

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Beyond Measure

Week of September 9, 2019

Week 1: Dwelling with Christ (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Text: Ephesians 3:16-17

This week kicked off a new series on the love of Christ. The series is a study of Paul's prayer for the believers in Ephesus. He starts his prayer by asking God for sufficient power to enable "Christ to dwell in their hearts." This section of scripture provides us helpful principles regarding the creation of a deep relationship with the Lord.

Kicking it off: Jeff began his sermon by describing when the Sears Tower reigned as the tallest in the world. Have you been to the top of this famous skyscraper? If so, tell the group about it.

Discussion:

1. Reread *Ephesians 3:16-17* "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."

The core of Paul's prayer is for the Ephesians to enjoy a tight relationship with Christ. How did you learn that the essence of Christianity is relationship with the Lord?

2. Why do many, who identify as "Christians," fail to find friendship with Christ?
3. *Ephesians 3:16-17* indicates that it requires "power" to deepen our relationship with Christ. How does God's power help us get closer to Christ?
4. Jeff said that different people find different activities to help them get closer to Christ. What have you found that helps you deepen your relationship with the Lord?
5. *Ephesians 3:16-17* indicates that the Holy Spirit can help us grow closer to Christ. What does the Holy Spirit do to deepen that relationship?
6. What causes your relationship with the Lord to suffer?
7. What could you do in the coming week to strengthen your friendship with the Lord?

Wrapping It Up: As Paul did for the Ephesians, pray that each member of the group would enjoy an increasingly deep friendship with Christ.