



Last week

Recording: on Spotify or joychurch.life

Jobs branches do

And do not do



Joy! Church | 2.11.24

We love you. Yes, you

Focus 42: The resurrection of Christmidst

- Summon resurrection power that lasts:
Christ's, yours, ours, the Church
- 42 days: Today., Feb18th, to Sun., Mar 31st
- Spiritual disciplines: **Pathways to presence**
Lovingly fast I/me/my/we
- Focus our minds to behold Jesus with love
(not remotely empty them)
- Less about well-mannered denials
more about thinning our lives in order
to thicken our life-union with God

42: seven sixes



42: six sevens



1000 | 33 | 54 | 2024

Psalm 16

King David, 1000 years before Jesus, a prophetic song:

- **v.8:** Because I set you, Yahweh, always close to me, my confidence will never be weakened, for I experience your wraparound presence every moment.

*** Possible alternative Hebrew translation: "I have determined in my heart to be identical with the mind and heart of God, and I will not let my resolve be weakened."*

- **v.11:** Because of you, I know the path of life, as I taste the fullness of joy in your presence. At your right side I experience divine pleasures forevermore!

Where is the born-again follower of Christ now seated? In heavenly places at Christ's right side

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John 15:4-5

Jesus, with His disciples in the upper room during The Last Supper, mere hours before His betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane

- **v.4** So you must remain in life-union with me, grafted into me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to mine.
- **v.5** I am the sprouting vine and you're my branches. As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless.

Challenge: *Carefully, slowly, read or listen to John Chapters 14:15 thru 16:16 twice this week*

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Acts 2:14-36

Peter, from his sermon to those in the upper room at Pentecost, after the sound of the violent rush of wind and the pillar of fire (it split!!!) Holy Spirit came on and, for the first time, IN

- **v.25** This is the very thing David prophesied about...

Peter goes on to quote from Psalm 16:8-11

- **v.32** Can't you see it? God has resurrected Jesus, and we all have seen him!
- **v. 33** Then God exalted him [*Jesus*] to his right hand upon the throne of highest honor. And the Father gave him the authority to send the promised Holy Spirit, which is being poured out upon us today. This is what you're seeing and hearing!

The Aramaic is "splashed out the gift of the Holy Spirit."

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Table Time

What is Holy Spirit saying to and for YOU? (*asking, guiding, directing...*)

1. Share:

What is the main thing that interferes with my being a connected branch?

2. Share and discuss:

What consistently are my top one or two "pathways to presence"?

[#1 go-to's (methods, habits, etc.) to connect deeply with the Spirit of God]

3. Decide, share and bless:

- What is the one thing I could do this week that would make the most positive difference in connecting with God better? Share with your table.
- Prayerfully speak that into existence for one another: Pray for, encourage, urge, comfort, declare, speak into one another.

BONUS. *Ask Holy Spirit: Want any of us here to check in with each other this week?*