

# Letting Living Words Live

Closer: Developing Life with God  
March 12, 2017 – Joel Moses

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

*James 4:8*

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Colossians 3:16-17 (ESV)*

Let the word of the Anointed One richly inhabit your lives. With all wisdom teach, *counsel*, and instruct one another. Sing the psalms, *compose* hymns and songs inspired by the Spirit, and keep on singing—*sing to God* from hearts *full and spilling over* with thankfulness. <sup>17</sup>Surely, no matter what you are doing (speaking, *writing*, or working), do it all in the name of Jesus our Master, sending thanks through Him to God our Father.

*Colossians 3:16-17 (VOICE)*

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

*Matthew 4:1-11*

# Letting Living Words Live

Closer: Developing a Life with God  
Week of March 12-17, 2017

## Home Church Study

This week continues a special season of 40 days that culminates with engaging the greatest act of love that was ever made...and it was made for you. This is a season to honor the suffering of Christ's crucifixion and set aside space for our hearts to respond. As such, we are continuing in our new series entitled, "Closer: Developing a Life with God."

**James 4:8** tells us, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

**Jer. 29:13** says, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

It's been said that "You're as close to God as you want to be." Do you agree or disagree? Discuss.

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Read **Colossians 3:16** (ESV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

What do you think it means to 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly?'

What choices can we make to help that happen?

What is the role of community in this process?

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**Practice Lectio Divina Together** (really take time)

*The following taken from Bill Gaultiere*

**Guidelines:** Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

**Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):**

- (a) Read the Scripture passage
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer or journaling
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want

**Introduction:** Jesus has just healed a blind man on the Sabbath. When the now seeing man testifies about Jesus the religious leaders throw him out of the local synagogue. In anger they go to Jesus to question him and he tells them a story about a shepherd and his sheep. Jesus says he is *the* Good Shepherd and his sheep listen to his voice, with the help of a watchman. But a hired hand let's the thief and the wolf attack the flock. The religious leaders want to kill Jesus for claiming to be equal with God and for saying they are like the unfaithful hiredhand.

**Opening Prayer:** “The Lord is my Shepherd... I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1).

(pause)

**Read Scripture: John 10:3-14** (NIV84)

3 [Jesus said,] “The watchman opens the gate for [the shepherd], and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice...

7 “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep... 9 Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it...

14 I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that. (take time / silence/ at least 1 min)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

### **Read a final time:**

What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.

(Sharing time)