

War Room

Week Five - Impacted By Grace



Impacted by Grace

Introduction

(Please read and complete this section prior to our first class together and our open discussion)

Welcome to the final week of our War Room series. This final week is all about identity in Christ. It's the culmination of the weeks of evaluation and declaration you have experienced. It's a reality forged by the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It's a connection point with God best illustrated through a deepening prayer life. Being forgiven of sin and impacted by grace transforms a person. This week's Bible study is an examination of what that transformation can truly be like.

"But to all who did receive Him; He gave them the right to be Children of God. To those who believe in His Names" (John 1:12)

As we begin answer the following questions:

How did God speak to you this week in personal Bible study?

In what ways have you seen God's Spirit active in you this week?

Who has been the most influential person in your life regarding your identity in Christ? Why?

One of the most interesting undertakings of your life will be the move you make from the "old man," as Paul terms it, to the "new man." There are specific actions that make up this process and allow for us to grow in our faith and deepen our relationship with Him.

Take a minute to list at least five characteristics of the transformed life?

Create a second list of the things that are part of the process of sanctification or being set apart from the world and unto God. List as many as you can.

Some have compared the transformation we make to restoring old furniture. First we must take away the old and worn parts and finish. Then we must replace it with the new or refurbished. Others have said that sanctification is like gardening where we must trim away the dead wood so the new may flourish.

Open discussion

The Clip - The movie War Room is full of turning points, but the most important is the one that Tony makes as he discovers Christ and centers his life around Him. He goes from proud to humble; from absentee in the home and church to devotee. This scene paints the picture of the penitent heart and the forgiveness of God it receives. It is also a picture of answered prayer and the providence of God.

Discussion

- 1. Why is it so important that Elizabeth declare to who she truly belongs?**
- 2. Tony doesn't understand the nature of Elizabeth's forgiveness. Have you ever wrestled with the idea of being forgiven? How?**
- 3. How have you been changed by someone's prayers for you? How have you seen change in someone else for whom you have prayed?**

4. What difference did it make in Elizabeth's life when she discovered from where her contentment must come? How did it affect her relationship with Tony?

Engage

Read Galatians 2:19-20

Not the phrase, "Christ lives in me."

How do you see that phrase in Tony's life? In your life?

Based on both this week's and last week's clips, how is that phrase present in Elizabeth's life?

What has God done through your life to reinforce this verse as true for you?

Read John 15:1-8

List the primary instructions Jesus gives to His followers here.

1.

2.

3.

Look up the following verses and then describe the fruit God seeks for us.

Galatians 5:22; Hebrews 13:15; Romans 6:22; Colossians 1:10; Rom. 10:13-15

Day One - Homework

"I was ready to defend myself. Except this time I can't. I hate saying this. But I deserved to get fired. I was deceiving them. I was deceiving you." - Tony Jordan, War Room

Confession is hard. It is admitting a fault, accepting guilt and being responsible. Confession, however, is not a stand alone idea. There are several things that are coupled with it or stem from it. Repentance, for instance, is one of these ideas. It is a lot harder than one might think. Often we are confused about this word because we think it means either a "change of behavior" or simply "feeling sorry" about something. While these things are part of the process, repentance is actually the change our mind goes through as we change identity. We start thinking differently.

It is repentance that establishes forgiveness in our relationship with God. The key to forgiveness, however, is the sacrifice of Christ. When we repent it opens that door of His sacrifice and forgiveness flows through abundantly and fully.

Read 1 Peter 2:24

Whose sins did Jesus bear?

Jesus died so that we might live for what?

How have you been healed?

What does it look like to live for righteousness in day-to-day life? How does your life reflect that?

What thoughts spring up when you see the word repentance? Are they mostly negative? Positive? A little of both?

Closing the day's study

Read Acts 3:19

What do you need to repent and turn back?

What is the result of that repentance?

Get specific - What specifically do you need to repent of? Pride, selfishness, control, perfectionism, etc.?

Prayer time

Take some time today as you close the lesson to take these specific things before God and ask Him to change your heart with regard to these matters. Ask Him to give you the eyes to see sin the way he sees it.

Day Two - Homework

"But I've learned that my contentment can't come from you. Tony. I love you but I am His before I am yours and because I love Jesus, I am staying right her." Elizabeth Jordan, War Room

Read Philippians 4:11-13

The Greek word translated "content" here is found only once in the Greek New Testament. If you can, look the word up in a Greek to English dictionary

Content - Autarkes

It means "strong enough to need no aid or support; sufficient; independent of external circumstances; contented with ones lot and means, though slender"

Contentment is an illusion in the American landscape today. The drive for more in every arena has created a culture where nothing is ever close to enough. More money. More status. more education. more business. More! More! More! That is our cry. These are not all bad things, but as we know, "Too much of a good thing..." can be a bad thing.

Read Hebrew 13:5

Where have you found contentment in your past? How about now?

In what areas of life have you struggled to find contentment or remain content?

Write out your own paraphrase of Heb. 13:5.

According to this verse, what promise from Jesus allows for contentment?

Read James 4:8 - When you find yourself plagued with discontentment how could drawing near to Jesus help you find contentment?

Elizabeth's marriage was a shambles, but she learned to find contentment in Christ and made all the difference. Truly the lesson of contentment is often borne on the wings of difficult times.

Name some difficult moments in your life when you felt the nearness of God. How did that bring contentment despite your circumstances?

Can you exude joy and remain content when the earth gives way underfoot? That's what Paul was saying. His response to imprisonment when writing the Philippians was a message of contentment regardless of circumstances. Then he gives us that famous verse about the power of Christ (4:13). Contentment and comfort are not synonymous. He learned the secret of contentment.

What in this chapter helped Paul find contentment? (write them in after the verses)

Phil. 4:6-7

Phil. 4:8

Phil. 4:9

Phil. 4:13

Phil. 4:19

Pray that God may use these things in your life as well to help you be content.

Day Three - Homework

"I asked God to forgive me. But I need you to forgive me. I don't want you to quit on me, Liz."
Tony Jordan, War Room

"I forgive you." Elizabeth Jordan, War Room

For this final day of homework we will consider those three powerful words.

I

FORGIVE

YOU

Read Mark 11:25

What does this verse say we should do when praying?

Read Hebrews 4:16

What does this verse invite you to do?

In what manner does it invite you to do it?

In order to understand why we may approach God's throne so boldly, we need to look back at the verse just prior.

Go back and read the previous context found in Hebrews 4:12-15

From verses 12 and 13, we understand that The word of God serves as a living judge, seeing and knowing all that everyone must give an account for in his or her life. However, we are able to hold to a confession of faith because, via verses 14 and 15, we know that Christ has atoned for our sins and we can be forgiven. It is because of this redemptive work that we can approach heaven confidently.

That is a change you see immediately in Tony. It is the change we see in Elizabeth as well. They gain boldness and confidence because they have come to grips with Christ and His work. They are ready to identify themselves with Him.

How does one fully give themselves to Christ? What marks the beginning of that relationship?

Perhaps a better way to ask this question is, "what must we do to be saved," and thus have that confidence of relationship before God so we can continue the process of fully embracing the Christian life?

Is that all we must do?

What does it mean to "walk" with Christ and live according to His Spirit?

Let's think about others for a moment

How can we help another believer grow in his or her walk with Christ?

**What is your plan to continue to walk and a examine self so that you might continue in faith?
How about helping others in this?**

Let us close with the final words of Miss Clara - **Help me stand on your word above all else. Help me to fight on my knees and worship you with my whole hear. Help me to proclaim with my life that you are king of kings and Lord of Lords. Guide me to people who will call upon your name. Raise up those who love you and seek you and trust you. Call us to the battle, Lord.**