



JOHN WESLEY AME ZION CHURCH, INC DBA FREEDOM TEMPLE

2926 Hollins Ferry Road, Baltimore, MD 21230

Web: www.freedomtempleamez.com

Phone: 410-636-4747 Email: freedomtempleamez@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Frances "Toni" Draper, Pastor

Bible Study
February 28 – March 7, 2017
The Practice of Intentional Faith Development

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."
(Acts 2:42, ESV)*

I. Growing Authentic D_____ of Jesus

A. How Jesus Taught

1. M_____ versus small groups
2. The Great C_____
3. Show, tell, release and supervise

B. Wesley's four basic d_____ convictions

1. The necessity of d_____ - "I am more convinced that the devil himself desires nothing more than this, that the people of any place (any church) should be half-awakened and then left to themselves to fall asleep again."
2. The necessity of small g_____ for d_____ -- "Such a society is no other than a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their own salvation."
 - a. S_____ - to bring about a change in knowledge through prayer, singing, study of the Scriptures, and love for one another.
 - b. C_____—met weekly for mutual confession of sin and accountability for growing in holiness. Every week each class member was expected to speak openly and honestly on the true state of his or her soul.
 - c. B_____-- The group focused on ensuring each participant was attuned to the heart of Christ. This was the group that could intensely pursue goals and vision t_____.
3. The necessity of l_____ in d_____ : Wesley trained and mobilized a massive army of leaders, putting as many as 10 of his members, who were from all walks of life into leadership roles. The job description of those who looked after societies and classes was: "preach, teach, study, travel, meet with bands, classes, exercise daily and eat sparingly."
4. Holiness and Service as the g_____ of d_____ : Wesley's goals for this entire process were: godliness and goodwill; spirituality and service to others. This system and process produced a new kind of citizen at a period of history when crime and every form of public sin were rampant. These men and women reformed both the church and the society in which they lived. As a result they g_____ in C_____.

"Where lives are changed, hurts are healed, hope is restored, and Jesus is Lord!"

II. Intentional Faith Development is practiced by v_____, f_____, g_____ congregations.

A. I_____: *deliberate effort, purposeful action toward an end, and high prioritization.*

B. Involves l_____ in c_____

1. Other C_____ help us pray, read S_____, exercise love and f_____, and explore and respond to the will of God for our lives.
2. Helps people explore p_____ that God may have for them that they never would have considered on t_____ o_____.
3. Replicates the way Jesus d_____ taught his d_____.
4. Gives disciples a network of support, encouragement, and direction as we seek to g____ i____ C_____.

C. Helps n_____ break through “The Middle Door”

D. Pastors and leaders who are i_____ about f_____ d_____

1. V_____ both quality and quantity
2. U_____ technology effectively
3. R_____ the relationship between faith and fellowship; content and relationship
4. Are not afraid of_____.
5. T_____ and e_____ lay leaders
6. Consciously “work on” their own f_____ d_____
7. Are constantly on the lookout for u_____ needs
8. Consider honest e_____ a vital part of ministry
9. P_____ in a cohesive, continuous, systematic way

“Through the personal practice of *Intentional Faith Development*, we do the soul work that connects us to others, immerses us in God’s Word, and positions us to grow in grace and mature in Christ. We place ourselves in the most advantageous circumstances to learn and grow in our following of Christ. We cooperate with the Holy Spirit in our own spiritual maturation. We learn in community.” (Robert Schnase)

Sources: Oden, Thomas C. *John Wesley’s Teachings*. Zondervan. 2012.

Schnase, Robert. *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Abingdon Press, 2007.