

My action plan

This week with God's help I will make time for God.

Simplicity
Silence
Solitude
Surrender

How: _____

Where: _____

When: _____

Accountability: _____

Mountains of Transfiguration

Spiritual Encounters Which Transform Us

Destiny Christian Church
Sunday, January 27, 2008
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Bible Text: Mark 9:1 – 18

1. The Importance of Spiritual Community

- a. Individual experience vs. Community experience
- b. Some examples
- c. What is the Church supposed to be?
 - i. Equipping for...
 - ii. For the benefit of

I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. (Dan. 10:7-8 NIV)

- d. The nature of spiritual encounter can be "unsettling".
- e. Importance of being able to share with the community.
- f. What would it be like to experience a NT Church the way Jesus designed it to be?
 - i. Acts 2
 1. Wind and fire
 2. Tongues
 3. Accusation of "drunkenness"
 4. Amazing growth – community life
 - ii. Acts 3 – Power and healing
 - iii. Acts 4 – Religious Persecution
 - iv. Acts 5 – Offerings, Lying and death

2. The Nature of Personal Transformation

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2Co 3:18 NIV)

Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. (2 Cor. 3:18 The Message)

The ways of right-living people glow with light; the longer they live, the brighter they shine. (Prov. 4:18, The Message)

The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. (Prov. 4:18 NIV)

Hearing God speak... *This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to Him (v.7).*

"...you are precious and honored in my sight, and ... I love you" (Isa 43:4 NIV)

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." (John 15:9 NIV)

3. The Challenge of Valley Service

Mountain top spiritual experiences

- Are to be followed by service to the neediest and most hurting.
- Great commission: "Go into all the world..."
- What we learn and receive is NEVER for our own benefit alone.
- What we "practice" inside the safety of community, we need to carry into the valley.
- "Winds" story.

Challenge

- Leave as you came OR
- Leave transformed by an encounter with Jesus
- Bringing the power and transforming presence of Jesus into the valley of need.

4. The Path of Spiritual Disciplines

How do I get to the mountain top?

- Simplicity
- Silence
- Solitude
- Submission

a. Simplicity

- Quotas
- Busyness
- Restlessness
- "Enough is never enough"
- Reorder our private lives and slow the pace.

b. Silence

- Be still and know that I am God (Ps. 46.10)
- Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything.
- 15 minutes and a kitchen timer.

c. Solitude

- Cultivating internal serenity.
- Secret battles
- Henri Nouwen (p.55)
- Journaling

d. Submission

- Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. (Prov. 3:5-6, The Message).