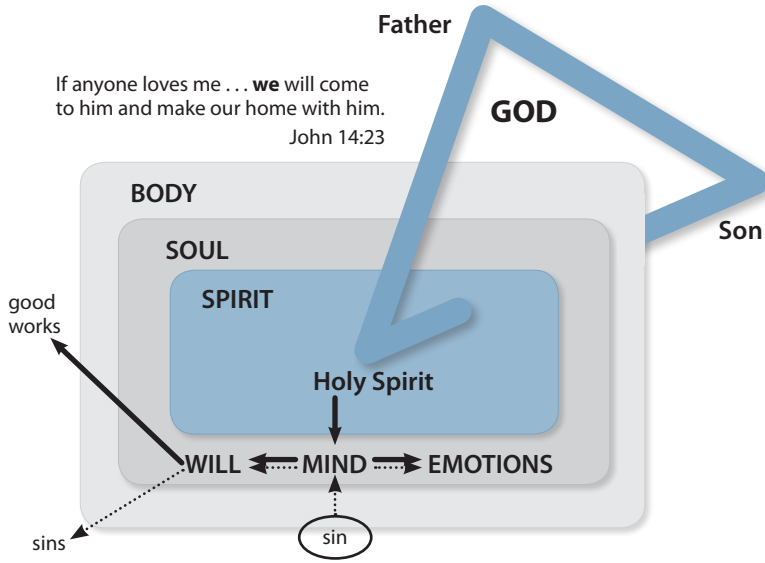


If anyone loves me . . . **we** will come to him and make our home with him.
John 14:23



STUDY QUESTIONS

AWAKEN!

1. Of the five spiritual senses, which are you most excited to have awakened? Why is that one so special to you?
2. What do you believe it means to “make every *effort* to enter God’s *rest*” (Heb. 4:11)?

FEEL THE FREEDOM OF GRACE

1. Why do you think it’s so difficult for us to trust in God’s grace for anything beyond salvation?
2. *Grace* is a common buzzword these days. Do you think our understanding of God’s grace has fallen short? If so, how?

Study Questions

3. At the heart of the new covenant is God's faithfulness to himself. How does this affect your view of salvation and life in Christ?
4. Can you relate to the story about Prohibition in the United States? In what ways has being under laws or rules excited sin in your life?
5. How does understanding the old covenant context of Jesus's harsh teachings (cut off your hand, be perfect, sell everything, etc.) help you feel the freedom of grace on this side of the cross?
6. The prisoners of Shawshank prison were uncomfortable with freedom after their release. In what ways do you think our freedom in Christ can be uncomfortable at first?

HEAR THE SPIRIT BEARING WITNESS

1. We are who we are by birth, *not* by what we do. How does this help you hear the Spirit bearing witness to your true identity as a child of God?
2. What is the flesh? How might the realization that the struggle is between God's Spirit and

Study Questions

the flesh (Gal. 5:17) change the way you approach the battle?

3. Understanding that a power called *sin* can offer sinful thoughts to our minds at any time is a startling revelation for many. But how is it also a heavenly call to reinterpret the way we view ourselves and our thinking?
4. Do you find it helpful to see that we have a spirit *and* a soul? How does this perspective help explain our 100 percent righteous condition in Christ despite the ongoing renewal of the mind?
5. In what ways have you based your theology on the roller coaster of your soul when heaven calls us to worship God in *spirit* and in truth?

SEE THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS

1. Will Jesus ever die for our sins again? Given God's blood economy for sins, what does this mean for the type of forgiveness you now have?
2. How does the image of Jesus relaxing in a seated position at our Father's right hand help you understand the nature of your forgiveness?

Study Questions

3. How does our total forgiveness factor in at Christ's return? Do you believe that God will remember our sins on judgment day? Why or why not?
4. In what way can 1 John 1:9 be misunderstood as a "bar of soap" cleanser for the Christian? What is this passage really about in context?
5. If we don't have to ask for forgiveness each time we sin, what should we do when we sin? How does the "stop, drop, and roll" fire analogy help explain this?
6. Take a minute to browse the "Big Picture" list of forgiveness passages near the end of chapter 13. Do you think God was naïve in forgiving us this way, with no strings attached? How might realizing our permanently clean state before him affect the way we think and act on a daily basis?

SMELL THE FRAGRANT AROMA OF CHRIST

1. At any point in your life, could you relate to Michael, who had a surface-level understanding of Christianity but didn't really know what it meant to have Christ's *life* in him?

Study Questions

2. At Christmas, we celebrate the incarnation of Christ—Jesus coming to earth in human flesh. How might *our own compatibility* with the life of Christ now residing in us give us even more appreciation as we celebrate Christmas?
3. How is Christ living *through* us different from us merely living *for* Christ?
4. “All of God and none of us”—how does this idea fall short, and how does our union with Christ explain things better?
5. What would you say to someone who seems fearful of “surrendering” to Christ living through them because they are afraid of “God’s will” for their life?

TASTE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

1. If someone asked you to explain the new covenant in your own words, what would you say it’s all about?
2. How does heaven’s new way change the way you look at yourself? your sins? your relationship with God?

Study Questions

3. In what ways have you been awakened to the wonders of God's grace? In what ways might you need to be further awakened to his goodness?

MY FIVE SPIRITUAL SENSES

SENSE 1: FEEL THE FREEDOM OF GRACE

- *I am dead to the law.* (Rom. 7:4, 6; Gal. 2:19)
- *I am not under the law.* (Rom. 6:14; Gal. 5:18)
- *I am not supervised by the law.* (Gal. 3:25)
- *The requirements of the law have been fully met in me.* (Rom. 8:3–4)
- *Christ is the end of the law for me.* (Rom. 10:4)
- *I serve in God's new way, led by his Spirit.* (Rom. 7:6; Gal. 5:18)

SENSE 2: HEAR THE SPIRIT BEARING WITNESS

- *My old self is dead, buried, and gone.* (Rom. 6:6–7; Gal. 2:20)
- *I am dead to sin and alive to God.* (Rom. 6:11)

My Five Spiritual Senses

- *I am a new creation re-created in Christ Jesus.* (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10)
- *The struggle is against the flesh and sin, not against myself.* (Rom. 7:17, 20; Eph. 6:12)
- *I am more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ.* (Rom. 8:37)

SENSE 3: SEE THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS

- *I have been forgiven and cleansed once for all.* (Heb. 9:28; 10:2)
- *By one sacrifice I have been made perfect forever.* (Heb. 10:14)
- *I have been made holy through Jesus's sacrifice once for all.* (Heb. 10:10)
- *I have been reconciled to God.* (Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:22)
- *I have fellowship with God.* (1 Cor. 1:9; 1 John 1:3)
- *My totally forgiven state is a powerful inspiration to forgive others.* (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13)

SENSE 4: SMELL THE FRAGRANT AROMA OF CHRIST

- *Having eternal life means having Christ's life.* (John 17:3; 1 John 5:12)

My Five Spiritual Senses

- *Christ literally and actually lives in me.* (2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20)
- *It is all of him and all of me in union together.* (Rom. 6:5; 1 Cor. 6:17)
- *God is at work in me, carrying his work to completion.* (Phil. 1:6; 2:13)

SENSE 5: TASTE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

- *The Lord's will is that I bear his fruit.* (John 15:8)
- *The Lord's will is that I talk to him and give thanks to him.* (1 Thess. 5:17–18)
- *The Lord forgave me, canceled my debt, and made me alive.* (Col. 2:13–14)
- *The Lord demonstrates his love for me in his new covenant.* (Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 3:6)