

10. List the things that prevent believers from drawing near to God (verses 4, 6).

11. What things must believers do to draw near to God (verse 7-8).

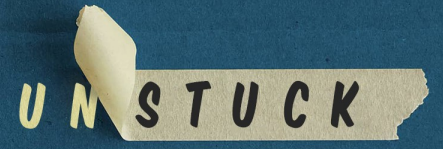
12. What is the promise to you if you draw near to God? (verse 7)

Action Steps

"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

1. Prayer and God's word help us to draw near to God. If you are not already in a daily Bible study or reading schedule, would you consider reading through the book of Psalms over the next year—2 Psalms per day?

2. Is there a single person in need of help that you could give your time, talent or resources to this week?



Groups Sermon Study Questions

GETTING GOING AGAIN

February 5, 2017

Message Summary

Sometimes believers feel like they are just going through the motions spiritually—stuck—disconnected from their vibrant relationship with God. Jesus said to the believers at Ephesus, "You don't love me or each other as you did at first!" How do we get unstuck spiritually? Remember when God touched your life with his healing restoration, and presence. Repent of your own agenda and respond by drawing near to God.

1. Think about a spiritually high time in your life and if you'd like, share that experience with your group.
2. Humanly speaking, what sort of things did you do to lead up to that experience?
3. What are some of the things God did to facilitate that experience?

Consider This

When the Ephesians became spiritually stuck, Jesus told them to remember...

"But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first." Rev 2:4-5a

Hard work, perseverance and accurate doctrine are not enough. Jesus wants our hearts as well as our hands and head.

Read Psalm 77:11-12 and Isaiah 46:9-10

1. What sort of things in these passages should believers remember about God?
2. What is the difference between remembering and meditating on something?

Consider Mark 8:17-21, Ephesians 2:11-13 and 2 Peter 3:1-2.

3. List some of the spiritual highs referred to in these passages. Which are easiest for you to remember? Why?

When the Ephesians became spiritually stuck Jesus told them to, "repent and do the deeds you did at first." The Ephesians were known for their faith and love for God and others. (Ephes 1:15)

Read Acts 19:18-20.

4. What did the Ephesians do that demonstrated their love for God?

5. How might this principle apply to us today?

6. What was the result of these practices? How might that apply to our Church today ?

In Acts 20, the Ephesians elders were commanded to remain on guard against false teachers which according to Revelation 2:2-3,6 they apparently did a good job of.

Read Acts 20:35.

7. Assuming the Ephesians also accomplished this admonition of Paul's, what other early deeds did the Ephesians do?

8. If you are spiritually stuck, what principles can you glean from this verse?

Draw Near To God. Read James 4:4-8.

9. Jealousy is a powerful desire and emotion. How does it make you feel to know that "God jealously desires the spirit he made within us . . . ?