

We Are Called To The Believer

I. WHAT IS THE ASCEND SERIES?

- A. **ASCEND** is a four part teaching series looking at four areas that we are called to as a house of prayer community. We will share these for 4 weeks on Friday's and Sunday's (except for Friday 11/24). The Church, The Believer, The Mission, and the Capital City.

II. INTRODUCTION – WE ARE CALLED TO THE BELIEVER

- A. Our second ASCEND focus is our ministry to the believer. You are made for more than just existing. You are called to live a vibrant life energized by the outflow of God's heart toward you. To be alive in Christ and to know His love that sets you free and empowers you to live the life of one set free by Christ. Praise The Lord!

III. JESUS SETS US FREE

- A. We are all called by the Father to live a radiant life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ gave himself to redeem us so that we might be made "whole" individuals, and one with Christ, in His presence, full of joy, and experiencing the "zoe" life of God that He wants us to experience ("Zoe" -- Real life, fullness of life, Jn. 10:10).
- B. Being delivered is part of God's plan for our lives. Freedom comes through the power of the blood of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and knowing who you are in Christ. *"If the Son sets free, you shall be free indeed"*. We can walk in freedom and deliverance in our hearts, our minds, and our bodies. *"Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."* (John 8:32-34)

IV. ASCENDING THE HILL OF THE LORD

- A. David asked the question in Psalm 24. *"Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who may stand in His holy place?"* (Ps. 24:3). The hill of the Lord is where God's presence dwells. The idea is, even though every person is the Lord's creation, only certain ones are allowed in His presence. The answer is: *"He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing of the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."* (Ps. 24:4-5).
- B. At Hilltop, we hold high cultivating a right inward response towards the Lord and towards other people. We are created to live out our lives in godliness and in the fear of the Lord. To live in His presence and to abide in Him. *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing"* (Jn. 15:5)
- "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus*

Christ, “who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” (Tit. 2:11-14)

1. **Clean hands and a pure heart:** Moral purity and right living is possible when you stand in the holy place of God’s presence. A pure heart speaks of an undivided heart. **“blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8, Jn. 15:3, Eph. 4:15, 4:22-25, 4:29-5:2).**
2. **Wholly devoted to Jesus, serving no other: “Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol” (v.4).** An idol is anything we worship more than Jesus. Dictionary says: Any person or thing regarded with blind admiration, adoration, or devotion. We worship Jesus, not people or things in the place that Jesus deserves. His worth far surpasses anything else this life has to offer. To be a wholly devoted follower of Jesus shows in how you live out your life.
3. **Nor sworn deceitfully:** Speaks about having truth in the inward parts. **“You desire truth in the inward parts” (Ps. 51:6). “Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.” (Ps. 25:4-5).** The inward part is the real you on the inside. God delights in this quality. The word “truth”, means to be firm (in convictions), permanent, dependability. We are to value “men of truth” (Ex. 18:21). God is the true God (Jer. 10:10).

V. LEARNING TO PRAY THROUGH THE ISSUES OF LIFE

- A. “Life” happens to all of us. Here at Hilltop we are all enlisted in on-the-job training in the art of prayer and overcoming. First, we are learning how to abide in Christ and to be a friend of God. Then we are trained in how to pray through the issues of life personally, corporately, and in the world around us, and to persevere in it. **“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Eph. 6:18).**
- B. We can quit and give up, but that is not God’s plan for us. His word tells us that we need to be bold and be strong, and go in and possess the land. **“Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I said to Moses... Be strong and of good courage... only be strong and of good courage... do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:2,6,7,9)**

VI. SEE YOURSELF AS PART OF THE TEAM

- A. God brought you to be a part of Hilltop House of Prayer. See yourself as part of the team that God is raising up in this hour to be redeemed and made whole, and then filled up with His Holy Spirit to do the works Christ started and the Church in Acts continued.
“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:” (Jn. 17:20-22)
- B. **“I’m in love with God and God’s in Love with me...that settles it... Completely!” Misty Edwards**