

Welcome to New Life!

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{over for sermon notes}

January 13, 2008

Pastor Bob Wine

THE DELICATE DIFFERENCE

It is time to take initiative to be close to God
Matthew 15:8

FOCUS FOR THE DAY ... How do you worship?

Matthew 15:7-8 "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'"

- King David loved to engage his heart in worship to God. Solomon only practiced the impersonal ceremony of worship.
- Two worship attitudes
 1. Personal – intimate type [heart like King David]
 2. Impersonal ceremony type [heart like King Solomon]

An extremely delicate difference that may not seem big today, but it will be the discriminating factor when you stand before Almighty God someday.

1. _____ IS COSTLY

- Do you know the practical difference between which _____ come from your stubborn will, mind and emotions, and which come from God through your spirit? Examples from the Bible: Samson [Judges 13-16] ... the church in Ephesus [Revelation 2:1-7]

- A blatant case of this blindness told by Jesus

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only** he who **does the will of my Father** who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I **never knew you**. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

- What is "the will of my Father?"

Jesus said ... **Mark 12:29-30** "The most important one is this: ... **Love** the Lord your God with **all your heart** and with **all your soul** and with **all your mind** and with **all your strength**."

- God's will more than anything else, is that you are totally _____ about Him alone!

Ask yourself, "Have I been trusting more in my religious behavior or in my intimate relationship with God?"

2. HOW CAN I SEE MY _____ ?

- What you talk about the most is a window into your passions.

• Ask yourself: “**What do I find myself talking about the most?**” Is it your family, people, work, hobby, latest status symbol? Or is it about a recent story of God’s greatness? ... not in what He does, **but in who He is?**

3. HOW CAN I _____ OR _____ A RIGHT HEART?

- You cannot create in yourself, or in others, a passion for God.
- A passion for God is _____, not taught. You can’t teach it because it is not cerebral.
- You can only train yourself to choose to respond well to what God puts in your heart.

- Suggestions to position yourself to nurture your passion for God -

1. _____ something you honestly treasure in the Kingdom of God. **Luke 12:34** “For wherever you treasure is, you may be certain that your heart will be there also.” Phillips
2. Learn to hear His voice. **John 10:27** “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
3. Be diligent to take seriously and apply what you learn about God. **John 15:14** “You are my friends if you do what I command.”
4. Seek to know _____ rather than His deeds. **Exodus 33:13** “If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.”
5. Seek your greatest joy in relationship with God. **Palm 16:11** “In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” NKJV

There is a delicate difference between being religious and having a passion for closeness to God.

MY ACTION PLAN:

Some of you are experiencing God in a close way, while for others, God is at a distance. Today, Father God is inviting (asking) you to come closer to Him. Today, you can nurture the flickering flame of passion for God into a hot flame. But that remains for you to take initiative to enjoy. Nothing is more important for you than learning to hear God’s voice in contrast to the voice of your stubborn will, intellect or emotions.

Begin by investing 30 minutes a day (15am, 15pm) alone with God; journaling your study of His Word, in talking with Him. Plus find a partner to pray with and share what you are discovering

“DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of January 13, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week’s message? Why?

TODAY’S FOCUS

1. Describe a time when you were doing something you were told to do, but deep inside you weren’t “there” -- your mind was having you do something else. Has this ever happened when you were involved in singing, praying or other worship while in church? Explain how you felt afterward.
2. Jesus quoted Isaiah in Matthew 15:7-8 saying that, “*These people honored me (God) with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*” How does this happen in the day and age we live in? Have you ever seen or even experienced this happening? Describe.
What is the spiritual cost to allowing this to happen?

GETTING THE POINT

1. What is the value in understanding the difference between our soul (mind, emotions, stubborn will) and our spirit (conscience, intuition) when we are trying to worship and hear from God? Can we be deceived in our worship? How? [John 4:24; 5:30; Matthew 7:21-23; Mark 12:21-23]
2. Intimacy with God comes through hunger and yearning of our hearts and through sowing to the spirit. As a follower of Jesus, how can we develop a heart of passion for Him? Discuss the two choices we have – passion or passivity. [Matthew 5:6; 6:33; Luke 5:15-16; John 3:16-17,30; 6:63; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 4:17-24]
3. Read the story of how Mary wasted herself on Jesus in Mark 14:3-9. What are some ways that we can and should “waste ourselves” for Jesus? How is this a sharp contrast to the way many worship Jesus today? How will wasting ourselves on Jesus affect our passion and worship? [Luke 10:38-42; 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 13:3; 16:13-14; 2 Corinthians 4:8-12]

A LOOK INSIDE

1. *There is a delicate difference between being religious and having a passion for closeness to God.* What is God saying to you about your attitude of worship? Is it personal and passionate, or have you allowed it to become impersonal and religious, providing only lip service to God? Take time to go over the “Suggestions to Nurture your Passion for God” in the sermon notes.