



STUDY 1 - Sunday 2nd September 2018

Throughout September the whole church family is being consulted about the document 'Transition of Ministry'. Make sure you have your copy! We want to encourage a real sense of involvement and ownership in this process.

Some of the questions the leadership team considered in working on this document are ones that you could ask:

- What would you like to tell a potential pastor about the community WBC serves?
- What do you consider should be included in the future vision / direction of our church family over the next 5 years?
- What qualities in any potential pastor would you look for in order to give leadership and equip us to fulfil such vision and direction?

Within your small group, we want you to talk about the transition and do some serious praying regarding the challenges that are before us. If you do not have a church leader in your group, why not invite one along and quiz them regarding ministry transition.

We want to take September as a month when we consider the 5 core values mentioned in the document. Your small group may not be meeting every week – and it may mean that some weeks you take up two of the values.

Let us journey together into God's future.

CORE VALUE 1 – FAITH

Reading Ephesians 1.15-23

FAITH : Demonstrate our faith by glorifying Jesus Christ, worshipping God the Father and being empowered by the Holy Spirit through prayer and the study of the Bible.

We need to have a faith that is to be REAL, RELIABLE, RELEVANT.

- In what ways do testimonies of God at work in people's lives provide a challenge to our own faith experience?
- Have you read or heard a testimony recently that has impacted your own life?
- What are some sources of faith building encouragement that you have personally discovered?

Faith in the scriptures covers three main areas:

Discipleship Faith – this is salvation faith. Eph 2.8-9 '*...by grace you have been saved through faith...*'

Doctrinal Faith – this declares the central tenets of the Christian faith. Jude 3

Daily Faith – this is about the wholehearted reliance we are to have on God where '*we walk by faith, not by sight.*' 2 Cor 5.7.

Hebrews 11.6 '*without faith it is impossible to please God.*'

Hebrews 10.38 '*...but my righteous one will live by faith.*'

How do we cultivate a faith environment within WBC?

The demonstration of faith is a life that is ignited by the triune Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our salvation is the work of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, 1 Peter 1.3-5.

Our baptism is in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Matthew 28.19.

The great benediction blessing in 2 Cor 13.14, *'may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.'*

- Read the first section of Ephesians 1.1-14 and observe the work of Father, Son and Spirit that is to be evident in our lives.
- What is it about the divine Trinity that makes it so difficult to understand?

- **GLORIFYING JESUS CHRIST**

In Paul's prayer, Ephesians 1.15-23 we see Paul celebrating the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- What are some of the great statements of declaration concerning Jesus that should be echoed in our praise and prayer?
- In what ways can we place the spotlight on Jesus and delight in Him being glorified in our personal and corporate life?
- What does it really mean to 'glorify' Jesus?
See how the Spirit enables us to glorify Jesus in John 16.13-14

- **WORSHIPPING THE FATHER**

Once again the Spirit is at work inspiring our worship of the Father, the one we can call Abba Father.

Eph 1.3 *'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.'*

We have often studied this section – but there is no harm in taking a moment to list the blessings that are ours 'in Christ'.

- Ponder Eph 1.17 where Paul prays that *the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.* How can this prayer cause our worship of the Father to deepen and develop?

Worship is our response to all that God is to us, as he reveals and discloses himself to us.

- **EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

In Eph 1.2 Paul in prayer pursues the Spirit's empowerment, *the incomparably great power for us who believe.*

Remember (1 Cor 4.20) that *the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.*

Be filled with the Spirit, Eph 5.18 is the command of Paul to be God intoxicated.

The key to strengthening our life in the Trinity is through the **SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES**, like prayer and the scriptures.

Alan mentioned Richard Foster's classic book *Celebration of Discipline*.

Inward disciplines - meditations, prayer, fasting, study.

Outward disciplines – simplicity, solitude, submission, service.

Corporate disciplines – confession, worship, guidance, celebration.

FOR YOUR OWN NOTES