

Sunday, April 2, 2017
Did You Know?

The Signs, Dangers, and Cure to Spiritual Slumber

All of us go through seasons when our faith is cold with very little affection for God, for Christ, for the Gospel and for the Church. In one sense it is normal, a part of the ebb and flow of our spiritual lives and a proof of our sinful nature, but it's a state we don't want to linger in too long. Often times, an outside influence causes us to enter this state, such as becoming a parent, a demanding job, a new relationship, a sickness, or financial burdens. I consider a person in a state of spiritual slumber if one or more of these things are going on in our lives for an extended period of time:

1. A lack of appetite for prayer or the Word.
2. Coldness to the preached Word.
3. Lifeless singing of songs of worship to God.
4. Tolerance of or compromise with sin in one's life.
5. Absence of deep spiritual fellowship with others.
6. A lack of love for Christ's church.
7. The Gospel no longer moves you.
8. You no longer see your own depravity.
9. You are complaining more than you are thankful.
10. A lack of compassion for lost people.

And there are others, but you get the picture. The dangers of being in such a state are manifold:

1. We miss out on deep fellowship with God.
2. We fail to receive his countless spiritual blessings.
3. We cease being a help and encouragement to others.
4. We start bringing others down. We become a stumbling block.
5. We lose our desire and effectiveness as a witness for Christ.
6. We become sour in our service.
7. We become bitter.
8. We grow a sense of entitlement, rather than humility.
9. We become judgmental.
10. Our lives don't glorify God as they should.
11. We make the Gospel look powerless.
12. We may be more prone to give in to the devil.
13. Our hearts can grow even harder and harder.
14. We lose our joy.

Oh, and there are so many more. What can we do to get out of this black hole? Jesus tells us so clearly in Revelation 3:19-20.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Receive Christ's loving rebuke and discipline. Repent of your hardened heart and sin. Open your heart once again to the Gospel, to Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith and the Lover of our souls. There is no other way.

Pastor Peter