



HOPE Church Summer 2020 Life Groups – week 7 study guide

Sunday's service on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/hopecclb/videos/689941125065668>

As we continue in the series, "The Climb", this week's message focused on how surrendering our hearts to God ultimately leads us to God's peace, if we are willing to stay true to His path.



Recommended bible reading: **Joel 2:12-13** and **Luke 7:36-50**

Pastor Keith mentioned how the events of 2020 have caused people to feel confused and purposeless creating great anxiety and doubt about the future. Even so, as believers, our true purpose is connected to Christ Jesus and our relationship with Him. Despite our frustrations and fears, our God wants us to come boldly to the Throne of His Grace for help, guidance and peace; He wants us to invite Him into all aspects of our lives and *especially* into our hearts. Therefore, in order to enable this to happen, we need to surrender our hearts to God which requires repentance from sin. However, despite what can be a painful process of renewal, repentance is the gateway to having a deeper, more meaningful and purpose driven life in Christ. Keith also stated that, "God wants our hearts" and told us that, "*When we surrender, when we repent and we fall on our face and worship, sometimes it doesn't feel good. But when we experience it, when we experience the depths of that, we're shattered – and none of us likes that feeling. But it is at that point that our hearts are touched by God and we begin to change.*" So, are we willing to recognize and surrender?

Joel 2:12-13 (NLT)

12 That is why the Lord says, "Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. 13 Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead." Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.

Luke 7:36-39, 50 (NLT)

36 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. 37 When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. 38 Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!".... 50 And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Pastor Keith gave us 5 *foundational principles* to enable us to allow God to have our hearts:

1. **Recognition** of sin leads to surrender and brokenness
2. **Surrender** leads to repentance
3. **Repentance** leads to humility
4. **Humility** leads to worship
5. **Worship** leads to God's peace



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Meditate upon these 5 principles and consider the following questions

1. Has a recognition of your own sinfulness ever led you to a sense of deep surrender and brokenness before God? (e.g. 2nd Cor 7:10)
2. Why is surrendering our hearts to God a necessary principle for repentance?
3. Think carefully upon the principles that Scripture teaches us (e.g. Matt 7:1, Eph 4:31-32, Gal 5:19-23).
 - a. Do you recognize aspects of sinfulness in yourself?
 - b. Are any of these areas a stronghold?
 - c. What do you think it will take for you to repent (i.e. turn away) from your iniquity?
4. Think about the woman who came to Jesus (i.e. Luke 7:38). How does her behavior indicate that she was experiencing (even embracing) the 5 principles listed above?
5. Think about how you worship God (i.e. John 4:23-24) and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit (i.e. Gal 5:22-23). How does living out the principles listed above enable us to:
 - a. Worship Him in spirit and in truth?
 - b. Enable us to have peace with God?

Other verses of Scripture to consider:

2nd Corinthians 7:10 - For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death."

Matthew 7:1 – “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged”

Ephesians 4:31-32 – Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you

Galatians 5:19-23 - When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. *There is no law against these things!*

John 4:23-24 – “But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. *The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.* For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

- All Scripture taken from the NLT

“Peace with God is the fruit of oneness with God” and “Brokenness is God’s requirement for maximum usefulness” – C. F. Stanley (Life Principles # 12 and 15 respectively)