

High places.

On Sunday I said that I thought that God had whispered to me a few weeks ago about “High places.” I sat on this word wondering if I’d heard correctly and considering if it was for me or for the whole church. I brought it to the elders and they suggested getting some intercessors/listeners to consider it. This and our elders prayer retreat 2 weeks ago brought me to the conclusion that it was for “us.”

After I introduced this to the church yesterday I had some good feedback and helpful questions. So to help those interested in discerning if the Holy Spirit is wanting put His finger on any “high places” I thought I’d write a little more about it so in your small group, triplet, family or individually you can consider it.

What is a “high place”?

Firstly, there are *many* passages that speak of high places. After reading the scriptures this is what I would define as a high place, *“Something or someone we look to and put our hope in as providing our security, direction and stability other than God.”*

What empowers high places is fear and pride. Fear that we can’t trust God for whatever we’re facing and pride that we can stand on our solutions to the problems we face.

What’s wrong with a “high places.”

We were not made to have anything come between you and God. Jesus stated this clearly when he said we were to love God with all of our heart, soul and mind.

Paul said to the Colossians, *“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”* Colossians 3:1-3.

Earthly “high places” take our thinking and the authority for our lives away from Christ and shift it to temporal things. When this occurs our life shifts from being “in Christ” to things that are here and now and we end up living as if our old self and old life is alive.

The result is our “glory,” that eternal life we’ve been given is diminished. I think it’s a little like having a light with a dimmer on it. Our peace, joy, purpose, and authority are all turned down so that the Glory of God that God desires to radiate in and through is diminished. It’s like a swimmer using only one arm, a football player running out with a sprained ankle or an artist painting with their eyes closed.

Why would God give this word about high places?

We’ve been looking a lot lately that God loves us for *Who* we are and not *What* we do. I think the Spirit is raising up this question of high places because He knows that its robbing us of living true to *Who* we really are.

So, if you desire to step closer to God, to live truer to who he has made you to be and to live with greater consistency and maturity as a follower of Jesus, then I’d encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit, *“Do I have any high places?”*

There something powerful about a group of people submitted to God. In Acts 2:44 says, *The congregation of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they owned.*

Because of the individual nature of our society we can transfer this to our relationship with God. Jesus; however, made it **very** clear, that our lives are interwoven. When I seek to tackle my places so that my heart is given over to God it blesses you. I believe that God has more for us and wants to take his gospel to the community but he is doing work in us as a part of that.

Paul said to his Spiritual son Timothy, *“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*

We’re made to carry the glory of God and so God is dismantling our high places so we can radiate more of it.

Dismantling high places.

Moving our heart to live more and more in likeness with Jesus is what the Holy Spirit always seeks. We actually have to intentionally *resist* the Holy Spirit from Him tackling the High Places because he is always lovingly seeking to move us more and more to be like Jesus (Romans 8:29).

So here are some suggested steps if you sense that this word about “high places” is for you (I’ve taken these from 2 Chronicles 33 and the story of Manasseh).

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you. As you do consider this:
 - Is there an image you have gained or seek that isn’t from God?
 - Are there areas of your life where you are willing to make sacrifices of values, times and money that aren’t from God?
2. Ask God to forgive you for placing something ahead of him.
 - Confess this to God with another trusted friend.
 - Ask God to break any stronghold attached with it
3. Identify the belief, behaviour or thinking that reinforces the high place
 - Is this something you were taught?
 - Is it a family trait?
 - Is there anything you need to get rid of, sell or recompense required?

Some final considerations.

My reading of high places is that they can be very subtle, familiar and require a determined desire to bring them to God. If you do have a “high place” recognise that while God will be very quick to forgive, that the thinking and behaviour may be something you have to deal with consistently over a period of time.