

MARKS OF SPIRITUAL EXILES

- THEY ARE FOREIGNERS - HEBREWS 11:13 (GW)

... They acknowledged that they were living as strangers with no permanent home on earth.

- THEY HAVE ANOTHER HOMELAND - HEBREWS 11:14-16 (MSG); PHILIPPIANS 3:20 (NIV)

People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. ...

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

- THEY LIVE BY A DIFFERENT ETHOS 1 PETER 2:11 (NIV)

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

- THEY SEE LIFE AS STEWARDSHIP NOT OWNERSHIP - LEVITICUS 25:23 (HCSB); 1 CHRONICLES 29:14-15 (HCSB)

The land is not to be permanently sold because it is Mine, and you are only foreigners and temporary residents on My land.

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... For everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your own hand. 15 For we live before You as foreigners and temporary residents in Your presence as were all our ancestors.

- THEY SURVIVE THROUGH SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY - EPHESIANS 2:19-22 (NLT)

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

- THEY WILL LIVE IN THE CITY OF GOD - HEBREWS 13:14 (NIV); 11:9-10, 16 (NIV)

For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come

10 For [Abraham] was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God...16 ... Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

VISION: THE PERSPECTIVE OF HOPE (The Four Dimensions of Spiritual Vision) Ezekiel 1:1-28

...To comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height...Ephesians 3:18 (NKJV)

...as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God - Ezekiel 1:2

THE DEPTH - I AM CALLED BY GOD

In the thirtieth year...the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest...As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it...and from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. Ezekiel 1:1,3, 4 (ESV)

THE WIDTH - GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE OVER PLACES

I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal...in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the Lord was open him there Ezekiel 1:1,3 (ESV)

I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone. Ezekiel 11:16 (ESV)

John 4:21,23

"they will be my people and I will be their God." Ezekiel 11:20; 14:11, 37:23, 27 (see also... Jeremiah 24:7; 31:33; 32:38; 2 Cor 6:16; Heb. 8:10, Rev 21:7)

THE HEIGHT - GOD IS SOVEREIGN

And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne...This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it I fell face down.. Ezekiel 1:26, 28 (NIV)

THE LENGTH - GOD'S PLAN WILL PREVAIL

Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. Ezekiel 1:28 (ESV)

My Next Step This Week

- Memorize ***Ephesians 3:17-18***
- Prayerfully read chapter one of Ezekiel this week
- Recite everyday "A Prayerful Declaration of Purpose"
- Accept the life of a spiritual exile by becoming a follower of Jesus Christ.

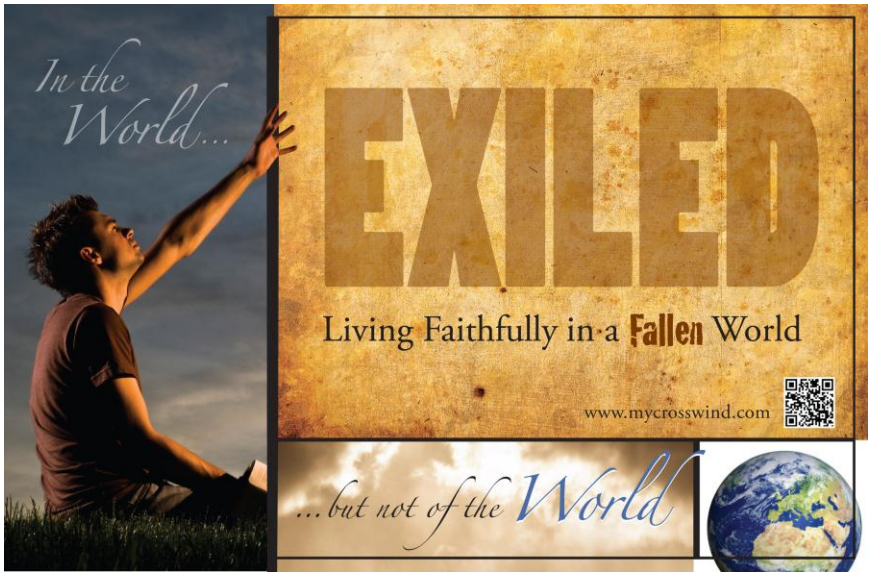
A PRAYERFUL DECLARATION OF PURPOSE
(from Ephesians 3:17-21 –The Message)

***That Christ will live in me as I open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, 18 I'll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. That I will reach out and experience the breadth!
I will test its length!
I will plumb the depths!
I will rise to the heights!
19 and live a full life in the fullness of God.
20 God can do anything, far more than I could ever imagine or guess or request in my wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing me around but by working within me, his Spirit deeply and gently working within me.
21 Glory to God in the church!
Glory to God in the Messiah Jesus!
Glory down all the generations!
Glory through all the ages! Oh, yes!***

WALK THE TALK
Growth Group Resource

1. What was the most awe inspiring thing you ever saw? What did it do to you? How did it affect you?
2. Why is it so important to view yourself as a "spiritual exile"? Of the six marks of a spiritual exile (see above), which one challenges you the most? Why?
3. Look through the four points under "Vision: The Perspective of Hope." Which one inspires you the most? Why? Which one helps you make it through rough times the most? Explain.
4. How can gaining a "vision of God" change the way people see their lives today? Why is this so very important in your opinion? How does Ephesians 3:17-21 help?

If you are reading this right now, have you committed to being part of a Growth Group at Crosswind yet? We encourage you to plug into spiritual community.



Gaining Spiritual Vision

A Study on Ezekiel & Daniel
PART 1 of 7

February 18th & 19th 2012
PASTOR DAVID SULCER