

Taking Jesus Seriously – Part 2

Subtitle: Lean on the Holy Spirit

We can reflect on our own lives and ask ourselves: ***Are we truly taking Jesus seriously?***

Let's remember what Pastor Mona said last week:

Taking Jesus seriously; challenges us to recognize His claims, teachings, and authority as central to our lives — to see Jesus as the risen Son of God, the way to salvation, and the source of a transformed life — and to act on that.

Being a Christian is not just a title or a label. It's who you are and what you do. You believe in Jesus, so you follow Jesus — wherever He leads — out of love for the One who first loved us!

John 3:2-3

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.³ Jesus replied, Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.

You must be born again. Why ? because

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Verse 8:

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

Samaritan Woman at the Well – John 4

Jesus tells the Samaritan woman the same truth, but in a personal way:

(v.20) “Tell me, who is right? Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” (v.21) “Believe me,” Jesus replied, “a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.” (v.23) “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.”(v.24) “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

You see, following Jesus isn't about adding religion to our lives — it's about receiving a brand-new life from God.

The Spirit gives us new desires, new strength, and a new relationship with God.

I Am Born Again — Now What?

You must wake up and act on it — the Jesus Way.

We are too aware of our past, too focused on the labels from our past. And forgetting the gift of the spirit.

Guys, he must increase and we must decrease. Forget about the labels that you carry. She forgot about hers.

Even Jesus had labels — where He came from, where He grew up — yet He did not let that stop Him. (Jean 1:45-46)

It's great that God reveals things to us, but He says we must become *a new vessel*. Paul says, "I could not give you solid food because you were not ready for it

We must renew our minds so that we do not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16-17:

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Why Lean on the Holy Spirit?

- To cultivate the **fruit of the Spirit**
- Because He helps us **redefine our beliefs**
- Because **the Spirit gives life and peace**
- Because **we are in a spiritual battle**

Jesus said, It is to your advantage that I go away; if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you.

My brothers and sisters, we have an *advantage*!

You have an advantage — the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of the Father and can reveal them to you.

I would be foolish not to lean on the Holy Spirit.

Desires of the flesh:

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.”
(Galatians 5:19-21)

Galatians 5:16, 25:

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.