

“What the World Needs is Christians Who Are Intimate with Jesus”

John 14:1-6

What if you had to prove that you were “besties” with Jesus. How could /would you demonstrate your intimacy with Him?

Christians who are intimate with Jesus...

1. _____ the _____.

- 1) Know who Jesus _____.
- 2) _____ the way of Jesus to _____.

2. _____ in the _____.

- 1) _____ the truth in _____.
- 2) _____ the truth in _____.

3. _____ life as they _____.

- 1) Live _____, expectantly, triumphantly, and with _____!
- 2) Live _____ and _____ in order to impart grace, peace, joy, hope, and _____.

How well would other say you know Jesus?

“Hope is a moral duty” (from Jim Denison’s article on June 8, 2022)

The philosopher Lea Ypi [claims](#), “Hope is a moral duty.” She explains: “We have to act as though there is the chance of things going in a way that is favorable to what we want to achieve.” Otherwise, “If we were nihilistic, we couldn’t uphold that sense of duty.”

So, for her (and for many secular people like her), our reason for continuing to hope is that the opposite is worse. So long as we hope things can get better, we will keep trying to make them better. If we give up hope that the world can improve, naturally we will give up trying to improve it. Humans don’t try to fly like Superman because we know we have no hope of doing so.

Her observation applies to Christians as well. If we conclude that our culture is too far gone to turn back, that moral and spiritual awakening are impossible and divine judgment is inevitable, we will stop doing the things that promote the renewal we need so desperately.

If, however, we believe that “with man this is impossible, but with God *all* things are possible” (Matthew 19:26, my emphasis), we will never give up on what God can do in our world. We will say with the psalmist, “Great is our Lord, and abundant in power” (Psalm 147:5). We will claim the fact that “he does not faint or grow weary” (Isaiah 40:28) and will say to him with Job, “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted” (Job 42:2).

“Choose this day whom you will serve”

This is why God calls his people to “humble themselves, and *pray* and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways” in the promise that he will “hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14, my emphasis).... Of course, we understand that God honors the freedom he gives us.... When we pray for America to turn to God, we are not asking God to counteract the free will he has given Americans. How, then, should we pray for awakening?

One: Pray for renewal to begin with us

John Baillie was right to pray: “Do not let me embark on anything today that is not in line with your will for my life, nor shrink from any sacrifice that your will demands. Suggest, direct, and guide every movement of my mind for my Lord Jesus Christ’s sake.” Pray daily for moral and spiritual renewal in your own life, asking God to make you the change we need to see.

Two: Pray for the Spirit to open the spiritual eyes of unbelievers

Paul explained the spiritual root of our moral crisis: “The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4). Pray for the Spirit to convict sinners of their sins, to show our culture the lies and deceptions of our day, and to bring the lost to repentance.

Three: Pray for the courage to speak the truth in love

Our culture desperately needs biblical and moral truth, but it needs to hear such truth spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15). We are not culture warriors but cultural missionaries, forgiven people paying forward the grace that has changed our lives.