

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for February 13, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler | *Open Invitation: Hearing Test*

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Are you, for whatever reason, trying to hide the light you've received from Jesus? Ask God to give you a fresh understanding of, and passion for, your role in shining the light of the Gospel.
- As a child of the Light, what deeds of darkness need to be exposed and dealt with in your life?
- Invite the Holy Spirit to further cultivate the soil of your soul so that you will both receive more blessing and produce more of a crop.
- Pray for someone you know who is struggling to receive/retain the seed of the Gospel. Ask God to help him/her see through any spiritual self-deception that might be plaguing him/her.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Psalm 27:1-14** | According to this Psalm, what are some of the results of having the “light of the Lord” as a stronghold for our lives?
- **1 Corinthians 4:1-5** | How does it make you feel that Jesus knows even the hidden motives of our hearts?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

February Practice: Solitude & Silence | A Quiet Place (from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 106)

- The disciplines of silence and solitude are interwoven into the DNA of a Christian person. We rely on them like one relies on food or water. Perhaps this is why so many folks feel spiritually malnourished or dehydrated because they are not opening themselves up to silence and solitude. Solitude is not simply the absence of noise but the absence of distraction. Whenever we are able to sit and rest in the presence of God, our eyes are opened in ways that we wouldn't have imagined before.
- One thing you can do is try to establish a “quiet place” or several quiet places. The idea being that these places become set apart from your everyday life of noise and busyness. It is here that you can come to pray, find rest, and seek the peace of God. This space can be inside or outside your home. It can even be in the church building. Be creative. While here, you don't need to have an agenda, simply enter the space to be alone with God. Bring your full self into your quiet place and wait for the Spirit to move in you. God is not going to force Himself into our lives. If we choose busyness and distraction, He will allow us to have it. But if we make ourselves available to God, He will be ready, and He will move in us.