

Woke up with fresh dread over this text, for myself and for us.

~~PEOPLE ARE TIRED~~ I SENSE A WEARINESS/SOURDEN

- ① Life is hard - even when things are going well, life is hard. Activities, practice, community groups.
- ② The season is strange - transitions take years, not months.
- ③ The call feels impossible - in my flesh, the way the world is going makes me fearful and apathetic.
----- An exhausted people... me too!

Can I be honest? I don't know what to do about that.
As your leader and pastor, I want to fix it.

I can't restructure your life.
I can't make your problems go away.
I can't make decisions for you.
I can't solve relational conflict for you.
I can't make your family believe in Jesus for you.

Can I be really honest? In this ^{weariness} exhaustion, I feel paralyzed to call us forward into anything else, because I'm afraid I will break us or people will leave.
So let's just stick with the status quo... but for how long?
Allen - we can't just hold the line.

Here's what I can do: I can plead with all of us to live for the right things.

We are poised beautifully as a church.

- ① We are small and nimble - *average size*
- ② we have a strong core - *if we are holy, committed members. (NVI 7:15 IN, CALL UP.*
- ③ and are not burdened by a lot of structure.

William Irvine - There is a danger that you will "mislive" - that despite all your activity, despite all the pleasant diversions you might have enjoyed while alive, you will end up living a bad life. There is, in other words, a danger that when you are on your deathbed, you will look back and realize that you wasted your one chance at living. Instead of spending your life pursuing something genuinely valuable, you squandered it because you allowed yourself to be distracted by the various baubles life has to offer.

BASICALLY APPLICATION FOR 10% BUT MOST...

But... I'm trying to do all the right things! I'm not wasting my time! Every moment of every day is accounted for!

And church, this is exactly what I'm afraid of.

Here's the really hard question that made my stomach sink on Tuesday.
It is very hard, and it may press against some things in your life that are very sacred.
By asking yourself this question and answering honestly, you may wreck your life as its currently situated.

IS YOUR LIFE STRUCTURED IN A WAY THAT ALLOWS YOU TO KNOW JESUS, TO BECOME LIKE JESUS, AND TO DO WHAT JESUS ASKED US TO DO?

THIS TEXT REVEALS + TESTS US

DON'T BE DRAWN TO COMFORT, BE DRAWN TO CONVICTION

Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

IT TAKES MORE THAN SAYING THE RIGHT THINGS AND PERFORMING TO BE A CHRISTIAN

WAFFLING IN FAITH CAN LEAD TO

PRIDE
OF WHOSE AM!

FEAR
AM I?
DO I BELIEVE?
IS THIS REAL?

HOW DOES YOUR FAITH DIFFER?

ATTEND, TITHES, ETC!

MANY CHRISTIANS DO THINGS TO ASSURE THEMSELVES AND CONVINCED OTHERS

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BEING ASSURED BY FAITH AND COMFORTABLE IN FAITH

DON'T LET ENVY + FEAR TO CONVINCE LET IT PUSH YOU TO EXAMINATION + CONVICTION.

2 Peter 1:3-11 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

APATHY + FEAR LEAD US AWAY FROM THE WORD CONVICTION + RESOLVE LEAD US BACK IN

DON'T BE DRAWN TO WORKS, BE DRAWN TO WORSHIP

Matthew 7:22 - On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

LOOK AT ALL THE STUFF THEY CAN DO...

- WE WANT FAITH TO LOOK LIKE THE EXTRAORDINARY, AND THIS CAN CAUSE US TO PURSUE THE FRUIT OVER THE SOURCE.

- YES, PURSUE GOOD + WORK HARD, BUT THESE CAN BECOME GOALS INSTEAD OF GOD.

- DID WE NOT — IN YOUR NAME?
ATTEND EVERYTHING? SERIOUS PEOPLE?
RAISE GODLY KIDS? BUILD BRANDS?
PROMOTE? TITHES?

DAUNTY SOBOR

FRUIT OF SPIRIT OVER MIRACULOUS ABILITY.

Galatians 5:19-26 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

FRUIT AREN'T SOURCE!

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 - Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

GOING + CLANGING WHO LOVE

DON'T BE DRAWN TO PREOCCUPATION, BE DRAWN TO PRESENCE

Matthew 7:23 - And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

We tried hard!

But you didn't ABIDE!

We were not acquainted!

How can you do things in my name if we aren't connected?

Revelation 3:14-22 - "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.' "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

What do we do with this?

My heart is for you to feel unburdened & to have someone say it:
You're too busy chasing the wrong things.

KNOW JESUS

Luke 10:38-42 - Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Jess, she's useless!
Set her straight!

You are anxious, troubled,
distracted

one thing necessary

All else will be taken
↓
how much do we sweat, toil,
lose sleep over things
that will be taken in the end
Make Jess known to yourself!

BECOME LIKE JESUS

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

This is an exchange
Many of us are unwilling to take off heavy burden because
we don't know who we are without it.
we can't take his yoke & learn...

DO WHAT JESUS DID

Matthew 22:34-40 - But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Micah 6:6-8 - With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

we want so badly to know what to do.

what if we did the first part, & let the works flow from that?

He is in control of results
we are in control of faithfulness