

Living from the Inside Out

I. What happens on the inside of us is directly connected to how we are able to influence the world outside of us (Mark 4:35-41).

- A. In Mark 4 the disciples had not yet learned the lessons of faith which would cause them to change the environment around them. In fact, Jesus remarked at one point, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:40).
- B. The rule, or the authority of God, starts inside of us with invisible faith and makes its way into powerful actions and speech (Mark 4:39).
- C. The ten men healed of leprosy show us that thanksgiving and faith are part of living from the inside out (Luke 17:11-19).
- D. Love is to be at the center of all our works, or we have gained nothing (I Cor. 13:1-3).
- E. Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is a beautiful thing. The Spirit takes what is of Jesus and makes it known to us. The Father and Son are both glorified, because all that belongs to the Father belongs to Jesus (John 16:12-15).

II. Steps to living from the inside out

- A. Have a light heart and a sound mind. The heaviest things to carry in life are sin and unforgiveness.
 - 1. "God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all" (I John 1:5).
 - 2. God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance and forgiveness (Romans 2:4).
 - a. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
 - b. "If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar; and His word is not in us" (I John 1:10).
- B. It is wonderful to feel and hear God's affirmation in your heart (Matthew 3:17; Zephaniah 3:17; Ephesians 3:16-19).
- C. As believers, we've been given grace to petition God's heart for what we need (John 16:23-27; Philippians 4:4-7).
- D. We have also been given power to declare God's heart over the world.
 - 1. Our God is the "God who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did" (Romans 4:17 NKJV). He invites His Church to do the same in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 3:6-8).
 - 2. Cultivating a culture of encouragement and honor (Isaiah 35:3-4)

Encouragement is more than a natural use of words to make someone feel good about their circumstances. It is supernatural in nature and partners with heaven to bring forth heaven's response. – *Bill Johnson*

Mike Hudgins
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