

[00:00:00] What I just want to focus in on is that when Adam and Eve fell, it was eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which was the problem, as opposed to living from the tree of life. And what I would suggest to you is that we, as Christians, we can get to a place where we just are living more from our minds than we are from our spirits. And this is what I want to talk about today.

[00:00:34] This was the point for putting in, as I say, it was more for my benefit than it was for yours. Of where it is I'm going that we want to live a life in the spirit and we want to live from our hearts rather than we do from our minds.

[00:00:52] Okay, well, I want to play a little. I want to play a little game with you this morning.

[00:00:57] You can have some voting rights in this little exercise.

[00:01:02] And this is the office that I share with and my wife. And you can see there is a line of demarcation that's going on here, just here. This is the line of death between these two desks as we look out. So there's a chair on the left and there's a chair on the right.

[00:01:26] Now what I want you to do is to pray hard and seriously and ask yourself for a word of knowledge as to which side you think of. This long desk is mine. So no shouting out. No shouting out.

[00:01:45] And Anne, I've got to exclude you from this because you've got insider trading knowledge here.

[00:01:51] So I'm going to say so if you think on the left side is mine, raise your hands now, clearly you didn't hear properly because nobody's put their hands up. Would you please raise your hands if you think this left side is mine.

[00:02:13] Now if you think on the right hand side is Anne's, put your hands up.

[00:02:19] Oh, there's only one. There's only one.

[00:02:23] Which side do you think Anne's is, is his the left? No. Do you think his is on the right? Hands up for yes.

[00:02:32] If you think Anne's side is on the left. Hands up for yes.

[00:02:37] Oh, gosh, I know what it is. It's that coffee cup that gave it away, isn't it? You know, I prefer coffee than she does, but hey, there is a reason for this little bit of nonsense and I just want to actually take you to the right hand side of the desk, which is mine by the way. And I want you to sit in the desk. So. So you sat at the bottom here.

[00:03:05] And as you can see, there's a blue folder on the left hand side which has Just come out of the cupboard. It's been in there for about three years. It's never been out for about three years. And you can see my laptop that's in the middle there. And in the middle of there, you can see there is a little book.

[00:03:24] And this is the book. This is my little journal that I have there.

[00:03:29] And I'd just been worshipping God a minute and I thought, let's just turn back to this journal. And I turned to April 2023, and there was a word that Raj brought. This was the first time I'd met her. And now you know how lovely she is, how kind she is, how inclusive, how

encouraging.

[00:03:49] This is the word that she brought.

[00:03:52] She says, I see insecurity over you.

[00:03:58] I see anxiety, I see that you are stressed.

[00:04:03] I see that you are functioning out of your mind.

[00:04:07] Now, she didn't quite say it like this, but it was absolutely true in the moment. And she said, I want you to learn to worship God and he will bypass the mind and you will function from the heart. Ask God for a word each day and he'll affirm you, you at a heart level.

[00:04:25] It was said in a very loving way, but it resonated with me because I think often it's true as we, as Christians, we can be functioning from the mind that God in his love. Yeah. In a very generalized way. Somewhere kind of around me and about me is the love of God.

[00:04:45] And it can be something that is rather more vague than specific. But anyway, this, this happened yesterday at about 11:30, and I. And I'd just be praying and I read that and then I turned to the right hand side of that book and there was a prophetic word that somebody gave me in this room.

[00:05:09] And, well, I can tell you when it was. It was 26th of May, 2023, and it has never, ever made sense to me, ever.

[00:05:19] And he said to me, don't worry about the blue folder and its contents. It's on the left hand side of your office.

[00:05:27] And it's never made any sense to me. And that blue folder has never come out in all that time for the last two or three years. And it was like God just speaks words of encouragement to say, I am with you. I know you. I. I see you.

[00:05:46] I am walking with you, and you can trust me.

[00:05:49] And this bright blue folder, which I brought along with me today, was just.

[00:05:56] God sometimes does the, dare I say is the silliest of little things to just say to us. I'm with you.

[00:06:06] I'm there for you. And I want you to to know my love.

[00:06:13] So, okay, that's what we're about today, just knowing God in a kind of more specific way and not functioning from our minds.

[00:06:23] Okay, so I've called it living from Jesus love and not our minds. Which is another way about saying life in the spirit actually.

[00:06:31] Or you can subtitle it. Don't worry about the blue folder on the left, but that probably doesn't mean a whole lot when you come back to it in the future. So we're in Luke chapter three. So in Luke chapter one, Jesus gets born.

[00:06:46] And I was with Steve, Steve Wrigley.

[00:06:53] We were in the pub in the week and we were just talking about, you know, there's so much that goes on about how God comes to us in his love and his trust of us. We were just talking about, this is Mary and Joseph is reckoned that they are probably teenagers, you know, and you're going to trust them with the Son of God.

[00:07:13] I mean we wouldn't trust teenagers, you know, with very much these days, but no God. God sees more in you and I and he trusts us and believes in us way more than what we would ever love, whatever do. And then of course you go into Luke chapter two and this is where this same couple who probably done a great job of looking after Jesus go up to Jerusalem, you know, when he's a 12 year old boy. And there of course they lose the son of God.

[00:07:52] I mean you've perhaps been in Tesco's and in that moment, where's my child, this 2 year old? And for 10 minutes you're stressed beyond belief.

[00:08:01] But here we've lost the Son of God, the one who's going to save the universe, and we don't know where he is. And we're not talking about for 10 minutes, we're talking three days.

[00:08:17] I mean, imagine the conversation that's going on between them. Well, didn't you have your hand on it? Weren't you with him? Well, I thought he was with so and so. I thought you did it. I mean blame culture must have been redefined in those moments. But I just think it's lovely that God includes these things in the Bible.

[00:08:35] I mean if I was Mary and Joseph, I'd be saying to God, look, you know, when you come to writing the gospels, how about we leave that bit out?

[00:08:44] How about yeah, okay, he went to Jerusalem and he was with the fiery, the Pharisees and the scribes and he was full of learning and beyond his years.

[00:08:56] And I mean that would be at the truth. We don't have to say that Mary and Joseph lost him, do we? You know, but God puts these things because he wants to speak to our hearts and say, you know, when you've lost something important, or more importantly, when you've lost your way, then God still believes you. God still believes in you. God still trusts you.

[00:09:23] And he doesn't write you off. He doesn't write them off.

[00:09:27] So we're in Luke chapter three. And this is a sort of very brief Luke.

[00:09:34] I was going to say luke, stop and listen, but that would be a bit corny, wouldn't it?

[00:09:41] So I've jumped to verse chapter three. So it says, John went into all the country around the Jordan preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And we're familiar with that. And although baptism is not something that we would be very familiar with in their culture, it was very understood and what it meant, because if you were like a Gentile and you wanted to come to Judaism, that you would be circumcised, you would be baptized, and you would give sacrifices. If you're a woman, you'd be baptized and. And you'd make sacrifices. And there were different movements that happened back in the day, and people got baptized into what they saw God doing at that particular time.

[00:10:34] And of course, when we get to Acts, you know, it's repent, believe, and be baptized, every one of you, for the forgiveness of your sins. And this is the whole kind of entry into.

[00:10:43] Into the New Testament.

[00:10:45] So John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized in his most diplomatic language, you brood of vipers who warned you to flee from the coming wrath, produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And John was obviously very brave, and he was not politically correct really, was he?

[00:11:12] Praise God for that.

[00:11:14] And then we get this wonderful bit moving on from verse seven. This is verse 15. It says the people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, I baptize you with water.

[00:11:32] But one who is more powerful than I will come the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.

[00:11:41] He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

[00:11:46] Wow.

[00:11:48] Sometimes, you know, we just need to get this again. You know, sometimes you say, oh, people got baptized. Oh, you know, they spoke in tongues. Oh, you know, no, we were. We are immersed into God.

[00:12:03] You know, when we're baptized in the Holy Spirit, we are baptized into Jesus, we are baptized into the Father, we are baptized into the Son, we are Baptized into the whole Trinity. We are baptized into all of God. We are immersed into him. We are so different because of it. We come out new. In fact, you could call us a new creation as a result of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. How about that for a good idea? But we are dipped in the sense of dying the color change that we are that different. We come out a different colour as a result of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. We are marinated.

[00:12:44] It's another sense of the meaning that we are changed. We are infused with God himself.

[00:12:52] When we get baptized in the Holy Spirit, we are a totally different people. We have union with God. We are so different. It makes sense then of verses of one where we get to things like John 17, where it says there that all of them, when Jesus prays, he says that all of them may be one. Just as you are in me and I am in you.

[00:13:21] Okay? And that is this meaning of we are immersed in the living God.

[00:13:34] We are totally immersed. We are totally infused with them. Verse 23 says, I in them and you in me, so that they may be brought to complete unity. That then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

[00:13:55] Even as you've loved me. There is such a picture here of us being immersed into the love of God. It's not just a kind of God in a vague generalized way. This is a living person that we're in him and he's in us.

[00:14:11] This is life changing difference.

[00:14:15] You are not the same.

[00:14:18] You are totally different. And John got this, he understood it.

[00:14:24] But I've jumped to Matthew 3 here just because this doesn't occur in Luke. But he says John tried to deter him. Too right he did, saying, I need to be baptized by you and do you come to me?

[00:14:38] Surely not. Jesus replied, let it be so now it's proper for us to do this, to fulfill all righteousness.

[00:14:45] Then John consented. And you know, I mean John got it. He's thinking, you've got no, you haven't sinned, Jesus, you don't need, you don't need to repent and be baptized. It's me who's doing that.

[00:15:02] But I just love it is that in all of this, the commentators say that Jesus was there just wanting to authenticate John and he was wanting to give us an example for our lives.

[00:15:18] And that love transcends the kind of theological purity of. Of the situation, isn't it? And the love of God surpasses that. You know, it's a bit like It's a bit like the story of the prodigal son, isn't it? It's the Father is looking for the Son, returning to him. And what does he do when he sees him? He gathers up his cloak and he runs down the street in the most undignified of way, breaking all propriety, all rules, all conventions. Because his love chases after the ones that he loves, which is us.

[00:16:02] And he's pursuing us and his affection is for us.

[00:16:07] And he can't, he can't, he can't not do it.

[00:16:12] And it goes on. And then we have this intervention by the Father when it says, when all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.

[00:16:23] And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And some versions say it remained on him because it was going to be resident.

[00:16:41] And a voice from heaven says this very complicated treatise of, you know. No, no, no, it's always so simple with God, isn't it? It's simple. He says, you are my son, whom I love.

[00:16:55] With you I'm well pleased. And God just comes to us and just reminds us we're family with him. He says, you're my son. You're not just anybody's son, you're my son.

[00:17:09] Now that's not a statement of origin when he says son, it's a statement of relationship.

[00:17:13] But you're my son. And I want you to know that I love you.

[00:17:18] And I want you to know that you bless me. And he's saying that to you this morning. It's about what John was bringing there in that time of worship is exactly that.

[00:17:35] We are God's son. We're loved and we bless him.

[00:17:41] We really do.

[00:17:43] Sometimes we find it hard to believe that we are the ones that bless him.

[00:17:49] And of course, what has Jesus done right now? What great miracle, what life changing things of the kingdom has taken place?

[00:17:59] Absolutely nothing.

[00:18:01] No, he just says you are. He comes to us and says, because of who you are and how you are joined to me, I am blessed in all of that.

[00:18:15] What I find also quite interesting, almost amusing is if you jump to Matthew 17 and you look at the Mount of Transfiguration and you see this.

[00:18:32] Jesus transfigures. He says, so it's well, while Jesus was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them. And a voice from the cloud said, wait a minute.

[00:18:44] No, he didn't say, wait a minute.

[00:18:47] He says, this is my son, whom I love.

[00:18:52] With him I am well pleased.

[00:18:54] Listen to him.

[00:18:56] And when the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified.

[00:19:00] But Jesus came and touched them. Get up, he said, don't be afraid.

[00:19:06] And it's beautiful, isn't it, that God just wants to come again to us in this kind of gloriously uncomplicated way.

[00:19:17] And it's not difficult.

[00:19:22] Jesus, he wants to underline to us that we're family. He wants to understand that we're loved, we're well pleased.

[00:19:30] And it's nothing about being clever, about being educated.

[00:19:35] You don't have to have a PhD. Nothing wrong with PhDs mind.

[00:19:41] But you can have come out of this room over here and be with the little ones. And they too, they're family, they're loved, they're joined, they're connected to him. And it is about love, isn't it? I mean, I was just.

[00:19:56] Steve and I were just talking about it. It's just like, you know, Peter, after the time that he's denied Jesus three times, you know, if you were Jesus, you come on as long now, Jesus. No, sorry. Now, Peter, what have you learned this, you know, what are the takeaway messages that, you know, we've got from. No, he says, do you love me? Do you love me?

[00:20:21] It's always simple. It's always simple.

[00:20:26] Let's not have a discussion about it. There is just continuous intimacy. There's no big debate that's going on here.

[00:20:38] Okay?

[00:20:41] So when you take those things, you can say just very simply that God sees.

[00:20:51] God knows, he understands. Wherever we are in life, he sees, he knows, he understands.

[00:21:00] And in it he always loves.

[00:21:03] And he imparts courage to our hearts. And this morning he does exactly that. He did that to me yesterday. He saw I realized his love again.

[00:21:20] And he imparts courage for all that we need to do. And he'll do it in different ways.

[00:21:30] Just before Christmas, Ann and I were sort of sitting down thinking we'd like to give some money to charity, you know, Christmas, this sort of thing. And we were just discussing it and it was all a bit mechanical in a way. It didn't feel, oh, this is a God moment, you know. And we were just sort of praying about it. And then we just thought, let's have a look at the bank statement. And Anne says to me, did you spend £50 yesterday?

[00:21:57] And I said, no, not knowingly anyway.

[00:22:04] And then she said, oh, no, no, no, it's not. We spend £50. £50 came in yesterday.

[00:22:10] We've racked our brains and it maketh no sense as to where this money has come from.

[00:22:17] And it was like the Timing of it is. That's when we saw it, when we were deciding to give some money away. He just comes and reminds you. He's saying, I see what you're doing. I know what you're doing. I love you. I want to impart courage to you in what you're doing.

[00:22:35] I mean, there was a time when I'd get very sort of, I'm giving this amount and are you giving me the same amount God back? You know?

[00:22:44] No, it's not like that.

[00:22:46] It's a love story that we're in. It's his affection that we're in.

[00:22:52] I mean, and that's how it'll speak to us. There was a lovely one happened in small group a couple of weeks back. Jan was sharing about her testimony is of what she seen happening out in Brazil.

[00:23:06] And she spoke of praying for a man with cancer of the jaw and seeing healing happening. And at that moment, Hazel, who's not here, she said afterwards, I'm going to take that.

[00:23:24] And she said, nothing happened in the moment. And then later, Jane prayed a prayer of impartation. This is all online.

[00:23:33] And she said, I'm going to take that. And I rang her up a couple of days later and she said, you know, I can yawn, I can move my jaw, it's a lot better.

[00:23:47] And I said to her, is it completely healed? And she says, well, no, but I know that God's seen me. I go, I know that God knows I've experienced his love and he's given me

courage, you know, in the moment just to believe him, just to step out again.

[00:24:06] And that's what God does.

[00:24:08] That's what our message is for this morning.

[00:24:13] Let's worship Jesus. And this will bypass the mind and you'll function from the heart.

[00:24:18] Ask God for a word each day and he will affirm it to you. Says Raj Hair. And I say amen to that. I say amen to that. Let's not function from the mind. Let's not be kind of just breezing through the day with some thing that's, I don't know, perhaps a little bit glib about where God is in the situation.

[00:24:41] So live from Jesus, live from his love and not from our minds, which is what life in the spirit is all about.

[00:24:51] And I've just put a bit of a red sticker over the top and said, God is on the move. There is a huge amount happening and he needs the likes of you and I.

[00:25:04] If he can take a Mary who was a teenager and trust her with the son of God, he can trust you and I with what we're doing in our generation. God has waited thousands of years for you to appear in Glasgow at this moment in time. He's done huge things.

[00:25:24] I got a little text this week and he was just saying there's some leaders got together to pray across Scotland and you're thinking, oh, pray for a couple of days and fasting. Oh, must be 50 or 60, apparently there's 350 of them. You think God, people are getting stirred up. We, we, you know, us as well. And there was somebody there who said, who was from Glasgow and he just said, I was doing an alpha and put it out, advertised and we got a response through.

[00:26:03] Now if we put on an alpha and we got 20 people turned up, we said, great, praise God.

[00:26:09] You know, 30 people, 35 people, it'd be revival, wouldn't it? You know, he, he got 150 people, 150 people. And that's, that's, that's this week story of happening. Not some far away place, so not some land away from here in Scotland, in Glasgow. It's in the here and now. God is wonderfully on the move and it's happening at a simple level. I was out with Mary and with Mark last week. We were just talking to an Iraqi lady pharmacist, her husband a doctor. We just got to pray with them, praise God. You know, things are happening. I spoke to a friend and he wouldn't have wanted, it was when we was in Dundee, he would have genuinely said, oh, I can't lead a small group, you know, it's a bit beyond me, a bit past me, you know. Some years later he's moved away, church not dissimilar to ours, and they suddenly made him an elder of the church. He's saying to me, I've got this 19 year old lad, he's leading this great youth work, they're bringing their friends and things, you know, you can be very young.

[00:27:34] And he also said to me, there's a couple came and said, I'd like to lead a small group.

[00:27:42] They are 80 years of age.

[00:27:45] Wow. So whether you're young or whether you're old or anything in between, God is on the move and he's using you and I and he wants to fill us with his courage because he sees our situation, he knows and he loves us and he wants to impart courage.

[00:28:07] Let's pray.



[00:28:09] Mark, would you like to come back and just play the keys, please?

[00:28:14] Yeah.

[00:28:16] Father. We just want to come into your presence, Lord, and We're saying, God, we're not going to partner with our insecurities.

[00:28:26] We're not going to partner with the idea that we're unworthy.

[00:28:30] We're going to believe, Father, what you say about us and we're going to live from the spirit.

[00:28:36] Father, we just thank you for the utter privilege of being able to say we can co labour with you and we can do it, Lord, because we're immersed in you.

[00:28:49] You see us, Lord, you know our situation, you love us and you give courage to us to step out in all the things that we're facing this week, next week and thereafter.

[00:29:08] Father, we bless you. We bless you that you are with us in the most intimate of ways.

[00:29:15] You have come into our hearts and we know you at the deepest of levels and we will know you through all eternity.

[00:29:28] Lord, we just want to wait, just hold a moment and just say we just want to do business with you.

[00:29:39] We want to do business with you. We want to say amen to that glorious invitation, this beautiful life that you've given us and this high calling that we have in you.