Do these things, and you will never fall away”
- There is an obvious expectation of the application of life change AFTER we are saved – restored – and empowered!
- Also obvious is if you don't continue to change and grow you are in danger of failing and falling away!

- The changes I need to make to be Christ-like in my life require a continual surrender and willingness to be made new!
- If I am lacking in any of the areas listed in these scriptures: moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly affection, or love for everyone
- I need to begin to pray, seek, read God's promises and surrender to what God is asking of me in that particular area of my life!

- We don't need someone around us to point out where we are lacking on this list of "to do's" in your spiritual life! (this is NOT a complete list but general areas of typical human struggles)
- The Holy Spirit is faithful to reveal to us the area in which God is focusing in our life to bring about the change needed to better represent Christ in the world!
- Over the past month I would suggest that you have seen a recurring theme of challenge that has been put in your face – being made aware of a shortcoming that impacts your testimony for Christ!

- As God is working on you to be His witness – what are the top 3 things God has on His agenda for you?
- If you're not sure – reflect over the past week or two and see if you've been tested in some specific areas.
- In those tests – how have you been reacting?
- How have you represented Jesus in those moments? What Christ-like qualities were you displaying?
- During your bible reading and prayer time is there something that seems to keep coming to your attention? (This is the work of the Holy Spirit revealing areas for you to grow in)

- Here is another way to look at it:

Galatians 5 16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants.

We are then given contrasting comparatives:

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness,

wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

- Again- not a complete list of don'ts but common issues for sinful humanity!!!
- Now we are given the comparative for the Christ-Follower:

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! 24 Those who belong to

Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25

Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

- A lifetime of surrender and obedience to the Holy Spirit in order to be more Christ-like
- All for the purpose of being a witness to Christ! We are His ambassadors – His witness – His light in the world
- The changes needed in our lives are for us but also for those looking at us in order that they might see Jesus!

- God is already up to something in your life!

Isaiah 43 19 For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

- He is simply calling you to respond to the change He is trying to bring in your life.

Action Steps

- What has He made known to you today, or, affirmed to you today?
- How will you respond to this truth?
- Will you nail it to the cross with Him and surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit to live this change?
- We need to understand the “don’ts lists” and the fruit of the spirit are working together to make us more Christ like. Which of the fruit of the Holy Spirit do you sense God speaking to you about? love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.