HEART = from = STONE

DEVO WEEK 2





MOTIVATIONS

What motivates your spiritual decisions?

- Do you think you are trying to earn God's favor? If so, in what ways?
- Do you think you ever try to force others to earn God's favor or earn your favor? If so, in what ways?
- Why do you think it is so difficult for us to believe God loves us unconditionally?
- What hardens your heart toward God? Others?

How do these questions make you feel?

FAITH EXPRESSED THROUGH LOVE

Read Galatians 5:1-6

- Why do you think we tend to add things that need to be done to "earn or be worthy of" salvation?
- What do you think it would look like to really embrace the end of verse 6? (Faith expressing itself through love)

Read Galatians 5:13-14 and Romans 5:20-6:2

- If grace leads to freedom, why do you think we struggle so much with returning to habitual sins?
- How does sin get in the way of loving others as yourself?
- Why is the "what" that motivates us to love God and love others so important?

SOURCE OF POWER TO EXPRESS FAITH THROUGH LOVE

Read John 14:15-17

- Why is the Holy Spirt so essential to freedom in Christ and loving others and God?
- What do you think it looks like to be "in step" with the Spirit?
- Why is a deeper, experiential knowledge of God so important to loving God and loving others and how do we get that deeper knowledge?

HOW WE TREAT OTHERS

Do you agree with the following statement?

The promise of Jesus is to move the cold law written on stone unto our living heart through a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

If the statement is true?

- What would it change about the way we interact with people?
- How important is a relationship with the Holy Spirit to how we interact with others?
- What role is the Spirit supposed to play in your life, particularly in the context of how we relate to others?

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read Matthew 22:36-40

How does Jesus' teaching change the first four commandments away from a list of rules to <u>relationships</u>?

How is your love relationship with God the Father and His Son Jesus through the Holy Spirit? Circle the below statement that most accurately describes your relationship with the Spirit.

- I don't know the Father, Jesus or the Holy Spirit
- My time and connection with God is distant and infrequent
- An occasional awareness but not central to my life
- An infrequent reconnection when I am overwhelmed.
- Usually, a plea for help from desperation
- A daily connection that defines my life and priority
- A regular source of strength and comfort
- A powerful source of challenge and transformation
- A teacher who regularly opens the scripture to me in a way that is changing me
- A truth teller who regularly points out areas of sin and leads me back to God
- A person who speaks to me about my identity, my calling and the challenge to love the people in my life





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