

Discussion Guide

09/08/2024

Reflections: Sunday to Sunday

Pastor Brandon Barber

Main Idea

The reflection serves as a tool for self-examination, much like a mirror. Despite claims of indifference, the prevalence of selfies suggests a concern with one's image. The essence of who we are is as crucial as our actions, with some successful individuals feeling lost, while those with less material wealth may find purpose. The Bible reflects that the Word, as mentioned in John 1:1, is the image and reflection of God.

Anchor Verse:

"As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real person." (Proverbs 27:19 NLT)

1. Love & Passion for God

Maintaining a spiritual fire requires consistent, small efforts rather than a single intense burst; just as seasoned fire makers add wood gradually to keep a fire going, believers should nurture their faith daily, not just in bursts on Sundays.

Read: Matthew 22:37; Romans 12:11; Leviticus 6:8-13

How can stepping away from societal norms and embracing a different way of life, especially following the spiritual path, lead to a more fulfilling and purposeful existence? How can we develop daily practices to consistently nurture and sustain our spiritual growth, rather than relying on occasional bursts of intense effort?

2. Remove What Remains

To maintain your passion for the Lord, you must remove distractions and unresolved issues from your life. Passion for God, including involvement in ministries, comes from addressing personal brokenness and aligning with what God values—loving and serving people.

How can addressing personal distractions and unresolved issues help us to better reflect God's love and align with His passion for serving others?

3. Every Morning Arrange

To connect with the Lord, schedule daily time with Him in your calendar and prioritize it without letting anything interfere, as missing this appointment can lead to disappointment and hinder your spiritual growth.

How can setting a consistent, dedicated time for spiritual practice in your daily schedule impact your relationship with God and your overall spiritual growth?

4. Carry Outside The Camp

Our pastors, team, and church strive to reflect God's passion and joy in every Sunday service, hoping that you will take this experience and share it with others in your community.

How can we effectively take the passion and joy experienced during Sunday services and share it with others in our daily lives and communities?

5. Don't Ever Apologize for Your Passion and Praise

It's surprising how many believers remain quiet about their faith in today's world, where boldness is needed. Just as fans passionately support celebrities without hesitation, we should express our joy and strength through praise, even if it seems excessive, because it brings unique strength and fulfillment.

Read: Romans 1:16; Philippians 1:20

How can we cultivate and demonstrate boldness in our faith, similar to the passionate enthusiasm seen at popular events, and what impact might this have on our spiritual lives and the lives of those around us?

6. Carry Outside The Camp

Even if you feel depleted, Revelation 3:1-2 calls us to "strengthen what little remains," urging us to revive our spiritual commitment.

Read: Revelation 3:1-2

How can taking small, consistent steps in your spiritual practices help you to revitalize your faith, even when you feel spiritually depleted?

SUMMARY

Maintaining a vibrant spiritual life requires daily, consistent effort rather than occasional intense bursts, similar to how seasoned fire makers keep a fire going gradually.

Addressing personal distractions and unresolved issues is crucial for nurturing your faith and reflecting God's love. Scheduling regular, uninterrupted time with God helps avoid spiritual disappointment and fosters growth. Our passion for God should extend beyond church services, influencing our daily interactions. Boldness in faith, like enthusiastic support for celebrities, brings strength and fulfillment. Even when feeling depleted, small, steady actions can rejuvenate your spiritual commitment.

CALL TO ACTION

1. **Commit to Daily Spiritual Practice:** Schedule and prioritize consistent daily time with God, ensuring it becomes a non-negotiable part of your routine to strengthen and maintain your faith.
2. **Address and Remove Distractions:** Identify and eliminate personal distractions and unresolved issues that hinder your spiritual growth, aligning your life more closely with God's values of love and service.
3. **Share Your Passion and Boldness:** Actively carry the passion and joy experienced in church services into your daily life, and express your faith boldly and unapologetically, inspiring others through your enthusiasm and commitment.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Heroes

Ask each group member to name three people, past or present, he or she admires. Why? Or ask: "If you could interview anyone in history, who would you choose and why? What one or two questions would you ask?"

Tips: People will have interesting answers for these questions. It would be best to utilize this icebreaker for a small group that is focussed on bonding. Members of your group will most likely talk about people who have impacted their lives personally, so it may take longer than other icebreakers.