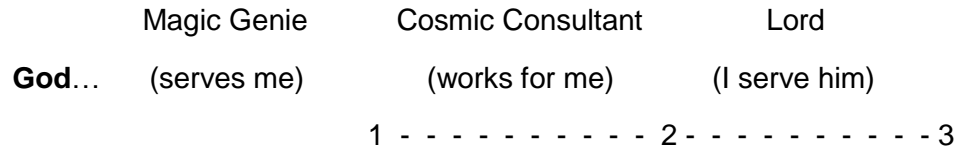


Food for Thought

For the week of January 4, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. Chris mentioned there are three stages of faith that people tend to walk through today. Of the three stages, where would you place yourself on the spectrum below?



How would you explain where you put yourself on the scale above?

What would you like your faith in God to look like?

What two or three steps do you see as important in order to have this sort of faith?

2. For many of us, making God the Lord of our life isn't a matter of not wanting to, it's a matter of not quite understanding how. Lordship is simply surrendering all that we are to God and leaving behind our old self. How would you see the following verses demonstrate principles of lordship?

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. [NIV]

Romans 8:5-11

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. [NIV]

Ephesians 4:22-24

2 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. [NIV]

If someone were to ask you what making God the Lord of your life means, how would you describe your own journey?

3. The act of confessing to God is important in moving toward a closer relationship with him. Despite this, confession can tend to feel awkward or unpleasant to the point where we avoid it. There is power in facing and acknowledging sin or anything that keeps us from having a closer relationship with God. (Read 1 John 1:9) In the space below, between you and God, write down anything you want to confess or give over to him in order to have a closer relationship moving forward: