Stirred Up Together

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 10:19-25 (NKJV)

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Exercise:

Pray a short repetitive prayer: “Lord let me draw near to you with a true heart. I have a full assurance of faith. Thank you for your blood that covers all my sins. You’ve already defeated the very things that I sometimes can’t talk about. You’ve dealt with them under the blood of Jesus. So I can receive your love in this very moment.

Find a neighbor and begin by asking them where they are blessed. And where are they challenged. Encourage them in the Lord. Remind them of God’s faithfulness towards them even in the midst of their challenge. Share a testimony of your own if you want. Express your faith and confidence in God to help them at their toughest point.

Pray a short word of encouragement for them.

Take your seats.

Introduction

What you just did is not only Biblical, necessary and only possible when you are in fellowship! Do you realize that this is something that's not expected when you walk through the doors of many churches? Most of that encouragement comes from the stage by whoever is on the microphone, and if they didn't get to sing the song you needed, or pray the exact thing that was in your heart, you may leave Church that Sunday thinking that God didn't have something to say to you today. But the early Church understood something that we've forgotten—God isn't going to do all of the stirring—He expects us to do a good amount of stirring ourselves.

Clear Hearts & Minds

There's an old phrase that comes to mind in the form of a question: "Are all hearts and minds clear?" This is a question that is usually posed when there is a lingering issue either personally or within a group of people. Lingering questions, uncertainties, possible failures, questions of character; questionable outcomes etc.etc. These kinds of situations lead to "all hearts and minds" not being clear.

While it is isn't always attainable to be able to say "everything is perfect," we can be clear on one thing —our ability to come to God and present whatever it is to Him in faith that He hears us and will help us.

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

The Law said only the priest can go into the Holy of Holies having dipped his finger in the blood sacrifice and then taking it behind the veil to the Mercy Seat. But the Blood of Jesus secures our entrance because He's not only the Sacrifice but also the High Priest. He shed His Blood and carried His Blood into the Presence of God the Father and presented it as complete atonement. His very flesh was the veil that was torn for us.

Our genuine acknowledgement of that, allows us to draw near with a true heart.
Whatever you've done to make you unsure of yourself, doesn't change or alter in anyway the definitive thing that Jesus did for you.
it was His firm resolution to do
We must be firmly grounded in this lest we become unsettled and think that there's more that must be done to grant us access to Him
The clear conscience comes in CONFESSION.
James 5:16 (NKJV)16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
Our bodies washed in pure water is referring to the seal of our repentance through water baptism
In summary, we are crystal clear that without Jesus, we're still in our sins and that we are in need of a savior. That Savior is Jesus; He died for us and made full atonement for us and as a sign of repentance

and commitment to Him, we have been baptized in Jesus' Name.

Hold On No Matter What

When you spoke to your neighbor, did they encourage you to hold on to God's Hand and not let go?

Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)
23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Here we are encouraged to hold on not because our grip is flawless but because God is faithful. The profession of our faith is squarely on the faithfulness of God.
We cannot will ourselves into Heaven nor will ourselves to be able to be impregnable
On the contrary, our stubborn faith is in the faithfulness of God

Stirring Up One Another

Hebrews 10:24 (NKJV)
24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

Have you ever felt that your brother or sister didn't consider you?
Did you feel unseen, overlooked or invisible?
in these instances LOVE is not transferable and is rarely felt
Though unintentional it affects a person's ability to believe the Lord. "How can God be real if I don't feel His love around me in the Church?"

Stir Up
every time the word stir is used in the Bible it means to
incite
build up
provoke

when was the last time we built up, incited or provoked "love and good works?
What does that look like?
So "stirring up love and good works" means intentionally interacting with people in ways that **draw love into expression and move them toward action**.
That could look very ordinary:
somebody sees a family struggling and says, *"We can help them."*
Somebody recognizes another person's gift and says, *"You need to use that."*
Someone sees resentment developing and challenges a brother to forgive.
Someone begins serving, and their example causes others to serve.
Someone notices a person withdrawing and intentionally brings them back into community.

Stirred Up Together

Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV)

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 ingredient in the pot doesn't really do anything to a pot of boiling water. Even when stirred, it doesn't produce a lot of flavor—just more of itself. But when all the ingredients come together and are stirred together, now we have something full of flavor, able to nourish and strengthen.

I'm going to lean on the text in how it began encouraging us in verse 22 and say this:
The Christian in isolation is very likely struggling in their own conscience
Baptized but beat up by doubt
they are white knuckling their faith and holding on for dear life but their grip is beginning to slip.
they need more than an encouraging pep talk
they need the stirring, inciting, provocation of the saints towards believing God and actions of love and good works.

Close

Sermon 1- Paul encouraged Timothy to stir up his spiritual gifts.
Sermon 2- We looked at how God cooks by all things stirring together for our good
Sermon 3–Jesus doesn't come to stir the pool of Bethesda, He came to stir the faith of the paralyzed man
Today's sermon- God is saying "Now You Stir One Another."

Where are you feeling blessed? Where are you feeling challenged? Where you are blessed gives you an opportunity to encourage. Where you're challenged is an opportunity to receive encouragement. But neither your giving or receiving happens in isolation. It happens in connection.

Are you connected or disconnected? Are you truly in community or are you on the fence?