

June 3, 2007

Jeff Mikels

FOCUS: How to Find Clarity

JESUS: "NO ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME SHOULD STAY IN DARKNESS." — JOHN 12:46

WEEK 5

Two hour delays for fog? but I grew up in California... Smog!

It's impossible to focus when you're standing in a fog.

REVIEW bombardment / filter / the four biblical priorities

Have you ever felt like you were walking in a fog looking for clarity?

Everyone's In a SPIRITUAL FOG!

AA "moment of clarity" refers to many moments of delusion

Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4 NLT

CLAIM #1: When God shines his light, most people CAN'T SEE IT.

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

John 1:9-11

CLAIM #2: No one is NATURALLY in God's light.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

Psalms 14:2-3

But what about all the morally good people who aren't Christians?

They miss the reason (why are people important?)

miss the purpose (for God) / miss the future

The BIBLE helps to clear the fog.

...Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

Romans 7:7

But people misinterpret it.

Good FRIENDS help to clear the fog.

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17

But even the best friends can be wrong.

All efforts are pointless without Christ.

CLAIM #3: A HEART COMMITMENT to Christ is the only thing that will clear away the fog.

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

John 12:46

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

You'll never see the light of God without first giving your heart to Jesus.

Sin is like a BRAIN TUMOR.

Sin ENSLAVES us in a SPIRITUAL WAR.

Romans 7:14-24 (p. 784)

Death is the only OUT.

...anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:7

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23

We can claim CHRIST'S DEATH as OUR OWN.

- Through Baptism (Romans 6:2-7)
- Through Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 [p.797])

Your Next Step

Revisit the ABC's of the Christian life.

- ADMIT, BELIEVE, COMMIT.

Commit to Christ through COMMUNION

Commit to Christ through BAPTISM

Commit to Christ by LIVING IN HIS LIGHT.

NEW SERIES NEXT WEEK: CASH FLOW.

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Sin _____ us in a _____.

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- _____, _____, _____.

Commit to Christ through _____

Commit to Christ through _____

Commit to Christ by _____