Door to Liberation

The beginning remarks really captured my attention, the phrase ‘deep’ people threw me off guard and caught my interest, what does he mean by this? That question was kind of answered in the next paragraph, “dwelling in the depths of the spiritual realm” to paraphrase. This gave me a clue however was still very vague. At this point I paused and re-read it to see if I missed any points, upon further inspection I concluded that I would find the answer later in the chapter, so I continued.

The next sentence was a huge relief to me, finding out that the “spiritual disciplines are not for the spiritual giants” really calmed my nerves going into this class. The next relief I saw was how the spiritual disciplines are not for the “dull” part of your life but rather experiencing JOY in them!

As I read through this chapter, I see different points about “deep(ness)” and slowly putting together the picture on what this implies. Eventually I concluded that it is the longings of your heart. The “distant callings” as the book puts it. As the chapter continues, one can see many different sub-topics and many good points. One of the most noticeable point to me is the pharisee’s. Jesus talks all about the pharisee’s and their external “righteousness”. We talk about them because they participated in the spiritual disciplines, however interpreted it as a law rather than a joy. The goal for the disciplines was for external gratification from others. Caring more about how they were perceived rather than giving glory to God.

One of the final ‘warnings’ of this chapter is to never let the disciplines become law, law is used to manipulate and control people. Spiritual disciplines should never be a “command” but rather a necessity that you need. Like we need air, food, and water, we also need Jesus. For me personally, when I am “commanded” to do something, everything in me wants to do the opposite. It should always be an encouragement to participate in disciplines, but never a “order”

Thanks!

Koleman Parsley