

Renewal

“Day by day we are being renewed”



Growing Deeper.

The great truths of the Christian faith are not learned once, but over and over again. Each time we learn, our understanding goes deeper and the spiritual fruitfulness of our lives increases. Sometimes through our neglect, important truths can wither within us, yet God intends to continually renew and refresh his people. Renewal is a work that God does when we invite God to refresh us.



Three Simple Rules

The Christian life can be expressed in three simple rules: Love God and others, follow Jesus, and live by the Spirit. Our purpose in worship is to learn the transforming power of these commands.

We will spend some time in each service listening, praying, and participating in spiritual exercises that will help center us in these rules.

1. Receive God's love

For God so Loved the World...

God loves every person he created. The love of God is perpetually available to us, and is offered to us unconditionally. God needs nothing in return, but offers his love to us freely. The best illustration for this unconditional love is the radiance of the sun. The sun sheds forth its light, warmth, and energy in every direction. The planets that revolve around the sun offer nothing in return, yet the sun continues to send forth its rays. In the same way, God's love is fully sufficient for us to live and enjoy life. God offers this love not because he needs anything in return, but simply because it is his delight to give it.

Application *for abundant living:*

Become Receptive

Receiving God's unconditional love is a discipline we must learn. So long as we think that God needs something in return, we will never be fully receptive. Once we believe in God's unconditional love, we can learn to receive and enjoy it. Becoming receptive takes time and practice, but in learning to receive God's love, we will find the fulfillment of all our spiritual needs.

2. Love God

The Greatest Commandment.

“When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Application for abundant living:

Complete the Cycle

In order for the power of God’s love to be released in us, we must first respond by returning love to God. In the same way electricity must flow through a lightbulb in order for it work, love must flow through us. God is worthy of all of our love, and we should spend some time each day expressing our love to God in prayer and worship.

Questions for reflection or group discussion:

Is it easy or hard for you to receive love?

Why do you think God loves us?

Does it feel easy or awkward to express your love for God?

If it feels awkward, why do you think this is so?



Your Notes what God is saying to you:
