

What's My Part in My Growth?

Jesus-Brand Spirituality—Pt. 3 Ray Befus February 24, 2008 Philippians 2:12, TNIV p. 805

Home Group Discussion Questions

1. In our pastors' talks on Jesus-brand spirituality this month, they've identified three common passages in everyone's spiritual journey: (a) Exploring Jesus-brand spirituality, (b) Deciding to trust and follow Jesus (spiritual childhood), and (c) Inviting Jesus into my struggles, sins, and secrets (spiritual adolescence). Do you see yourself in one of these three passages? How would you describe where you are at on your spiritual journey?
2. What thoughts or statements from last Sunday's teaching have stayed with you?
3. Let's open our Bible's to Philippians 2. The first part of the chapter (vv. 1-11) describes what Jesus has done for each of us. Vv 12-13 call us (in response to Jesus' humble servanthood and suffering for us) to decide to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. In other words, Jesus has done all we need to enjoy a successful journey, but we still need to work out our faith in practical ways each step of the way. God has gone first and is ready to strengthen us, but we have to choose make adult-level decisions to work out our faith in the scary stuff that we tend to deny and to hide from other people. No one can do this for us—not a parent or a pastor, not even a coach. What part of vv. 12-13 is difficult to understand, is intriguing, is challenging, or even encouraging?
4. We can go through a period of spiritual adolescence, whether we're 17 or 37 or 57. If we could be honest with each other, do any of you feel like you're stuck right now? Do you feel like your spiritual momentum has stalled? Did you hear God speaking to you last Sunday? What do you think he is saying to you?
5. Have you ever asked another maturing Christian—someone living Jesus' life, consistently growing in love for God and other people—to coach you through a difficult season? What was your experience like? Have you ever provided another Christian with some personal coaching? What was that like?
6. When you think of "The Pyramid of Power" Ray described, can you see how (1) taking responsibility to make a personal decision, (2) asking for prayer for a secret struggle (3) developing a detailed plan of action, and (4) partnering with a coach for spiritual growth could help you start moving forward again? Did any of you make any decisions last Sunday? Did any of you decide to start looking for a spiritual life coach?