(16) Live, Give, Grow, Go

sermon notes *Lamad* and Rational Christianity

* The last leg of the “LIVE” Emphasis of this Series
* Will be moving into “GIVE”
  + Moving from a Container to a Conduit
  + Jesus not just “in you,” but “through you”

**Habakkuk 2:4**

“Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. **But the righteous will live by faith…”**

**“The Righteous Will Live By Faith…”**

* *The Abraham Narrative*
* *The Context of the Dialogue Between Habakkuk and God*
* *Faith in the Teachings of Jesus and the New Testament Writers*

**Today’s message is a primer for unpacking this idea of “The Righteous Will Live By Faith”**

*Lamad*

The Hebrew language uses one root – *Lamad* -- for the two words "to teach" and "to learn."

* **In the Hebrew culture, the teacher has not taught unless the student has learned**.
* The goal of teaching is not the impartation of facts but the **changing of lives.**
* Knowledge, or *Yada*, involves the Hebraic concept of education - **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and response to God's revelation.**
* It is a place where we practice truth. The classroom is not separated from life but is actually part of our lives.

**When the Disciples asked Jesus “Increase our Faith,” (Luke 17:5) They didn’t mean “teach us theology,” or “prepare us for ordination,” or “confer on us an honorary Masters of Divinity,” or “explain to us the RCA book of church order,” or even “show us how to be good Christian people…”**

**They meant – “Let us know you more intimately” – “Let us see you” – “Let us see God…”**

* **John 14:8** “Lord Show us the Father and it is enough for us…”
* **(14:9)** Jesus \*said to him**, “Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me,** Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, ‘Show us the Father’?
* **That’s a good question for each one of us to seriously consider.**

“Come to Me,” Not “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_”

**John 5:39-44**

**39“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life**. But the Scriptures point to me! **40Yet you refuse** **to come to me to receive this life**. **41**“Your approval means nothing to me, **42**because **I know you don’t have God’s love within you. 43**For I have come to you in my Father’s name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them.**44No wonder you can’t believe!** For you gladly honor each other, but you don’t care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God. **45**“Yet it isn’t I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes. **46**If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. **47**But since you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is NOT Faith**

* **Knowing Without Really \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**James 1:14, 18-20** What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works?... But someone may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” **19**You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. **20**But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

* **Knowing Without Really \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Love**

**1 Cor. 8:1-3** Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. **2**If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; **3**but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

* **Knowing Without Really *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, **‘I never knew you**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

**Rational Christianity is satisfied with:** **But the Faith-filled Life is described as:**

A code of ethics “power of God working through us”

Rules/Laws/Works Intimate, Passionate, Romantic Relationship (*Abba* Father; the Bride of Christ)

Theology Relationship and Spiritual Encounter

Head Knowledge Inner Witness and Guidance

Guilt & Shame Motivated Self Effort & Willpower Freedom & Joy, Spirit-Driven Virtuous Life

**John 6:47** Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

**Homework: Read and Meditate on Genesis 22:1-19**