

The NDCCRS 2020 Gathering in the Spirit Committee would like to thank our donor for providing these notes on Jim Murphy's five talks. Our donor, who wishes to be anonymous has requested, "please use your discretion to discern the accuracy of these notes."

**Gathering in the Spirit - Day 3 with Jim Murphy - August 11, 2020**

**PROPHETIC WORD:**

1) **Deuteronomy 4: 29-31** But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>30</sup> When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. <sup>31</sup> For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.

- from there you will seek God and you will not fail

- **Proverbs 8:17** - I love those who love me and those who seek me eagerly shall find me. (confirmation verse)

- the Lord wants us to seek Him with all our heart, soul and mind

- He wants us to know He is everything we need

2) **Psalm 90**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.  
Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,

**3) Psalm 108** - My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music with all my soul.

<sup>2</sup> Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

<sup>3</sup> I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

<sup>4</sup> For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

<sup>6</sup> Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered.

**4) Psalm 105** - Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

<sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

<sup>4</sup> Look to the Lord and his strength; **seek his face always.**

### **Day 3 - Jim Murphy**

- we continue on with Isaiah 55

- we are getting short commands from the Lord
- each night He is telling us to do something
- He says, "I am whatever you need me to be for you"
- and yet He is much bigger than what we can comprehend

- in one sense, He is always revealing himself, and at the same time, He is always concealing Himself (He is beyond our

understanding)

- this is a mystery we may not be able to comprehend
  
- we had a glimpse of God's goodness and kindness on the first night
- we hear Him invite all to COME....
- In Matthew, He calls all who are weary and heavy burdened to come...
  
- heed Me... listen to Me, pay attention, come to Me heedfully, listen that you may have life
  - while the invitation is for all, there comes a point when we need to give something back... and that is where we need to hear and heed the Lord

to heed = to hear, to understand, to agree / assent and to act upon it

- it is a great commitment

**V6** - seek the Lord while He may be found; call Him while He is near

- Q: What does it mean to seek the Lord?
- most of us are very selective in our hearing of Scripture
- we listen to what we want to hear, and ignore what we don't want to hear.
  
- seek Him **while He may be found...**  
    call Him **while He is near**
  
- do you remember the parable of the foolish bridesmaids
  - we need to be ready for nobody knows the time of Jesus' return
  - Jesus says this several times in the Gospel
  - be ready, be prepared.... no one knows when this while happen

- this also happens in our life
  - we are nonchalant with our relationship with God\
  - we talk about his mercy and generosity that sometimes we take Him for granted
    - you don't know how much time you have
    - you don't know if you will be ready when your time comes
  
- there is a window of time... while there is time / while He is near
  - there is something we need to look at in a fresh way
    - when are those opportunities?
    - you didn't plan on going to a prayer meeting / retreat, but you ended up going. and then you found it so beneficial
    - if you didn't go, would you have experienced the same?
    - was this a time of providence and destiny?
  
  - why is it not that way always? It is because God is God and He is sovereign.... we don't dictate the time of God's mercy;
    - He, alone, determines it

**Daniel** - he began to realize that now the time has been fulfilled

- when he realized this, he began to pray in a different way.... in a certain season of divine opportunity
  
- according to Scripture, there are times / seasons; **there is a time of opportunity**
  - do not be complacent / do not postpone responding to the Lord
  - if God is moving in your heart, act on it right NOW
  - you have to choose the Lord
  - NOW is the time for your salvation

- there are two types of time:
  - KRONOS - time on your watch
  - KYROS - a moment of grace

**Luke** - when her time was fulfilled, Mary gave birth to her child

- Jesus said, "it is not My time" during the wedding feast of Cana
- there is something about timing which we don't pay attention to
  - we are under the illusion that when I say it's time, God will jump
- pay attention to God and He will tell you when it is a time of mercy, grace... don't postpone it; act on it immediately

**Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

**Jeremiah 29:13 -14** You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD,

**1 Chronicles 22** - devote your heart and soul when seeking God

**Q: do I devote my heart and soul in seeking God?**

- I love God and am interested in His things.... at times, I am devoted to Him but am I always devoting everything I have to him?

**Psalms 14:2** The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

- Jim did a word search for SEEK:

- there are so many passages commanding us to seek the Lord
- "seek God" is one of the most common commands of the OT
- if there is one consistent word from the OT it is , "Seek me says the Lord.
- it talks about a fervency....
  - seek Him with your whole mind and your whole soul

**Matthew 7:7-8** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

- the root word is **ask and keep asking; seek and keep seeking; knock and keep knocking**
- the tense of the verb is "you do it now and you continue doing it in the future"
- there are times where we are so concerned about something and then after a while we run out of steam
- God is asking us to keep seeking / be unflinching
- there is an intensity in scripture that is not present in our actions

Psalm 42:1 *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.*

- STORY:** - while Jim was walking in the desert, Psalm 42:1 had a different meaning to him
- while walking in the Arizona desert, he ran out of water
  - you can't think of anything else

- while a deer thirsts for water..
- Q: do you want God as much as a person who wants water?

STORY - there was a hermit whom a young monk sought advice from

- "Oh Father, I want to be holy like you are holy.", pleaded the young monk
- the young monk returns multiple times and says, "I want to be holy"
- one day, the hermit asks, "Do you really want to be holy? Let's go down to the river"
- "Let's taste the water," suggests the hermit.
- as the monk kneels down by the water, the hermit plunges his head into the water repeatedly
- the young monk is frantic and thinks the hermit was crazy
- eventually, the hermit stops and asks, "What were you thinking while you were down there? Were you thinking of holiness?"
- "No!" exclaimed the young monk. "I was thinking of air."
- the hermit concluded, "When you want holiness as much as you wanted air down in the water, then you are there."

**Claire of Assisi** - how much did she seek God?

- there is something of an intensity in these people
- I hope these things happen to me, but I'm not there yet and I'm not quite sure how to get there
- a lot of us who are involved in ministry can fall into this trap
  - at times we are seeking the blessings of God (healing, discernment, anointing, that our group will prosper
  - these are all good, but are you seeking the things of God or are you seeking God himself?
  - what about you?

- often we stop there...we want things from God and we focus on that
- we never get beyond the blessings to the One giving the gifts

**STORY:** - a lady in her 20s came to the prayer group because she wanted to get pregnant

- regardless of the weather, she was there... she said, "I need my baby
  - she eventually got pregnant
  - she went home and we never saw her again because she got what she wanted
- 
- how many people received a healing during Jesus' public life?
    - he fed 10, 20 thousand.... "you are back because of the bread"
    - what the Lord is saying is "Seek me beyond the gift, the blessing, the anointing..."
    - "seek Me, your Father, your Brother... seek Me and not the things I give."
  - we always seek the hand of God because we want something from the hand, , but we are reluctant to see his face.
  - when we see the intensity of the command of God to seek Him and you look at the coldness of your heart, you see a gap there

### **What are the interior obstacles that prevent us from seeking God for Himself?**

1) pride - pride is the root of original sin

- St. John Chrysostom said "every root of sin is pride;";
  - it is choosing self over God
- as a human who is flawed by the effects of original sin, we have a tendency to put ourselves over God

- there is something in me that seeks itself,
  - it seeks its own pleasure, achievement, glory
  - we are still trying to be independent of God...
  - that is our fallen nature
  
- one of the reasons we don't seek God is because we are so enamoured with ourselves
  - there is something that wants me to seek me other than God
  - Satan was the instigator of the first sin
  - he is still doing the same thing for us....
    - "you're number 1, look after yourself"
    - there is always a temptation of making yourself be the object of what we are seeking
  
- it is the Holy Spirit which gives us the grace to go beyond ourselves
  - seek the Lord and he will give us a gift of humility and He will help us to see how much we need Him

2) all the distractions of the world in our lives, and those interior distractions

- many times the devil uses legitimate things to distract us
  - there is nothing wrong in themselves, but they tend to pull our hearts and mind
  - devote your heart and minds in seeking the Lord - 1 Chronicles
  - the devil uses reasonable things that I need to take care of to distract us
  - ie: look something up on internet... we end up looking at one interesting story after another....
  
- there are two problems with junk food
  - 1) it has a lot of things in them that aren't healthy

2) they fill us up

- we get bloated from eating the junk so that you're not hungry for healthy food
- it is enough to satisfy us so that we don't seek the good food

- this is exactly the journey of the spiritual life
- ie: after watching all the dog shows, I'm too tired to seek God

- we lose our whole discipline of prayer and spiritual life
  - many distractions aren't bad on their own, but fill life with noise and junk
  - they kind of satisfy you so you aren't hungry for God
  - you become satisfied with spiritual junk

3) spiritual dullness - we're dull, hard of heart

- this is the area where the enemy works
- **Paul** - when Scripture is read, there is like a dark cloth over people's mind
- parable of the sower of the seed...
  - scattered and the birds come to pick up the seed,/ choked by the thorns...
  - this is exactly what the devil does
- there is a beginning of something and then the devil throws water on the fire
- we become hard hearted,
  - we're not tuned in to the Lord

Q: what do we do?

- call out to the Lord and tell Him that you are kind of dull and your heart is cold
- "Lord I need your help!"

**STORY:** - Jim had a friend who found himself with a dull heart

- he would go into woods to read the Gospel, shouting the entire Gospel of John
- when he came back in, he was on fire again

**STORY:** another who had become dull of heart; lived up north in the cold area

- he went out at midnight in winter and he would sit under a tree by his house and talked with the Lord
- 4 or 5 months later, God changed everything
- that is seeking the Lord while He can be found
- this man was waiting on the Lord,,
  - he had a problem with his faith which only God could help him

- be careful about your medical condition, but **fasting** is one way of getting through spiritual dullness
  - get advice from spiritual advisor
  - it changes your relationship with God
  - fasting broke something in Jim that allowed him to seek God deeper

- devote your heart to the Lord,
  - the Holy Spirit will help you here

~~~~~ the internet went down here ~~~~~