



The Gathering Place Christian Church

Connect: A Monthly Newsletter

February 5, 2009

Dearest Church Family,

I have been on a journey in recent weeks... a journey I would have confidently (and with more than a hint of pride) claimed to have traversed well in years past. Having been a Christ-follower for 16 years and a pastor for more than a decade, it is tempting to let the measure of time stand as some form of proof of my Christian maturity. But God has graciously kicked those props out from underneath me and revealed new arenas of immaturity and brokenness in my heart. Certainly there are times when this kind of work of His Spirit comes in the form of correction and rebuke... but this time it has been much more like an invitation. An offer to have more of Him. No one could ever deny that years of walking in vibrant relationship with The Lord bring about a wisdom and maturity that one cannot successfully fake for long; however, it is not primarily how long we walk with God, but rather how deep we go with God that really matters. And suddenly, I have an ache within me for more. I have found in conversations, emails, and prayer requests within our growing Church that I am not alone in hearing the call and feeling the desire to go deeper with God.

I believe God is extending an invitation to us right now... an invitation to go deeper with Him, to have more of Him, to break free from contentment with our current level of intimacy and familiarity with God and pursue more of Him together. This was the cry of the great apostle Paul for God's Church in Ephesians 1:17:

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe."

Or again in later in Ephesians 3:14-19:

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

I am filled with such an expectation in The Spirit for what God is at work doing in and among us. I encourage you loved ones; do not be content. Make time for and enthrone Christ in your hearts today. Ask God to reveal himself to you in new ways... it is a prayer He deeply loves. Let's press in together; that we may know Him better.

Reaching for More,

Pastor George