

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. What is faith to you?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. What's the biggest faith step you have ever taken? How does it compare to Theodore Roosevelt's quote, "It's not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or when the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worth cause; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat."
3. Ephesians 3:14-21 is the passage that God used to start ThornCreek Church. What do verses 14-16 mean to you at a personal level? Can you talk about a time when you needed strength from the Lord?
4. Pastor Ruben said, "You need strength from God to handle Category Five winds." Can you identify with that quote?
5. Please read Ephesians 3:16. What do you think the "inner being" means to you?
6. John Ortberg said, "The soul is the coolest, eeriest, most mysterious, evocative, crucial, sacred, eternal, life-directing, fragile, indestructible, controversial, expensive dimension of your existence. Jesus said it's worth more than the world. You'd be an idiot not to prize it above all else."

7. How much attention do you give to your soul every day? What does it look like? Does it involve God's Word every day?
8. What does the word, "dwell" mean to you in Ephesians 3:17 (NASB Version)?
9. Are you closer to Jesus Christ today than you were a year ago? How do you know? How do you measure your spiritual growth? Are you reading the bible more? Are you giving more today than a year ago? What needs to change?
10. Have you taken the Spiritual Life Survey at ThornCreek Church (thorncreek.church/survey)?
11. Please read Ephesians 3:18-19. What does it mean to you to "grasp" the love of Christ? Do you feel like you have grasped the love of God? How do you know?
12. Finish reading Ephesians 3:20-21. Use your imagination...think big... What do you think God wants to do through you within the next five years?
13. A.W. Tozer said, "God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible, what a pity we only attempt the things we can do on our own." What are you doing with your life that requires God to show up, and benefits the Kingdom of Heaven?

Application

Below are the main points of the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- You need strength from God to handle Category Five winds
- What is unseen is more important than what is seen.
- The more you get it, the more you live it.
- You need grit more than hip to be relevant for God.
- What God has for you is always better than your imagination.

Happy Birthday Thorncreek
Message Series: Ephesians Chapter Three

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