

Overview

Warren ... a Way of Life – what does that mean? It means the way you live your life day to day is just as authentic on Monday as it was on Sunday. It means that reading the Word of God isn't part of a routine or ritual, but it's a lifelong pursuit of seeking after God and knowing Him more intimately and fully so that you can be transformed into the likeness of His Son. It means that worship isn't just about a song you sing, but rather it's what you do as you pray for a friend, serve a person in need, or tell someone about what Jesus has done in your life so they can know Him and have abundant life too. If you call Warren your church, *a way of life* means simply that your aim is to make Jesus the focal point of your life – moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day – and the end result is a Gospel-centered life that is channeled and changed, not because of *what* you're doing but because of *who* you're following.

Going Deeper

What does the phrase “a way of life” mean to you?
What kinds of things should define a church and its people?

Making It Stick

Read Acts 2:41-47.

Hearing and Believing

- Briefly discuss the events leading up to Acts 2:41-47 for context (Acts 2:1-40).
- Name the three specific things that occurred in Acts 2:41.
_____ the Word, _____, _____ 3000 souls
- Most of us have never seen a Gospel response of this magnitude, but we have seen God's Word and the working of the Holy Spirit save and transform a life for Christ.
 - o Talk about this event with your group and give specific examples of when you've seen this kind of response take place. Has this response to the Gospel taken place in your life?
 - o Share your personal salvation testimony with your group.

What happened at Pentecost was not simply a group of people having a big day of decision and then scattering, but it was people who began the journey of discipleship. And the disciple-making impact of the first church shaped who they were, what they did and how they lived – a way of life! – David H. McKinley

Disciple-Making

- After your initial salvation experience with Christ, what happened next?
 - o Were you discipled or did you flounder, not knowing what to do next?
 - o What did your discipleship look like?
 - o Have you ever discipled someone?
 - o Is there someone God is prompting you to disciple at this time?
 - o Will you respond?
- Acts 2:42-47 is the result or overflow of what occurred in Acts 2:41. It added validity to the disciples' testimony of Jesus Christ.
 - o What happened in these verses to validate their experience?
 - o What has been and continues to be the overflow from your salvation experience?

Worship Through the Word

All true worship is dependent on the knowledge of God. Worship begins and ends with the Word of God reflected in music, prayer and teaching. – David H. McKinley

Read Acts 2:42a. Use the following truths to guide you through a discussion about the importance of God's Word in the daily life of a believer.

- God's Word must be the central focus and the basis for truth in the life of a believer. (Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Timothy 4:1-4, Acts 20:27, Nehemiah 8:3-6a, 7b-8)
- God's Word convicts and challenges the believer. (Hebrews 4:12, Jeremiah 23:29, Psalm 1)
- God's Word confronts the believer and conforms him/her into the likeness of Christ. (Romans 12:2, James 1:22-25, Isaiah 55:10-11)
- God's Word conveys the message of the Gospel and always points us to Jesus. (John 1:1-4, 14, Mark 1:14-17)

The Bible is a gift. It is a gift from God to us and for us to teach us who He is, who and what we are, how we should live, and how we can live for the benefit of others and not ourselves alone. – David H. McKinley

Living It Out

If we are to ***Worship through the Word*** as a *way of life*, we must not only study the Word of God in order to change our thinking and actions, but we must use it to change and influence the way we pray.

Do you use God's Word as you pray? The following verses are wonderful to pray back to God.

Use these in your prayer time this week or find some on your own.

Discover the power the Word of God has to affect the way you pray and the way God responds.

Lord, help _____ dwell in the shelter of the Most High and find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:1

God give _____ the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of You, enlighten the eyes of _____'s heart so _____ may know what is the hope to which You have called him/her.

Ephesians 1:17-18

Lord, I pray that _____ would be rooted and established in Your love, and that _____ would have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge so that _____ may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

Lord, would you direct _____'s heart to the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

The Word of God is the fulcrum upon which the lever of prayer is placed, and by which things are mightily moved. There would seem to be in prayer the capacity for going even beyond the Word, of getting even beyond His promise, into the very presence of God, Himself. – E.M. Bounds