

Series: Ultimate Living

Message Title: Overcoming Ultimate Living Aversion (part 3)

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Psalm 34:8

O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good; How blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who takes refuge in Him.

Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have love, pity, *and* mercy for him, and to our God, for He will multiply to him His abundant pardon.

John 7:37-38

³⁷ Now on the final and most important day of the Feast, Jesus stood, and He cried in a loud voice, If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink!

³⁸ He who believes in Me as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs *and* rivers of living water.

Discussion Part 1:

Over and over God's Word is instructing us to be repetitious consumers of His wisdom. How can we truly forsake our way and our thoughts if we are not replacing them with a new way and new thoughts? Thoughts go inside of you, correct? Talk about how to get the new thinking into you. Does it make sense that if you are going to live an Ultimate Life you will need to be trained for an Ultimate Life?

S.Marshall thoughts:

The spiritual life aversion that many Christians suffer from is very real and yet so many good people think they can shake it off by going to another conference or chasing a spiritual experience. That is not in the BOOK! It's the Word that converts your heart. It's the Word that transfers life. It's the Word that transforms your mind. There is NO substitute.

Conferences are great (if they are the right ones), but they are still not a substitute for you self-feeding on God's intimate Word for your life.

Have someone read:

3 John 2

Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as your soul keeps well *and* prospers.

Deuteronomy 28:6-8

“You will be blessed when you come in and you will be blessed when you go out.

⁷ “The Lord will cause the enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way, but flee before you seven ways.

⁸ The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your storehouses and in all that you undertake, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

Discussion Part 2:

Please take a look at all these amazing blessing promises from God. There is protection, health, and blessing on your storehouses, real estate, travels, and on and on. Here’s my question for you: When you read those promises out loud does your aversion start raising its ugly head? Do you feel a need to say “but”, or something else that will detour the power of His promise away from your life? If you do, please do not be condemned, just be honest. Your spiritual life aversion is a dysphoria common to many crying out for a Romans 12:2 antidote. Take it. You can transform!

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

I was the absolute worst in the area of Ultimate Living aversion. The worst! I wrapped myself in every lack, hurt, and need like a ‘poor-me’ blanket of identity. It is such a human thing to do. The hurt just hurts so bad we adopt it as an identity, and the next thing you know, we are trapped in the bent of our hurt trying to escape the pain. There is no identity in all of eternity worth having other than being in Christ. You are called to be a child of God in Christ. Period.

Life Application:

As a small group talk about and plan how you are going to apply these very simple steps this week and get pragmatic about your faith:

1. **Taste & See**
2. **Listen**
3. **Search**
4. **Give**

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

“Precious God we come before You with a desire to taste and see how good You are. If we’ve got any aversions to Your amazing promises, Your inheritance in Christ, Your blessings ... search our hearts and do spiritual surgery to remove the wrong thinking. Replace the wrong thoughts with Your Word, Truth, and Wisdom. We want to live blessed, and so be able to help others find God’s blessing. (Continue to pray specifically for one another’s needs ...)