



Digging Deeper

Putting your faith in ACTION!

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:

1. Have you made the decision to follow Jesus?
2. How has your heart changed since making a decision to follow Jesus?
3. Are you sinning less and less and desiring to please God more and more?
4. In light of God's Word: Now what? What's next?
5. Take some time to read John 15:1-5. Pray and ask the Lord to speak to you about what this means for your daily life.

FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

1. This morning's message deals with some fairly BIG ideas. Keep 'sanctification' simple. Discuss the idea of 'start sinning less and less and desire to please God more and more'. Kids can connect with that. Share some the passages from this morning.
2. Read John 15:1-5 together as a family. Ask your kids what they think this passage might mean.
3. Take some time pray together.



Today's Service

August 27th, 2017

Series: Washed

Part 3: Continue

Pastor Brian Stanley



Salvation and baptism are not the ____ goal of the Christian experience, only the _____.

There is a process to which all Christians are called to participate: _____.

1 Thessalonians 4:3a (NLT) ³God's will is for you to be holy...

Titus 3:5-7 (NLT) ⁵...he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. ⁶He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁷Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

God helps us to start _____ less and less and _____ to please Him more and more.

John 17:16-19 (NLT) ¹⁶They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ¹⁹And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

Ephesians 5:25-27 (NLT) ²⁵For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

Augustine [Tract 80, in John], "Take away the word, and what is the water save water? Add the word to the element, and it becomes a sacrament, being itself as it were the visible word."

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NLT) ¹¹Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Colossians 3:1-10 (NLT) ¹Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. ⁵So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. ⁷You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

Romans 12:2 (NIV) ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Colossians 2:7 (NLT) ⁷Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

LEARN TO PRAY THIS WAY AND OFTEN:

Now _____? What's _____?

Then look to God's word for that answer.

Acts 2:37 (NLT) ³⁷Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

God's Word holds the key:

...the Word in all its searching, humbling, rebuking, correcting, informing, stimulating, refreshing, consoling, and CLEANSING power.

