**“Open Your Present”**

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Senior Pastor, Dr. Janet Cook

2 Corinthians 9:15

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

**Jesus calls us to be people who live in present-tense or present moment.**

Living in the present moment means no longer worrying about what happened in the past and not fearing what will happen in the future. It means giving your entire attention to what God is doing right now.

**An average person is focused on:**

40% -- things that will never happen

30% -- things about the past that can’t be changed

12% -- things about criticism by others, mostly untrue

10% -- about health, which gets worse with stress

8% -- about real problems that will be faced

**Invest in God’s Kingdom Day by Day**

Matthew 6:34 “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.” MSG

**Living in the Present** is to be **Aware, Alert and Advancing.**

**To Live in the Present, you must be AWARE**

* You are looking for God in your life.
* It means you’re awake!
* “Compared with what we ought to be, most of us are half-awake.” *William James*

**God ordered Moses to send 12 men to spy out the land of Canaan.**

Numbers 13:2 “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, everyone a chief among them.”

Numbers 13:27-28 “They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.”

**Faith Report**

Numbers 13:30-33 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

**Doubt Report**

(31) But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.” And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

**Language of doubt:**

* We saw.
* We are not able.
* We are not as strong as they are.

**Language of faith:**

* We are well able.
* The Lord will bring us into the land and give it to us.
* The Giants are bread for us.
* They are defenseless.
* The Lord is with us.
* Do not fear!

**The language you choose determines the result you achieve.**

Numbers 14:36-37 “Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land, those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the LORD.”

“We don’t live alone. Our actions and deeds affect other people, many of whom we will never know." *Zig Ziglar*

* We must be Awake and ready to act upon God opportunities and divine appointments.
* Live in the Present – Speak the language of FAITH!

**To Live in the Present, you must be ALERT**

One definition of Alert is this: Quick to perceive and act!

Caleb said, “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it!”

* Anytime you focus on the problems, you fail to see the bigger picture of who God is and what He is trying to give you.
* To be alert means to be on the watch.

**To Live in the Present, you must be ADVANCING**

**Why we fail to ADVANCE**

1. Lack of time - Prioritize

2. Lack of energy- Where are you exerting your energy?

3. Lack of creativity- Nurture your creative abilities.

4. Lack of faith- Practice using your faith.

5. Lack of resources- What’s in your hand?

**What’s in your hand?**

Exodus 4:1-3 Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’ ”

So the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.”

And He said, “Cast it on the ground.” So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

**God has prepared our Good Works**

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

**God wants you to Live in the Present, but you must be Awake, Alert and Advancing!**